

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE FAIR MUSEUM NAMES TEN ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY WINNERS FOR 2011

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) The Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation has named its ten winners of the Illinoisan of the Day award for 2011. They will be honored at noon on the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion each day of the fair, which runs August 12 - 21.

Each year the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Winners were announced over the weekend at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield.

Every Illinoisan of the Day will be a guest on their special day at this year's fair, where they will be publicly introduced and receive gifts along with a personal proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Here are 2011's Illinoisans of the Day, their hometowns and the dates on which they will be honored at this year's Illinois State Fair.

Jim Winch	Pleasant Plains	Friday, August 12
Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr.	Springfield	Saturday, August 13
Tom Hennigh	Effingham	Sunday, August 14
George W. Obernagel III	Waterloo	Monday, August 15
Brenda Besse	Erie	Tuesday, August 16
Harold Steele	Dover	Wednesday, August 17
William Allaman	Oquawka	Thursday, August 18
Geraldine McGuire	Winchester	Friday, August 19
Annette LaMore	Manteno	Saturday, August 20
Jerry & Diane Rodhouse (a first-time joint award)	Pleasant Hill	Sunday, August 21

The nonprofit State Fair Museum Foundation works to preserve fair artifacts and memories. Its collection will be free and open to the public during the fair under the north end of the Grandstand.

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WILLIAM M. ALLAMAN OF OQUAWKA
NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) William M. Allaman, of Oquawka, has been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. He will be honored on Thursday, August 18, at this year's fair in Springfield.

Allaman was nominated in part for serving area youth by sitting on the local school board and for his role in preserving the history of Henderson County. That work includes overseeing buildings in Oquawka and Raritan as well as restoration of the county's flood-damaged covered bridge. He is a fifth-generation resident of Henderson County.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Area residents joined in nominating Allaman. His name was announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield with Allaman in attendance.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, Allaman will be a guest on his special day. He will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then Allaman will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Other winners this year are Annette LaMore of Manteno, Jim Winch of Pleasant Plains, Tom Hennigh of Effingham, Harold Steele of Dover, Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr., of Springfield, George Obernagel III of Waterloo, Brenda Besse of Erie, Geraldine McGuire of Winchester and for the first time a joint award to spouses Jerry and Diane Rodhouse of Pleasant Hill.

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BRENDA BESSE OF ERIE NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) Brenda Besse, of Erie, has been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. She will be honored on Tuesday, August 16, at this year's fair in Springfield.

Besse, 52, was nominated for her years of service to AgrAbility Unlimited. This cooperative project between government and citizen groups works to promote independence in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. Her commitment to farm safety includes farm equipment-handling demonstrations for thousands of grade-schoolers. Besse has also brought notice to her community by bringing home some ninety tournament championships from the National Amputee Golf Association.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Several area residents joined in nominating Besse. Her name was announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield with Besse in attendance.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, Besse will be a guest on her special day. She will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then Besse will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Other winners this year are Jim Winch of Pleasant Plains, Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr., of Springfield, Tom Hennigh of Effingham, George W. Obernagel III of Waterloo, Harold Steele of Dover, William Allaman of Oquawka, Geraldine McGuire of Winchester, Annette LaMore of Manteno and for the first time a joint award to spouses Jerry and Diane Rodhouse of Pleasant Hill.

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TOM HENNIGH OF EFFINGHAM
NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) Tom Hennigh, of Effingham, has been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. He will be honored on Sunday, August 14, at this year's fair in Springfield.

Hennigh has spent about all his almost eight decades in Illinois. When not here, he served in the U.S. Air Force, and he will be introduced at the fair on the day set aside to recognize veterans. Hennigh was nominated for his work with horses, and was recognized last year by the American Quarter Horse Association for fifty years of quarter-horse breeding and breed improvement. He was one of just 16 honored across the U.S. According to his nominators, Hennigh has shared his horses with thousands of children over the decades, youngsters from cities who might have ever been that close to a horse and others who needed a gentle hand to help them.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Area residents joined in nominating Hennigh. His name was announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, Hennigh will be a guest on his special day. He will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then Hennigh will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Other winners this year are Annette LaMore of Manteno, Jim Winch of Pleasant Plains, William Allaman of Oquawka, Harold Steele of Dover, Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr., of Springfield, George Obernagel III of Waterloo, Brenda Besse of Erie, Geraldine McGuire of Winchester and for the first time a joint award to spouses Jerry and Diane Rodhouse of Pleasant Hill.

