



ROCK COUNTY HALL OF HONOR COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013 - 4:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM N-1 – FIFTH FLOOR

ROCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE-EAST

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2012
3. Discussion of Procedure to be Used in Selection of 2013 Hall of Honor Inductee(s)
4. Review Nominations
5. Recommendation of Inductee(s) to 2013 Hall of Honor
6. Adjournment

HOHAG

NOTE: Please contact Marilyn, Rock County Administrator's Office, at 608/757-5510 and advise if you will/will not be attending this meeting.

HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS - 2013

NOMINEE

Kay Deupree

Neil Deupree

Louis C. Smit

NOMINATED BY

Sandra Kraft & Russ Podzilni

Sandra Kraft & Russ Podzilni

Jim Courter

MARILYN BONDEHAGEN - Rock County Hall of Honor Nomination Form

From: Online Form Submission <noreply@co.rock.wi.us>
To: <marilyn@co.rock.wi.us>
Date: 4/28/2013 7:03 PM
Subject: Rock County Hall of Honor Nomination Form

Online Hall of Honor Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: Kay Deupree
Address: 419 South Franklin Street
City/State/Zip: Janesville, WI 53545
Telephone: 752-8342

Significant Contributions to Rock County and its People**Volunteer**

Janesville Literacy Council tutor, Janesville Little Theatre on stage, back stage, and usher, First Christian Church, where she taught Sunday School, worked with youth and helped with whatever else went on at the church where her husband was pastor, League of Women Voters Secretary and President, member of the committee that put on the Susan B. Anthony annual recognition and banquet, Blackhawk Technical College Affirmative Action Advisory Committee member, House of Mercy homeless shelter monthly overnight volunteer, Rock Valley Fellowship of Reconciliation peace vigil participant and helping with the Remember Veterans Day display that features names of Wisconsin soldiers who have died in Afganistan or Iraq, and volunteer with the Community Gathering Garden at Wilson Elementary School.

Leadership

She served as President of the League of Women Voters and is an advocate for open elections. She is one of the founders of the Wilson Community Garden. Residents of the 4th Ward of Janesville credit Kay and her work on the Neighborhood Action Team for improving the neighborhood.

Entrepreneurial**Other Contributions**

Supportive of the County's Criminal Justice Committee (CJCC) and Behavioral Health Redesign Steering Committee. Kay retired from Rock County UW Extension's nutrition program in 2001 after 9 years. She served on several county committees dealing with land usage and ground water concerns.

Brief Statement

Kay is part of the "Neil and Kay" famous duo that has made our County a better place (Neil will tell you she is the better half). She is an activist, educator, volunteer extraordinaire, leader, environmentalist, and mentor. She is committed to women's equality, social and racial justice, underprivileged children, criminal justice initiatives, and neighborhood improvement activities. While doing all this she found time to be supportive of her husband and his many roles, a mother, a grandmother, and soon-to-be a great grandmother. And if this were not enough, she finds time to be a caring friend to many. It is a privilege to be one of her friends. I know Kay has done so much more than I am aware of and wish I could ask her to fill in more of the information, but I believe anyone who knows Kay probably knows there is more to add; Kay would be too humble to provide more if asked.

Nominator Name: Sandra Kraft, Russ Podzinski
Address: 383 E. Samuelsen Drive
City/State/Zip: Edgerton, WI 53534
Telephone / Home: 608-751-6249
Telephone / Work:
Email Address: kraft383@yahoo.com

MARILYN BONDEHAGEN - Rock County Hall of Honor Nomination Form

From: Online Form Submission <noreply@co.rock.wi.us>
To: <marilyn@co.rock.wi.us>
Date: 4/30/2013 2:56 PM
Subject: Rock County Hall of Honor Nomination Form

Online Hall of Honor Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: Neil Deupree
Address: 419 S. Franklin St.
City/State/Zip: Janesville, WI 53548
Telephone: 751-8342

Significant Contributions to Rock County and its People**Volunteer**

Neil has been a member of and, in many instances, the chair of the following: the Rock County Bridge Builders which has become the Diversity Action Team which is a community-based organization whose mission is to strive to eliminate racism and all forms of discrimination in Rock County by embracing diversity and multiculturalism, and fostering justice, dignity and respect for everyone, the Janesville Action Council, Friends of Welty Environmental Center, member and treasurer of the Rock Green Audubon Society (GRAS), Janesville Ministerial Association, Wisconsin Council of Churches Peace and Justice Committee, Justice Overcoming Borders, the Rock County Workplace Diversity Work group promoting greater diversity of county employees workforce, and the Beloit Community Ministers Fellowship that sponsors the annual Martin L. King Jr. breakfast at the Eclipse Center.

Leadership

Neil moved his family from Cleveland in 1990 to be pastor of First Christian Church in Janesville. He retired in 1997 to serve what he believes is a greater cause: better race relations in Rock County.
In March of 2003 Neil was appointed to a vacancy on the Rock County Board of Supervisors and served on the Board until he decided not to run for re-election in 2008. While on the Board he served on the following committees: Chaired the Agriculture & Extension Education/Land Conservation Committee for 2 years; County Board Staff Committee for 2 years; the Health Services Committee as chair for 2 years; the Human Services Board for 5 years; the Public, Safety & Justice Committee for 2 years; the Planning & Development Committee for 2 years where he was a strong advocate for the PACE program; the Long Term Support Committee for 2 years; the Community Action committee for 2 years; chaired the Jail Alternatives Ad Hoc Study Committee which later became the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) for 5 years and is still a member of until this year. He chaired the Justice and Mental Health Ad Hoc committee for 2 years and is now the chair of the Behavioral Health Redesign Steering Committee to help get this program off the ground. He also represented the County for the Janesville TIF Districts 9, 28, and 30.

