



2011 Awards & Achievements

Governor's Award For Lifetime Achievement: Hugh X. Lewis

For some while, Hugh X. Lewis carried on the dual carriers of performer and working in the mines. Originally this happened because his parents could not afford to pay his way while he tried for success in music. He started out by playing in weekends and days off and his first paying engagement was at a club in Cumberland, Kentucky. During the mid and late '50, Hugh became a regular member of a weekly TV show in Johnson City, Tennessee, and. On Saturday nights he went to Knoxville to appear on Tennessee Barn Dance. In 1959, he became foreman at the U.S. Steel mine in Lynch, Kentucky. By the 1960s, Hugh was getting a reputation with his fellow artists because of his 1963 performances on WSAZ's Saturday Night Jamboree from Huntington and Ernest Tubbs Show from Nashville. He had already started writing and now he quit his day job and over to Nashville. He did the rounds and was picked up by publisher Jim Denny, who died shortly after. Hugh got his first major cut in 1963 when Stonewall Jackson recorded B.J. The D.J. and took it to No.1. Both Kitty Wells and Carl Smith later recorded his song. By 1964, Lewis was signed to Kapp Records. He stayed with the label until 1969, during which time he chalked up 11 hits. He made his debut on the Grand Old Opry in 1964.

Kentucky Broadcasters Association Steven Foster Award: Al Snyder

Al Snyder began his broadcast career in 1972 working at WNVL 1250 Radio in Nicholasville, Kentucky. Years later he would own that station and out WCKU FM, 102.5 on the air programming into Lexington. Because of his attention to broadcast excellence, in 1982 Al was named the Country Music Association's Broadcast Personality of the Year. That same year he was presented with a special merit award from the Kentucky

Broadcasters Association. Al was also a finalist for the same CMA Broadcast Award in 1984. In 1986 Al was elected by his peers to serve on the Country Music Association Board of Directors. During his term on the board he traveled to London, England to help introduce the Discover New Country campaign. For 1990 to 2000 Al worked in Nashville with radio syndication companies and programs in Nashville, New York and Branson, Missouri. He has worked as producer and/or Director of Clearance for syndicated radio programs featuring Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson, Trisha Yearwood, Toby Keith, Dolly Parton and many other artists. In 2006 Al was honored with a Lifetime Membership in the Country Music Association. In addition to owning his own syndication services company; Al Snyder and Associates, he also hosts the 3 PM to 7 PM afternoon drive slot on WCYO FM, 100.7, The Coyote in Richmond, Kentucky. In addition, Al hosts Classic Request LIVE! every Friday night for 7 PM-Midnight. The show is a five hour classic country request show, which also features many of his exclusive interviews. Al and his wife Sally reside in Nicholasville, Kentucky.

Danny R. Ford Distinguished Service Award: Warren W. Rosenthal

Warren W. Rosenthal is a native of Paducah, Kentucky, and graduate of the University of Kentucky. He is the owner of Patchen Wilkes Thoroughbred Horse Farm in Lexington, Kentucky, and is currently developing a portion of the farm in up-scale homes. Mr. Rosenthal's primary business career spanned 41 years in the foodservice and franchising industries. He joined Jerrico, Inc. in 1948, when it consisted of two, five-cent hamburger stands called White Taverns and one, eight-stool Jerry's sandwich shop. He became chief executive officer in 1952 and president of the company in 1963. From three small restaurants in 1948, he guided Jerrico, Inc. into becoming a publicly-owned company in 1969, growing to its 1989 status of over 1,500 Long John Silver's Seafood Shoppes (in 37 states and 2 foreign countries), over 60 Jerry's Restaurants, (full-service family coffee shop restaurants) and 5 Fazoli's, (fast-food Italian restaurants), all of which he originated. He retired as a chairman of the board of Jerrico, Inc. in 1989 when the company was the object of a takeover. Bored after 32 days of retirement, Mr. Rosenthal joined Ralph Gabbard of Lexington and Glenn Pennington of Berea in the ownership of Renfro

Valley Entertainment Center, the home of the Renfro Valley Barn Dance, a country music venue. As the surviving partner, he ultimately donated Renfro Valley Entertainment Center to the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Museum in July of 2000.