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Cloutier wins 2004 Civic Cup

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LAFAYETTE — He serves as president and chief executive officer of MidSouth Bank, which he founded in 1985. His office is lined with award plaques, trophies and photos of him with various notable figures, including President Bush and Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan.

On Nov. 16, C.R. "Rusty" Cloutier, 57, will receive another honor. Cloutier recently was selected recipient of the 72nd annual Civic Cup, the highest honor given to the community's most outstanding citizens. Past recipients include philanthropist Madlyn Boustany, Badger Oil president Paul Hilliard, civil engineer Bill Fenstermaker and international jewelry mogul Matt Stuller.

"It was a tough decision, and that's the God's truth," said Jean Kreamer, the 2000 Civic Cup

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> "I'm just a poor boy who grew up on Fourth Street in Morgan City that tries to make a difference in the lives of people and the community."
>
> C.R. "Rusty" Cloutier
> 2004 Civic Cup recipient

Want to go?

The 2004 Civic Cup banquet begins with a reception at 6 p.m. Nov. 16 at River Ranch City Club. The catered dinner is set for 7 p.m. Tickets are $45. For more information, call 406-2582.

Rusty Cloutier Wins Civic Cup

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Civic

recipient. "We're amazed every year with the amount of voluntary work people in Lafayette do on behalf of the community."

"I could think of a lot more deserving people," said Cloutier, a father of three and grandfather of two. "I'm just a poor boy who grew up on Fourth Street in Morgan City that tries to make a difference in the lives of people and the community. Do I deserve an award because I give back to the community? The guy who goes to work in the cold to support his family — that's the type of person we should honor."

Jen Fontenot, MidSouth Bank senior vice president, one of several people who nominated the banker for the award, said Cloutier's "genuine compassion" combined with a "unique ability to motivate, unify, organize and lead" brought about much positive change in the community. But, Fontenot had a more personal reason for the nomination.

"In the late '80s, we were just getting the bank started. It was at a time when most smaller banks couldn't keep their doors open," she said. "My husband was diagnosed with cancer and had to undergo an all-day surgery. Rusty sat in the waiting room with me all day and made it possible so I could take care of my husband during his recovery. Most banks would have let me go. He bought my heart and soul that day."

Rusty Cloutier Wins Civic Cup Pt 2

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