

Playing the Numbers Game

Twenty-four years of Annual Awards celebrations for the Indiana Chamber. It's a number that is difficult to believe (I've actually been on hand for 22 of them, attending the event in 1992 before officially starting my job here a short time later).

That might seem like a long time – and it is. But do the math and the numbers reveal more about the long-term accomplishments of two of our honorees – presented their awards at the dinner and featured in this issue of *BizVoice*:



- Richard Lugar was already 12 years into his distinguished 36-year Senate career at the first event in 1990. By the way, Lugar was also the winner of that inaugural Government Leader of the Year award. His repeat honor this time might be more accurately titled Government Leader of a Lifetime.
- Steve Ferguson, current chairman of Cook Group in Bloomington and our 2013 Business Leader of the Year, had not officially joined the organization in 1990 but had been a close friend of Bill Cook for 27 years and had worked as a consultant on various projects for nearly two decades. Many don't know that a very young Ferguson had served four terms in the Indiana House of Representatives from 1967-1974 (being elected in late 1966, 24 years before the Chamber awards event became reality).

If we're going back in time, don't forget Community of the Year Bedford and the historical significance of limestone – the first stone quarry in the city opened in 1855. But this year's honor, while acknowledging that past, is a tribute to the transformation that is taking place today. Young leadership, increased business diversity and enhanced partnerships have Bedford on the rise.

Each Annual Awards celebration is special. As this is being written, however, I eagerly anticipate the November 12 tributes to our nation's military (and the close ties to Indiana business). As you are reading this, I hope you had the opportunity to be there. If not, I'll look a year ahead and say that you won't want to miss the 25th Annual Awards Dinner on November 6, 2014.

Kevin M. Brinegar
President and CEO

Indiana Chamber Mission:

Cultivate a world-class environment which provides economic opportunity and prosperity for the people of Indiana and their enterprises.



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