Entrepreneurial**Other Contributions**

Neil is pastor on-call for Agrace Hospice.
Neil taught math in the Philippines for 3 years as a Peace Corps member after earning his divinity degree.
Neil and Kay also sacrificed 3 1/2 months this past winter to serve as interim pastor in a church in Hilo, HA.

Brief Statement

It is difficult to talk about Neil and not include his wife, Kay. Together they walk the talk. They purchased an older house in the diverse 4th Ward of Janesville and remodeled it into a warm, welcoming home and are actively involved in their neighborhood activities. Neil and Kay are an "awesome" duo and married couple for over 40 years. While many people are members of numerous organizations, Neil and Kay are whole-heartedly involved in each committee they are involved in and, in many cases, lead the organization to attain its mission. It is a privilege to nominate Neil to the Rock County Hall of Honor.

Nominator Name: Sandra Kraft and Russ Podzilni
Address: 383 E. Samuelsen Drive
City/State/Zip: Edgerton, WI 53534
Telephone / Home: 751-6249
Telephone / Work:
Email Address: kraft383@yahoo.com

MARILYN BONDEHAGEN - Rock County Hall of Honor Nomination Form

From: Online Form Submission <noreply@co.rock.wi.us>
To: <marilyn@co.rock.wi.us>
Date: 4/30/2013 2:51 PM
Subject: Rock County Hall of Honor Nomination Form

Online Hall of Honor Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: Louis C. Smit
Address: 3530 N. County Highway Road F
City/State/Zip: Janesville, Wisconsin 53547
Telephone: 608-295-3416

Significant Contributions to Rock County and its People**Volunteer**

Louis "Lou" C. Smit is the Chief Deputy Coroner of Rock County, Wisconsin. I was able to get to know Lou because of an unexpected death of a relative and discovered that Lou went above and beyond the scope of his position as Chief Deputy Coroner. Lou must work at least 50 to 60 hours a week in his position because he was always available to my family 24-7 whenever we had questions, concerns, comments or just to vent about life in general. We have a large family so many of our family members called Lou, seeking some of the same and different information, at all hours, until we formed a single point of contact – that being me. Whenever we requested to meet in person, Lou did not hesitate and was always professional and compassionate during our meetings. My family believes that Lou volunteered his time to speak with us and provided comfort when needed. Our family received a “comfort” stuffed animal from Lou, who told us about the “Remember Me” program that he had implemented on behalf of the Rock County Coroner’s Office. He told our family that the Coroner’s Office receives donated stuffed animals from the community. Lou volunteers his time by inspecting the stuffed animals, cleaning and repairing the stuffed animals when needed. Lou also volunteers his time by attending events within the County which relate to Suicide Prevention, "Remember Me" program and teaching death investigation classes.

Leadership

I called up to the Rock County Main Offices and I asked how I could write a letter of commendation to someone. I was directed to this website. I’m not sure how much of what I have to say, applies to this particular website, but in my opinion, from what I have been told by my family and from what I have observed personally, if anyone belongs on this website it is Lou Smit for what he did for my family and for what he and the others in his office do for countless other families as well.

As for some background, I am currently enlisted in the Army (having just returned from my 3rd tour in Iraq and other overseas locations) and I went to visit my family who live in Beloit. I took some leave and ended up staying in Beloit for approximately 6 months when my sister died unexpectedly. My family took the death of my sister very hard. We had lots of questions. As things worked out, Chief Deputy Coroner Louis “Lou” Smit was the representative from the Coroner’s Office to respond to our home that awful night. We were able to contact Lou anytime of the day. Lou is a very compassionate person and answered the questions that he knew and provided support when we needed it the most. Lou explained each step of the investigation process and through the other examinations as well. At each point, Lou was available to answer questions, to provide comfort, and information. Lou even gave several of our family member’s stuffed animals to help us get through the first night and days that followed. I’ve never heard of a Coroner’s Office doing anything like that, you can not imagine how much of a difference that made to my family. My family just cannot say enough. I am going back overseas and I just wanted to submit this form before I left.

Entrepreneurial

Not Applicable

Other Contributions

N/A – To my comments, however the information I have provided should cover many more “contributions” than most people do in a lifetime.

Brief Statement

I called up to the Rock County Main Offices and I asked how I could write a letter of commendation to someone. I was directed to this

website. I'm not sure how much of what I have to say, applies to this particular website, but in my opinion, from what I have been told by my family and from what I have observed personally, if anyone belongs on this website it is Lou Smit for what he did for my family and for what he and the others in his office do for countless other families as well.

As for some background, I am currently enlisted in the Army (having just returned from my 3rd tour in Iraq and other overseas locations) and I went to visit my family who live in Beloit. I took some leave and ended up staying in Beloit for approximately 6 months when my sister died unexpectedly. My family took the death of my sister very hard. We had lots of questions. As things worked out, Chief Deputy Coroner Louis "Lou" Smit was the representative from the Coroner's Office to respond to our home that awful night. We were able to contact Lou anytime of the day. Lou is a very compassionate person and answered the questions that he knew and provided support when we needed it the most. Lou explained each step of the investigation process and through the other examinations as well. At each point, Lou was available to answer questions, to provide comfort, and information. Lou even gave several of our family member's stuffed animals to help us get through the first night and days that followed. I've never heard of a Coroner's Office doing anything like that, you can not imagine how much of a difference that made to my family. My family just cannot say enough. I am going back overseas and I just wanted to submit this form before I left.

Nominator Name: Jim Courter
Address: 3902 Joshua Taylor Drive
City/State/Zip: Killeen , Texas 76544
Telephone / Home: 254-383-7522
Telephone / Work:
Email Address: nahsu@aol.com