



2008 Awards & Achievements

2008 Dany Ford Service Award: **Governor Paul Patton**

Born at home in Fallsburg, Kentucky, on May 26, 1937, Paul Patton was one of three children of Ward and Irene Patton. Both parents worked to support the family and save for the children's education. Paul graduated from Louisa High School in Lawrence County in 1955, and went onto the University of Kentucky where he worked in the campus cafeteria. After graduation, literally working from ground up, Paul Patton spent the next 20 years building a successful coal business. He then turned his attention to public service and began a new career as Deputy State Transportation Secretary in the administration of Governor John Y. Brown, Jr. in 1979. In 1982, Patton ran for public office and was elected Pike County Judge-Executive.

He won reelection, but in 1991, Patton returned to Frankfort as Lt. Governor-the first to serve as an appointed cabinet secretary heading up the Economic Development Cabinet. Patton made history by writing a jobs program that put tens of thousands of Kentuckians to work by allowing the state to attract new industries and help existing companies to expand. He is credited with rescuing nine thousand jobs at Louisville's General Electric Appliance Park through his jobs program.

Kentucky's Broadcasters Association Steven Foster Award: **Wallace "Pete" Stamper**

The Kentucky Broadcasters Association presents awards to those individuals who have made outstanding contributions and who have earned fame or acclaim in their field of endeavor, in recognition of the value of those achievements to the state.

Pete Stamper has been the single most identifiable voice at WRVK 1460 Radio in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. he began his professional entertainment career in Renfro Valley in 1952. Two years later, Red Foley offered Pete the feature comedy spot on his Ozark Jubilee, America's first Country Music Network (ABC) television show. He appeared on the Grand Ole Opry and in 1975, Dolly Parton asked him to travel with her as comedian and road manager.

Pete is a songwriter whose songs have been recorded by Red Foley, Porter Wagoner, Susan Tomes Laws, Dale Ann Bradley, Bill Anderson and others. he also helped produce the second oldest continuous radio broadcast in the nation, the "Sunday, Renfro Valley Gatherin" for 39 years. Pete's book, It All Happened In Renfro Valley, was written and released in 1999. Pete and his wife, Minnie Lee, reside in Renfro Valley, Kentucky.

Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement: Homer Ledford

Homer Ledford was born and raised in the Tennessee Mountains, a part of the Appalachian chain. At an early age, he began making musical instruments, his first being a "match stick" fiddle. At the age of eighteen, he was given a rehabilitation scholarship to attend the John C. Campbell Folk School, in Brasstown, North Carolina. There, while recuperating from rheumatic fever, he made his first dulcimer.

Mr. Ledford attended Berea College in 1949 and transferred to Eastern Kentucky University where he received a B.S. degree in 1954. Teaching industrial arts for ten years, he resigned in 1963 to become a full time instrument maker. Mr. Ledford's craft is represented in the Smithsonian Institute and registered in the U.S. Patent Office.

Mr. Ledford was a fine Bluegrass musician who played 13 different instruments and organized the Homer Ledford and the Cabin Creek Band in 1976. Homer was honored by his hometown of Winchester, Kentucky in 1986 when they named a Bluegrass Festival after him.