

2nd Annual Ted Hires Legacy Awards Dinner

By Shirley Shaw

If you've lived in the Jacksonville area very long, you probably know the story of Ted Hires and why he started the Justice Coalition. After his death, those who worked closest to him wanted to honor the great legacy he left behind. That he had risen from humble beginnings, overcoming personal struggles to become a successful businessman, earned the respect of his peers and community leaders.

Fifteen years ago, after he was robbed at his restaurant and his son was robbed and pistol-whipped, Ted realized the need for change in the justice system. His boldness to step forward and lead the way for that change elevated his accomplishments to a level that deserves the recognition we attempt to give him now with the annual Legacy Award Dinner.

The 2010 winners of the three "Outstanding" awards were:

- **Outstanding Citizen** - Isaac "Ike" Brown, 25-year JSO veteran, now with US Marshals Service. Ike, whose son was murdered in 2003, spends his off-duty time speaking to church and youth groups about choices and mentoring at-risk youth, to whom he's available 24/7.

- **Outstanding Business Leader** - Lockwood P. Holmes, a compassionate, behind-the-scenes benefactor to citizens in his community and mentor to men he challenges to make right choices and offers spiritual guidance.

- **Outstanding Government Official** - State Attorney Angela Corey, whose office has recorded unprecedented numbers of cases filed/prosecuted and criminals sentenced. Always an advocate for victims, she ensures justice is served.

This year a new category was designated: Extraordinary Citizens on the First Coast, chosen by the sheriffs of Duval and surrounding counties. We are all familiar with the names of our sheriffs who appear regularly on TV news, but these men are quick to note that without the help of individuals behind the scenes, their successes would be impossible.

- Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith nominated Jim Gill,
- Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler nominated the Reinhold Family,

- Duval County Sheriff John Rutherford nominated Rev. Larry McGinley and the Old Plank Road Baptist Church,
- Nassau County Sheriff Tommy Seagraves nominated Jim Dionne, and
- St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar nominated Steve Berman.

Congratulations to all these exceptional individuals who share their time and talents in their respective communities.

The Morocco Shine Center proved to be a wonderful venue for the 500 or so who attended the event. It was large and comfortable inside, easily accessible with plenty of parking space, and the staff worked hard to accommodate every need of the event. Lighted decorations lent a warm ambiance to the room as we dined on delicious food catered by Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q. The Steve Chapman Band provided a musical backdrop with their patriotic music.

Former NFL Jaguars player Tony Boselli did a wonderful job as first-time emcee of the Legacy Dinner. Special victim speakers were Jim Davis, who talked about his missing son, Austin Davis, and Phillip Bowling, Somer Thompson's grandfather, who came on behalf of his daughter, Dena Thompson. That day - Oct. 21 - was the date one year ago when Somer was found.

Someone commented that her favorite part of the program was seeing all the sheriffs together on the stage, and we agree. There were dozens of uniformed officers, as well as many in casual dress, from various Sheriff's Offices, the FDLE, FBI and US Marshals Service. Several judges and many prosecutors from the State Attorney's Office honored us with their presence. Young Explorers from Duval and Nassau counties helped immeasurably by directing parking, seating guests and serving food to the hungry diners.

We can't begin to adequately thank all the sponsors who gave so generously, the committee members who worked so hard to make the event possible, and the donors of cash and items for the silent auction. Without each and every one of you, the Justice Coalition could not continue its mission of advocating for innocent victims of violent crime, educating the public about victims' rights and working with law enforcement to make our community safer.



Wanda Hires holds her bouquet of red roses as she thanks the guests for coming.



Former Jaguar Tony Boselli was Master of Ceremonies.



Jim Davis spoke about his missing son Austin.



Phillip Bowling, Somer Thompson's grandfather



Toni Boselli poses with Nassau Sheriff's Office Explorers. Sheriff Tommy Seagraves (l.) and Sgt. John Anstett, lead the group.



Ted Hires Legacy Award recipients with presenters: JSO Officer Ken Jefferson, Outstanding Citizen Ike Davis; FBI SAC Jim Casey, Outstanding Government Leader State Attorney Angela Corey; JC Board Chairman Charlie Wilson, Roger Holmes, accepting Outstanding Business Leader award for Lockwood Holmes.



Extraordinary Citizens with the award presenters: Capt. Eddie Boatwright and Jim Gill, Bradford County; Sheriff David Shoar and Steve Berman, St. Johns County; Sheriff Rick Beseler and Reinhold family representative, Clay County; Sheriff John Rutherford and Rev. Larry McGinley, Duval County; Jim Dionne and Sheriff Tommy Seagraves, Nassau County.

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