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ANNETTEE LAMORE OF MANTENO
NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) Annette LaMore, of Manteno, has been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. She will be honored on Saturday, August 20, at this year's fair in Springfield.

LaMore was nominated for her all-around community service, from coaching softball to painting fire hydrants. According to those who nominated her as an Illinoisan of the Day, LaMore led other volunteers in the successful "Save Our Golf Course" committee and continues to volunteer there. Supporters also say she has engaged in local politics, winning a seat as a village trustee, and engaged on a neighborly level with her rural mail carrier customers.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Area residents joined in nominating LaMore. Her name was announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, LaMore will be a guest on her special day. She will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then LaMore will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Other winners this year are Jim Winch of Pleasant Plains, Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr., of Springfield, Tom Hennigh of Effingham, George W. Obernagel III of Waterloo, Harold Steele of Dover, William Allaman of Oquawka, Brenda Besse of Erie, Geraldine McGuire of Winchester and for the first time a joint award to spouses Jerry and Diane Rodhouse of Pleasant Hill.

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GERALDINE MCGUIRE OF WINCHESTER
NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) Geraldine McGuire, of Winchester, has been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. She will be honored on Friday, August 19, at this year's fair in Springfield.

McGuire was nominated for her 66 years of service to 4-H. She has been recognized before for her work with young people and for finding challenges that move them toward understanding the worth of community in many forms. And her 4-H club, Neighborhood Guys and Gals, has also won awards in Scott County for engaging with their fellow citizens. According to those who nominated McGuire as an Illinoisan of the Day, she is known as "Grandma" and still, in her eighties is pushing furniture around so her home can host a meeting.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Several area residents joined in nominating McGuire. Her name was announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, McGuire will be a guest on her special day. She will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then McGuire will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Other winners this year are Jim Winch of Pleasant Plains, Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr., of Springfield, Tom Hennigh of Effingham, George W. Obernagel III of Waterloo, Harold Steele of Dover, William Allaman of Oquawka, Brenda Besse of Erie, Annette LaMore of Manteno and for the first time a joint award to spouses Jerry and Diane Rodhouse of Pleasant Hill.

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GEORGE OBERNAGEL III OF WATERLOO
NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) George Obernagel III, of Waterloo, has been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. He will be honored on Monday, August 15, at this year's fair in Springfield.

Obernagel was nominated in part for his service to local civic and agricultural projects. He has also held high positions in farm-focused groups at state and national levels as well as serving as a trustee of nearby McKendree University in Lebanon. Back in Waterloo, Obernagel sits on the Monroe County Fair Board Association and has established two agricultural scholarships for local youth.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Area residents joined in nominating Obernagel. His name was announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield with Obernagel in attendance.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, Obernagel will be a guest on his special day. He will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then Obernagel will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Other winners this year are Annette LaMore of Manteno, Jim Winch of Pleasant Plains, Tom Hennigh of Effingham, Harold Steele of Dover, Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr., of Springfield, William Allaman of Oquawka, Brenda Besse of Erie, Geraldine McGuire of Winchester and for the first time a joint award to spouses Jerry and Diane Rodhouse of Pleasant Hill.

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**JERRY AND DIANE RODHOUSE OF PLEASANT HILL
NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY**

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) In a first-time joint award, Jerry and Diane Rodhouse, of Pleasant Hill, have been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. They will be honored on Sunday, August 21, at this year's fair in Springfield.

