

Hilliard named Civic Cup winner

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LAFAYETTE — An oilman who quietly made education a burning issue that included buying books for students and reading to them in the classroom will be awarded one of Lafayette's highest honors.

C. Paul Hilliard has been named winner of Lafayette's Civic Cup for 2003.

He will receive the

award at a banquet Nov. 12 at the City Club, River Ranch. Hilliard will be the 71st recipient of the Cup that has been given annually since 1933.

The honoree, known for his self-effacing wit, lists on his résumé as one of the defining events of his life an incident in 1936,



C. Paul Hilliard

when his "4-year-old kid brother (The Emancipating Pyromaniac) burned the barn and the winter hay supply, a providential event that forced us off the farm and into town and introduced us to the luxuries of electricity and indoor plumbing."

Hilliard is a native of Buffalo County, Wis. He has been an independent oil and gas producer since 1955, naming his Lafayette-based Badger Oil Co. after the mascot of

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Charles Boustany Jr.
Nominator

the University of Wisconsin, where he did undergraduate work before earning a law degree from the University of Texas in 1951. He worked in south Louisiana as a landman

for Chevron from 1951 to 1954, before forming his own company.

Hilliard was cited as "a man who quietly renders outstanding service to his community, a man who

selflessly gives of his time and talents and treasures to enrich Lafayette and its citizens" in a nomination letter written by Adrian A. Stewart. Charles Boustany Jr., who also nominated Hilliard, called him a patriot and civic leader.

He is a past national chairman of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, a member of the National Petroleum Council, and a past

See HILLIARD on Page 2B

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Continued from Page 1B

Hilliard

president of the Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association.

"Paul has a keen recognition of the primacy of education as the basic building block for citizenship," Boustany wrote. "He has been an active participant in the Partners in Education program."

Not only has he donated his money, but spent his time reading to third- and fifth-grade students from underprivileged backgrounds. He did it to inspire a passion for reading and learning in these children, Boustany wrote.

He also served on the board of directors of the St. Landry Charter School, where, according to Stewart's nominating letter, "He created and personally funded classroom libraries so that books were easily accessible for the students and personally gave books to all students at Christmas."

Although he has been a member of the First Lutheran Church for 48 years, Hilliard is a past chairman of the Lafayette Catholic Service Center, and was king of the Bishop's Charity Ball in 1994.

He serves or has served on the Chamber of Commerce I-49 Task Force and on committees involved with education, energy, governmental affairs and economic development.

He and his wife, Lulu, have been major contributors toward the new University Art Museum and are active supporters of the Performing Arts Society of Acadiana and of the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra.

He is a Marine veteran of World War II, having served in the Solomon and Philippine islands.