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CONTACT: Mary Csar, Executive Director
mary@bocahistory.org
561.395.6766 x106

Walk of Recognition Adds Four Stars

Boca Raton, FL - The annual Walk of Recognition, presented by the Boca Raton Historical Society, added four new stars at a ceremony on Thursday, May 21, under the Mizner statue at Royal Palm Place. The new stars are for Michael Hall, Marjorie O'Sullivan, Martin Stein, and the Reverend Henry Willis, Jr. All of these individuals have demonstrated a significant long-term commitment to serving in the interest of Boca Raton and they have enriched the lives of our citizens.

Instituted in 1997, the Walk of Recognition award has been presented to 64 deserving members of the community. Each inductee's name is inscribed in a stunning black granite plaque, which is set into a commemorative monument featuring the mission of the program beneath the Mizner statue in Royal Palm Place.

Michael Hall co-founded the Caldwell Theatre Company in 1975 and remained its artistic director for 34 years. The Caldwell Theatre began on the campus of the College of Boca Raton (now Lynn University), moved four years later to the Boca Mall (now Mizner Park) where it stayed for nine years, and then the theatre renovated space in Levitz Plaza where it performed for 18 years. During that time, the theater was named one of Florida's State Theaters. Michael has won numerous awards during his years at the Caldwell: Carbonell Awards for Best Director, George Abbott Award for distinguished contribution to South Florida theater, the Richard Fallon Award, and many more. For more than 12 years, Michael spearheaded a campaign to build a permanent regional theater facility in Boca Raton. That facility, named the Count de Hoernle Theatre, opened in 2007. Under Michael's leadership, the Caldwell served the community by sharing its talents with local students and by collaborating in local festivals and other events.

Marjorie O'Sullivan has consistently contributed to the quality of life in Boca Raton. She is a community member motivated by a deep love for the poor and marginalized among us. For many years, she has given liberally of her time and treasure to faithfully serve on civic boards, participate in community events and touch the lives of many individuals. Through her involvement, the City of Boca Raton celebrates the Martin Luther King holiday, the hungry are

fed and sheltered through Boca Helping Hands; she is the architect of public projects such as the Walking Tour of Historic Pearl City and the Pearl City Community Garden. Marjorie has served the City on numerous boards: Developing Interracial Social Change, Boca Raton Community Relations Board, Boca Raton Housing Authority, Helping Hands Ministry, and the Boca Raton Affordable Housing Advisory Board, plus additional contributions and activities with other boards and organizations. Marjorie has a reputation as a wise woman of virtue and energy and a quiet giver.

Martin Stein helped found, fund and establish and guide the Boca Raton Symphonia; he serves on the board of the Boca Raton Museum of Art; and he founded the Multimedia Family Concert Series for the City of Boca Raton Recreation Department. Martin Stein is a quiet pillar in our community as he is generous with his time, counsel and personal resources. Martin lives an example of both leadership and giving, serving the spectrum of ages. Martin's contributions to the community are varied with volunteer activities and philanthropy: Boca Raton Philharmonic Synphonia, City of Boca Raotn, Boca Raton Hospital Foundation, Ruth Rales Jewish Family Services, Jewish Federation, Temple Beth El, Caldwell Theatre, Center for the Arts at Mizner Park, and more. Martin and his wife Edith dedicate themselves and their resources to aking their "new" home of 20 years, Boca Raton, a welcoming and well-rounded home for themselves and others of all ages.

The Reverend Henry Willis, Jr., has lived in Boca Raton for 37 years. He worked at IBM until 2002, and during that time he worked on community programs and served as a Deacon at Ebenezer Baptist Church of Boca Raton. Rev. Willis became pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church from 2001 until he resigned in 2006 to become an outreach minister in the West Boca Community. Rev. Williw has worked with the city staff and contractors through phase 1 (Pearl City Renovation), phase 2 (Lincoln Court Renovation), phase 3 (Hughes Park and Glades Road between Dixie Highway and Federal Highway). He is presently working on phase 4 (beautification: Dixie Highway from NE 10th Street to 15th Street). The CATS Program (Children Achieving Through Success) was organized in 1987, and Rev. Willis has been the chairman and still contributes to the program.

A cornerstone of the community and supporter of numerous organizations in the area, Marta Batmasian originally conceived of the award which has become an annual community program organized and maintained by the Boca Raton Historical Society. The plaques are underwritten by Marta Batmasian as part of her commitment to her community.

The Boca Raton Historical Society (BRHS) is a non-profit membership organization, founded in 1972. Since its inception, the BRHS has taken on ambitious restoration projects, provided first rate cultural programming, and followed its mission: to collect, preserve, and

present information and artifacts relevant to the past and evolving history of Boca Raton, and to maintain a visible role in education and advocacy of historic preservation in our community. For more information about the Historical Society, visit www.bocahistory.org .

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Photo caption:

Walk of Recognition 2009 inductees:

Reverend Henry Willis, Jr., Marjorie O'Sullivan, Martin Stein, Michael Hall