



Curt Hazelbaker praises the work of Bill White Jr.

YMCA Photos by David Reavis

Central Y named for volunteer

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Though the skies outside the mammoth windows of the Central YMCA were drab and gray Monday morning, the atmosphere inside was anything but dull.

The dedication of the Central Y was indeed a joyous occasion. Brightly colored balloons dotted the room, and children darted about laughing.

The guest of honor, William "Bill" White Jr., has seen many similar celebrations in his more than six decades of coming to the Y, but this ceremony had special significance for the longtime volunteer: the facility was being named for him.

"Your commitment has been so deep, so intentional ... it's fitting that we recognize you and future generations have you to look up to," remarked Sue Henderson, chief volunteer officer for the YMCA of Northwest North Carolina (NWNK).

The William G. White Jr. Family YMCA, as the Central Y is now called, has been heavily influenced by White, even in its inception, as Richard Budd, honorary chair of the 2009 Capital Campaign, pointed out.

"He was a part of the campaign when we built this Y in 1974," Budd told the audience. "He's been a longtime friend of the CEOs and executives ... mentoring them on good business practices."

White's affiliation extends far beyond typical volunteerism. He has served as a YMCA of NWNK board member; a Heritage Club member, and has chaired the Board of Trustees since 1998. In 2002, he was the first inductee into the prestigious Red Triangle Society, which honors dedicated volunteers for their service to the YMCA of Greater Winston-Salem; and belongs to the Honorary Cabinet for the Y's 2009 Capital Campaign.

Additionally, White, a former executive at Winston-Salem-based First Federal Bank, has been actively involved with the Y on national and international levels. He is credited with helping to establish a YMCA in the Ukraine after the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s. There are currently over 20 YMCAs in the

region because of White's efforts, Budd reported.

White used his business savvy to bolster the reach of the Y and helped the organization find secure footing in its lean years, he added.

"Recognizing someone as special as Bill is an honor," said YMCA NWNK President and CEO Curt Hazelbaker, who unveiled a plaque denoting the occasion. "The Y could not have had the impact we have had



William "Bill" White Jr. has worn many hats in the YMCA organization.

without Bill White."

Bill Simpson, chairman of RMIC (Republic Mortgage Investment Company) credits White with helping him and his partners to form RMIC, which now boasts more than 300 employees and over \$2 billion in assets. The two have become good friends over the years, traveling to Argentina on hunting trips and sitting together in countless board meetings, Simpson said.

"Bill's a real astute businessman," he remarked. "(His) business acumen is well documented in the financial market."

White, 79, was humbled, almost apologetic, at the honor.

"It's kind of embarrassing," he confided. "I never expected to receive anything (in my honor); I did it because I wanted to."

Over the course of more than 60 years, White has seen many changes come to the Y, and he says he's enjoyed "watching it grow and prosper" more than just about anything.

"I really don't know what to say; I've had a lot of help doing this and I'm

looking at many of them right now," he declared in addressing the audience. "I know that the Y's best days are still ahead of it and I thank you for what you do and will be doing."

News Clips

Ambassador to discuss current developments

Greensboro College and the Triad World Affairs Council will host Ambassador Vasil Sikharulidze who will share his thoughts on the current state of affairs in Georgia, a nation in the former Soviet Union.

Sikharulidze will give a lecture Dec. 8 titled "Current Developments in Georgia" at the O. Henry Hotel, 624 Green Valley Road. The evening begins with a reception at 6 p.m. The presentation will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by a brief question and answer session.

Reservations for the presentation are \$15 for members of the Triad World Affairs

Council and \$25 for non-members. For more information or to reserve seating, contact Claudia Davis at 336-272-7102, ext. 221.

Glenn alumnus graduates from Air Force training

Air Force Airman 1st Class Huston D. Stewart has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, core values, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who

complete basic training earn credits toward an associate in applied science degree relating through the Community College of the Air Force.

Stewart is the son of Trina Stewart of Winston-Salem. In 2008, the airman graduated from Robert B. Glenn High School.

"Booze It & Lose It" starts

Gov. Mike Easley announced last week that state and local law enforcement officers will be out in force over the next month as part of a "Booze It & Lose It" campaign to remove impaired drivers from the state's roads this holiday season. Checkpoints and stepped-up patrols will be conducted across the state Dec. 1 through Jan. 4, 2009.

Alcohol-related traffic crashes are likely to occur when more motorists are on the road traveling to and from holiday parties. Between Dec. 1, 2007 and Jan. 4, 2008, 165 North Carolina motorists were involved in fatal traffic crashes, with 49 alcohol-related fatalities.



Stewart



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