

## **ACADEMY OF HONOR 2011**

The Academy of Honor was established in 1996 to honor volunteers in the Miss America field who have provided outstanding service to the Miss America Organization. It is volunteers like you that have made this organization what it is today, an organization that empowers young women to achieve their dreams.

A \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to the honoree's State Scholarship Program. For the recipient, a Waterford Crystal Eagle along with your name placed on a plaque in the National Office.

Before I tell you about our honoree, I would like to ask former Academy of Honor recipients to please come forward or stand and be recognized if they are in attendance as they are announced.

1996 Tom Hensley, Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant, Inc.

1997 Robert Wheeler, Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant, Inc.

1998 Meg Geraghty, Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Pageant

1999 Larry D. Webber, Miss Missouri Scholarship Pageant, Inc.

2000 Joseph P. Sanders, Miss South Carolina Pageant, Inc.

2001 Robert W. Arnheim, Miss California Organization, Inc.

2002 Theresa Beauchamp, Miss Connecticut Scholarship Pageant

2003 Charles E. Welch, Miss Oklahoma Scholarship Pageant

2004 Gail Sanders, Miss South Carolina Pageant, Inc.

2006 Bruce Robert, Miss Massachusetts Pageant

2007 Kay Dickinson, Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant

2008 Dana Phillips, Miss Oregon Scholarship Program

2009 Mary Sullivan, Miss Florida Scholarship Program

2010 Nan Teninbaum, Miss Alabama Scholarship Program

We at the Miss America Organization are all very proud of you and thank you for your continuous service and commitment to our organization.

This year's honoree is someone who is celebrating almost a half century of volunteer service.

This person comes highly recommended – with letters from one Miss America, eight current and former state directors from across the country, seven former state titleholders, and many more!

One person states, “What I find so incredibly special about this person is the example they set for all MAO Volunteers as an ambassador of our program to other volunteers, to contestants and to others who are or may be come connected to our organization.”

A state executive director explained why this person truly exemplifies the four points of the crown:

**Scholarship** – This person is an advocate for this very important hallmark – scholarships, and works diligently to make sure young women and volunteers are informed about scholarship opportunities and application processes.

**Service** – Throughout this person's tenure, their leadership roles have included Producer, Co-Executive Director, Judges Orientation Facilitator, and board member.

**Style** – This person has their own style which is defined by their charismatic personality and great laugh. This person can be creative and is often described as an “out-of-the-box” thinker, while also focusing on measurable productivity through proper protocol and business strategies. Their “style” inspires people, challenges people and makes things happen.

**Success** – This person's leadership roles all signify success as a local, state and national volunteer. Professionally, he is retired from a very successful career as a school administrator. He proudly shares his success as a loving father and husband.

When asked “What influenced you to volunteer with the Miss America Organization,” he replied, “As a nineteen year old college sophomore, I became interested in the program initially because of the beautiful young women. However, I soon realized the validity of the Miss America Pageant rests on its promotion of intelligence and talent.”

On behalf of the Miss America Organization, I am extremely pleased to present the recipient of the 2011 Academy of Honor Award to William J. Haggerty.