

Lafayette Civic Cup marks its 70th year of honoring citizens

2003 marks the 70th anniversary of the Lafayette Civic Cup. The Civic Cup is given to an individual who has made a substantial commitment and contribution to the community of Lafayette. A clear benchmark used to gauge the success of a community is the measure of its people. In evaluating a community, the common element is always the individual. The individual is the driving force that determines the success of a community.

Art Theil, associate director emeritus, of Louisiana's Public Affairs Research Council, and consultant to the Lafayette City-Parish Charter Commission, often said that Lafayette enjoyed the richest mix of vital civic organizations of any city in the state, defining the civic health of Lafayette.

The 1933 and first recipient of the Lafayette Civic Cup was Maurice Heymann, a naturalized American. The list of recipients tells the history of Lafayette over the past, honoring men and women whose accomplishments mirror significant work unrelated to their careers, but work in the wide range of civic, charitable, religious groups, board memberships, commissions, as well as other deeds which benefit our community and all of this without financial compensation.

All living recipients of the Lafayette Civic Cup are members of the Past Recipients Club, totaling 27 members. These individuals conduct all activities associated with the Lafayette Civic Cup. They assume all responsibilities for arrangements and provide annual financial support. Through a Judging Committee appointed from its ranks, it accepts nominations and selects each year's recipient.

Only one Lafayette Civic

Dr. Jean T. Kreamer

Commentary



Cup Award is given annually. In a community as successful and as active as Lafayette, choosing a single recipient is a difficult task. As Lafayette grows, the task gets harder. We all know friends and neighbors whose lives deserve recognition. These outstanding citizens can only be considered if the Judging Committee receives a written nomination.

Looking at the vibrant life of Lafayette, I am struck by the enormous talent concentrated within our ranks. In tandem with this is the unparalleled growth we have experienced: in 1933 Lafayette Parish numbered approximately 39,000, compared with today's population of more than 192,000. We occupy the enviable position of being one of the state's top growth spots.

It is this talent pool and the spirit of strong citizen participation in the civic life of our Lafayette which are the vital ingredients propelling us in this growth. And along the way we have dramatically changed from the Lafayette of 1933, emerging with an appreciation of diverse cultures which makes us so unique. We have watched the expansion of the University from 2,360 students in 1933 to 16,000 today. Lafayette has come from a segregated to integrated population, our roads will soon include an interstate highway versus two-lane paved and gravel roads of 1933, we've evolved from a trustee form of government to progressive consolidation and we are the economic and med-

ical nucleus for our quadrant of the state.

Why Lafayette is so successful is hard to discern, but it may have been best described by the late Herbert Heymann. He said, "Lafayette has its fair share of problems, but unlike other cities, we never accept no for an answer; we just go around that problem to the place we ought to be, the best solution." I believe that the Lafayette Civic Cup past recipients are individuals who found ways to successfully go around problems.

Lafayette's history is being written daily by the good deeds and accomplishments of its citizens. I urge you to nominate your friend, neighbor, colleague or someone you feel deserves to be considered for this honor. In considering your nomination remember that the lives of the past recipients reflect housewives, religious leaders, business owners, librarians, college administrators, doctors, naturalized citizens, young entrepreneurs, some struggling and some accomplished, but each with a common thread binding them: their active commitment to this community.

From the Civic Cup's existence, The Daily Advertiser has been its sponsor; you will be seeing announcements for nominations with details in its future issues, beginning Sept. 10. I invite you to submit a nomination letter to the Judging Committee and to help our community honor the 2003 Lafayette Civic Cup recipient Nov. 12.

(Dr. Jean T. Kreamer is president of the Past Recipients' Club of the Lafayette Civic Cup organization. Lafayette Civic Cup deadline for nominations is Sept. 28.)