According to their nominators, Diane and Jerry Rodhouse have been volunteering in Pleasant Hill for four decades. They were named as active in church and civic work as well as local service groups. Jerry led a drive to create a park in Pleasant Hill. Now there is one, with a swimming pool. Diane helped create the Pike County Farm Bureau Woman's Committee. Their day at the Illinois State Fair carries the theme of family day.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Area residents joined in nominating the Rodhouses. Their names were announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, the Rodhouses will be guests on their special day. They will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then they will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Other winners this year are Annette LaMore of Manteno, Jim Winch of Pleasant Plains, William Allaman of Oquawka, Harold Steele of Dover, Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr., of Springfield, George Obernagel III of Waterloo, Brenda Besse of Erie, Geraldine McGuire of Winchester and Tom Hennigh of Effingham.

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Note to editors: Mr. and Mrs. Rodhouse may be contacted at (217) 734-2775

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HAROLD STEELE OF RURAL DOVER
NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) Harold Steele, of rural Dover, has been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. He will be honored on Wednesday, August 17, at this year's fair in Springfield.

Steele, 89, lives on the farm his great-grandfather built in 1873. He was nominated in part for his international collecting of agricultural artifacts and sharing them with the public in his museum outbuildings. He returned to Illinois to farm after leaving the University of Illinois to enlist in World War II, after which he spent years working for the federal government.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Area residents joined in nominating Steele. His name was announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, Steele will be a guest on his special day. He will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then Steele will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

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ROBERT "BOB" VOSE, SR., OF SPRINGFIELD
NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr., of Springfield, has been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. He will be honored on Saturday, August 13, at this year's fair in Springfield.

Vose is a fixture on the fairgrounds after serving up corndogs there for several decades. He is being honored on the day of the fair with the theme Springfield and Local Officials. Vose qualifies both as a past three-term city alderman and as a longtime referee at high school sporting events. According to those who nominated him as an Illinoisan of the Day, Vose has also served his community in a Santa Claus suit.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Area residents joined in nominating Vose. His name was announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield, with Vose in attendance.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, Vose will be a guest on his special day. He will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then Vose will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Other winners this year are Annette LaMore of Manteno, Jim Winch of Pleasant Plains, Tom Hennigh of Effingham, George W. Obernagel III of Waterloo, Harold Steele of Dover, William Allaman of Oquawka, Brenda Besse of Erie, Geraldine McGuire of Winchester and for the first time a joint award to spouses Jerry and Diane Rodhouse of Pleasant Hill.

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**JIM WINCH OF PLEASANT PLAINS
NAMED 2011 ILLINOISAN OF THE DAY**

(7/18/2011 Springfield, IL) Jim Winch, of Pleasant Plains, has been named a 2011 Illinoisan of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. He will be honored on Friday, August 12, at this year's fair in Springfield.

Winch is set to retire this year as Draft Horse Superintendent for the Illinois State Fair. Over several decades he has worked both as an employee and as a volunteer with horses and horseshows on the fairgrounds. According to those who nominated Winch, he can shoe a horse, wrangle an elephant - as he's done at Shrine circuses - and once built a revolving stage for a high school play at Sacred Heart-Griffin.

Each spring the museum foundation seeks nominations of Prairie State residents who volunteer in their communities, work to brighten lives of their neighbors and represent the best of Illinois citizenship. Area residents joined in nominating Winch, who serves on the fair museum board. His name was announced July 16 at the foundation's annual fund-raiser, the Corndog Kick-off, held on the fairgrounds in Springfield with Winch in attendance.

As part of this year's ceremony during the Illinois State Fair, Winch will be a guest on his special day. He will be driven through the fairgrounds in a convertible with an antique tractor escort to the Farm Bureau stage under the Commodities Pavilion. Then Winch will be introduced and honored with gifts including a proclamation from Governor Pat Quinn.

Other winners this year are Annette LaMore of Manteno, Robert "Bob" Vose, Sr., of Springfield, Tom Hennigh of Effingham, George W. Obernagel III of Waterloo, Harold Steele of Dover, William Allaman of Oquawka, Brenda Besse of Erie, Geraldine McGuire of Winchester and for the first time a joint award to spouses Jerry and Diane Rodhouse of Pleasant Hill.

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