



# News

**Contact:** Heather Rogers, Junior Achievement

**782-0280**

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## **TWO LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS TO BE ADDED TO SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY JA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME**

### ***Junior Achievement To Induct Jerry Baker and Joe Natcher***

Bowling Green, KY – Two local business leaders will be inducted into Junior Achievement's South Central Kentucky Business Hall of Fame on **Friday, February 11 at 7:30 a.m. at a breakfast presented by BB&T at the Sloan Convention Center** in Bowling Green.

From the field of nominees, **Jerry E. Baker**, Consultant to Air Gas and part owner of Amerifax Inc. and **Joe B. Natcher, Jr.**, CEO of Southern Foods, Inc., were selected. Hall of Fame laureates are nominated by their peers and then selected by an independent committee.

The JA Business Hall of Fame was designed in 1992 to recognize outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to our community. Inductees are selected based upon their entrepreneurial spirit, business achievements, and positive economic impact upon the south central Kentucky area.

Baker and Natcher join twenty-two outstanding business leaders whose leadership and community service serve as an inspiration to the students that look to Junior Achievement for guidance and support as they further their understanding of the business community. A portrait exhibit of inductees is housed in the lobby of the Sloan Convention Center.

**Baker**, a 1951 graduate of the Bowling Green Business University, and the first college graduate in his family often speaks about how scholarship is important to him

because he would not have been able to attend college otherwise, and without education he wouldn't be where he is today.

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Today, Baker serves as a consultant for Airgas of Mid America, the business his father started in 1948, and is a part owner of Amerifax Inc. He has served on boards at Citizens First Bank, Commonwealth Health Foundation, WKU Foundation, the Kentucky Arts Council and the BG-WC Community Foundation, and created the Baker Arboretum and Gardens, as well as the Jerry E. Baker Foundation.

With a strong desire to help others gain quality education, Baker, has contributed to Western Kentucky University through numerous scholarship funds which include the Jerry E. Baker Student Scholarship fund, the Baker Athletic Endowment Fund, the Baker String Scholarship Fund and others. His outstanding dedication to education was evident when Baker made the largest one-time gift to WKU, \$15 million in 2006. A leadership supporter of WKU, Baker was named the 2002 Volunteer of the Year for the WKU Foundation and also received the Distinguished Service Medal. He was selected as the 2005 Philanthropist of the Year.

Through Baker's generous giving and involvement throughout the community many lives have been enriched with the opportunity of furthering their education and accomplishing their vision of success.

Joining Baker in the 2011 JA Business Hall of Fame is **Joe Natcher**. Natcher is not only the CEO and owner of Southern Foods Inc, but is active in numerous community activities with the strong belief that we all have an obligation to continue to enhance the business climate and the quality of life in South Central Kentucky.

A graduate of Western Kentucky University and Leadership Bowling Green, Natcher, through Southern Foods, employs about 95 co-workers and was recognized by the BG Area Chamber as Industry of the Year in 2003. Natcher takes great pride in his co-workers and works hard to maintain a personal touch with his team, as well as his customers.

In addition, he currently serves as Chairman of the Chamber Board of Directors, is Secretary of the Board of Directors for UniPro Foodservice Cooperative, and serves on the boards of Commonwealth Health Corporation, the Medical Center at Bowling Green and Commonwealth Health Corporation's Free Clinic.

Natcher's dedication to the youth of our community is evident in his service as a past board member of Junior Achievement and Crimestoppers, and a past president of the Hilltopper Athletic Association and the Boys and Girls Club.

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Natcher and his wife, Cheri, have two children, Nan Thomas and Houston. With his family behind him and his strong dedication to his community, Natcher has truly enhanced the business climate and quality of life in South Central Kentucky.

### **About Junior Achievement**

Through a dedicated volunteer network, JA offers in-school and after-school programs for students in grades K-12. Junior Achievement offers educational programs that focus on seven key content areas: business, citizenship, economics, entrepreneurship, ethics/character, financial literacy, and career development.

This past school year, Junior Achievement of South Central Kentucky provided 559 classes in the eight-county region impacting more than 12,500 area students. For more information about JA's programs, visit [www.jaforkids.com](http://www.jaforkids.com)

### **Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame Past Inductees**

Ervin Houchens, Houchens Food Stores	Fred Higgins, Fred's Minit Mart Jim Smith, Wendy's of Bowling Green
Earl Davis, Citizens First Bank of Russellville	Deborah Williams, AmSouth Bank
Everett Moore, Fruit of The Loom	Sandy Jones, Quality Personnel
Cal Turner, SR. Dollar General Corporation	Charles Hardcastle, BG Consolidated
David Garvin, Ironwood Farm	Lowell Guthrie, Trace Die Cast
J Murray Hill, Sr. Bowling Green Business University	Cornelius Martin, Martin Automotive Group
Doug Lester, Trans Financial, Inc.	Jimmie Gipson, Houchens Industries
Robert Rodes, Citizens National Bank	Mike Harris, Logan Aluminum
Larry Gerald, Gerald Printing	Leon Page, Franklin Bank & Trust
Robert Kirby, Hilliard Lyons	

John Desmarais, Commonwealth Health Corp.

Don Vitale, Manchester Capital

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