

# Blair Business

## Mirror

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### **Past Hall of Fame honorees encourage others to nominate**



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# Past Hall of Fame honorees encourage others to nominate

A successful business community is one that is comprised of businesses that understand the importance of hard work, high standards and healthy competition.

And also understands the need to recognize those businesses.

For the past twenty-seven years, the Blair County Chamber of Commerce has taken the lead in facilitating an event that focuses recognition on outstanding businesses in a variety of significant categories. The Blair County Business Hall of Fame Dinner is the Chamber's most prestigious event as well as its most heavily attended.

This year, that dinner will be held on October 17th at the Blair County Convention Center. Following tradition, many worthy businesses will be honored. Unfortunately, according to Hall of Fame Committee Chair Lisa Michelone of Reliance Bank, many more businesses – just as worthy – will be on the sideline.

"Our county has an incredible number of deserving companies and organizations that have never had the thrill of experiencing this night and the acclaim that goes along with it," she noted. "Either they haven't been nominated or they're unwilling to nominate themselves. Either way, they miss out. And our business community never gets an opportunity to properly recognize them."

Two people whose businesses have garnered Hall of Fame recognition are John Wolf of Wolf Furniture Company and Joel Hollander of Altoona Pipe and Steel. Not only were their businesses inducted but they were inducted at the same time – twenty-five years ago.

"The award recognized our contributions to the community and to our employees," Hollander remembers. "It demonstrated an encouraging message that the work they do is meaningful and important to our company. Recognition and induction into the Hall of Fame was and is a tribute to all of our employees. Sometimes that fact gets lost when people take their eyes off what's really responsible for a company's success."

That's one reason why, Wolf acknowledged, it's important for businesses and individuals to submit nominations on behalf of the many Blair County businesses that fit the award criteria.

"Everyone appreciates sincere recognition for a job well done," he noted. "And everyone comes into contact with a person or an enterprise that meets or exceeds our



*John Wolf of Wolf Furniture proudly displays the company's Hall of Fame Award which they received 25 years ago.*



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*Lisa Michelone,  
Hall of Fame Committee Chair*

expectations. Those are the type of businesses that we should be nominating."

Hollander agreed.

"Nominating businesses for the Hall of Fame or for the Awards of Distinction is an honor in itself," he disclosed. "Involvement in the nomination process is witness to our shared appreciation for the many contributions to our business sector and the crucial role they play in sustaining a vibrant community."

In other words, look around and identify businesses that deserve to be recognized not only for what they do but how they do it. If you're one of those, nominate yourself. There's absolutely no shame in blowing your own horn when there's something to crow about.

"Exemplary businesses are all around us," Michelone stated. "It's time they get their due."

Nomination Forms for the Business Hall of Fame Awards can be downloaded from the Chamber website at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Deadline to nominate is June 15th at noon.

**Contact The  
Chamber  
at 943-8151**