

Press Release For Immediate Release

Aug 7th, 2017

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Holiday Happenings Committee announces 2017 Robert N. Pursel Awards for Community Service

Danville – The **Holiday Happenings** committee for 2017 is excited to announce two exceptional honorees for the 22nd annual **Robert N. Pursel Award** to be presented on **Saturday, November 18th, 2017, 6:00pm at the Pine Barn Inn.**

Significant and meritorious Community Service is the focus of this award. Our community remains blessed with organizations and people exemplifying contributions consistent with the award's namesake.

Robert L. Marks Sr., Esq. has been a leader in almost all of his endeavors. He earned his Eagle Scout award and after a stellar high school career graduated from Danville High School in 1963. He attended Bucknell University and was honored as a “Distinguished Military Graduate” from ROTC in 1967. Behind every “Good” man is a “Great” woman and so it was that Bob and Geraldine Richards were married in July of 1968. Bob served in the U.S. Army in Military Intelligence in Vietnam, where he was awarded The Bronze Star. In 1972 he graduated with a J.D. from Marshall Wythe Law School at William and Mary in Williamsburg and returned to Danville to begin 45 years of the practice of law.

So began his community service to include the following; President of the Columbia-Montour Bar Association, Deacon and Elder of Grove Presbyterian Church, President of the YMCA, President of the Danville Area Community Center, Chairman of the Cancer Society, Chairman of the Heart Association, Chairman of the Whitey McCloskey Round Ball Classic, Board Member of the Columbia-Montour Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Board Member & Treasurer of the Danville Area American Red Cross, Board member at the Good Samaritan Mission, Volunteer Attorney for the Danville Community Foundation, Board Member of the Bucknell Alumni Association, President of the Bucknell Bison Club for 15 years.

The Holiday Happenings Committee is proud to select Robert L. Marks Esq. as a 2017 Honoree of the Robert N. Pursel Award.

Shiloh United Church of Christ is a leading voice for social justice and compassionate care for all people in our Danville Community. The congregation has made a commitment to welcome and support all people, no matter who they are or what their life circumstances may be.

The nomination for this award cited close to thirty different community impacting and organizational supporting activities that are part of the regular mission of the Church. Issues include housing, feeding, education, disaster assistance, helping those in poverty meet basic needs, support of those denied a voice in society, providing space for spiritual and other groups to meet, provide organizational support to establish a local Chapter of PFLAG, raise awareness of issues surrounding racism and discrimination in its many forms. Their efforts to better our world extend to 15 years of involvement with the Heifer International / INDA projects facilitating self-support for a community in Kenya, as well as a Day Care School funded with the Kans for Kenyan Kids recycling program.

For these reasons, The Holiday Happenings Committee is proud to select Shiloh United Church of Christ as a 2017 Honoree of the Robert N. Pursel Award.

The **November 18th** event will once again feature silent and verbal auction items such as one-of-a-kind art pieces and jewelry, week-long getaways to vacation homes at the shore or in the mountains. Mark your calendars for an evening of great fun and dining out with your neighbors to benefit current needs in our community through the **Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund** of the **Danville Area Community Foundation**.

For Reservation, Donation, or Sponsorship information please contact:

Joanne Benjamin at 570-594-4664 or Kara Seesholtz at 570-752-3930.