

Civic Cup honors city's good works

By Kris Wartelle

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For the past 79 years, the Civic Cup Award has stood for the very best in the Lafayette community.

This year's Civic Cup Winner is local oil and gas businessman Dwight "Bo" Ramsay. Ramsay will be honored at a special banquet at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette. Ticket information is available by contacting the Petroleum Club at 337-232-2582.

The Civic Cup was launched in 1933 by a group called the Young Men's Business Club. The first person to receive the award was local businessman Maurice Heymann, and developer of the Oil Center.

According to past recipient James Ardoin, the small group of business leaders got together to recognize and show appreciation to one outstanding individual in the city who had made significant contributions to the community. Ardoin said the YMBC disbanded after many years, so Herbert Heymann (also a past recipient) called the Civic Cup members together and a proposed a plan in which past recipients would take over the program.

"So that's what (they) did," Ardoin said, "and elected Herbert the first president."

Paul and Madlyn Hilliard are also past recipients. They say the nominees, both past and present, represent the spirit of charity and community.

"To make that decision to give it to one recipient is

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2012 Civic Cup recipient Dwight "Bo" Ramsay is pictured with photographs from his service during the Korean War. LESLIE WESTBROOK, THE ADVERTISER

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tough," said Madlyn. "They all have an outstanding history of community service. It is one of the most humbling experiences that you go through. No matter how much you do, you are very humbled."

Each year, recipients are chosen by a committee of past recipients. Members of the community submit recommendation letters to the nominating committee and the past recipients. It is a low-key affair, which Paul Hilliard said is meant to be that way.

"This is not a political event," Hilliard said. "We don't want it to be like a campaign. A rotating nominating committee looks at all the recent letters, and letters for

previous years, and tries to select someone who has made a contribution for the betterment of the community. We try to keep it a surprise to keep people from campaigning for it."

Ardoin said not much has changed since the first award was given in 1933. The Daily Advertiser was the only media sponsor then, as it is now. Nomination letters are still sent in by regular mail, and the whole process is kept as confidential as possible. And it's still difficult to just one winner from so many qualified nominees.

"When you have six to eight people who are all so good, it becomes tough," he said.

"It is a unique club because all of these people have done so much for the community," added Madlyn. "You can't just do one thing. Lafayette is a very giving city."