This year’s honorees in the Times Acadiana Business Hall of Fame have many things in common. The men seem to have all learned about leadership, compassion and the drive for success from their days in the Big House. One common denominator the same qualities, only through other facets of their life. But the one thing that strikes me most is the way they all brought something to Acadiana and they join a pantheon of heroes of industries into the Times Acadiana Hall of Fame.

This year’s inductees to the ranks of the hall of fame are Ray Desco, Red Gerza, Dwight Duvall, Mike Sbordone, and Doug Hammett as Rising Young Business Leaders, and Greg Davis as the recipient of the Richard E. Randolph Jr. Award. These honorees have made significant contributions to Acadiana and join a pantheon of heroes of industries into the Times Acadiana Hall of Fame.

On Tuesday, May 14, the Times Acadiana Business Hall of Fame will be inducting into the hall of fame at the Hilton Lafayette. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Lafayette. A silent auction, compiled by the Lafayette Area Chamber of Commerce, will showcase their accomplishments. After the event, Davis and Davis will be inducted into the hall of fame. This year’s honorees include Mike Sbordone and Doug Hammett, and the event will be held at the Hilton Lafayette. The event will feature a silent auction and a live auction, and the honorees will be recognized for their accomplishments.

Davis is the third recipient of the Richard E. Randolph Jr. Award, created in 1994 in memory of the Times Acadiana longtime editor, Dr. Jerry Carley. The honoree, who was born and raised in Lafayette, has a track record of service to the community and has been involved in numerous community organizations and initiatives. The event will be held at the Hilton Lafayette, featuring a silent auction and a live auction, and the honorees will be recognized for their accomplishments.

The Times Acadiana Business Hall of Fame is a celebration of the outstanding contributions of business leaders in our community. This year’s honorees include Mike Sbordone and Doug Hammett, and the event will be held at the Hilton Lafayette. The event will feature a silent auction and a live auction, and the honorees will be recognized for their accomplishments.
A true native of Lafayette, Herbert Heymann spent 76 years in the town he dearly loved. Figure for some schooling at Tulane, his time in the Navy and a brief stay in Covington, Heymann passed his days in Lafayette, most of them near the Oil Center.

He met his wife, Jemmy Marion Heymann for probably this reason. A friend who was in business with him set them up, telling her, "you'll be perfect for each other because neither of you likes to leave your ZIP code unless you're traveling."

So, she had dinner with Heymann and was instantly impressed. "One of the things that really caught me off guard is he would just ask you off all these questions about your life," she says. "He was so comfortable to talk to, and he was such a great listener. To me, he was very, very comfortable to be with in every way."

This is the general sentiment when remembering Heymann. Scores of business owners and friends in the community will tell how he helped them out in some way, whether by listening, giving advice or with a monetary donation.

"If anybody went to him with a problem, he would say, 'What can I do to help?'" says his widow. "He would never say it's a problem, he would always jump to a solution."

Long-time friend, Dr. Dennis Montgomery, says, "Heymann was generous, straightforward and always helpful of others."

Although Heymann loved to travel — cruises were his favorite — he made his mark here in Lafayette. When the business fell out of the oil industry, he saw the need to diversify the Oil Center that his father had started. He brought in restaurants, shops, a pharmacy and much more.

"He really went out on a limb to help a lot of people start up," says Jim. "He was very kind to people. He wouldn't bring in direct competition."

Beginnous Pharmacy as an example of this, because it was the only pharmacy in the Oil Center for many years.

Heymann was also instrumental in bringing about the Huérestaurant & Natural History Museum — he donated the building under construction documents for the new museum — and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He served as task force chairman to study the idea of the Cajundome, headed up the Cajuns Field building committee and donated the land on which the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is located. Heymann was also known for his anonymous donations and business deals, some of which involved donating seed money to the leadership Lafayette project and starting Le Triomphe.

Heymann also supported the things he loved — athletics and music. He was a huge supporter of University of Louisiana at Lafayette's music department and the Acadia Symphony. He also headed up the Cajuns Field building committee. In addition, he created the Heymann Foundation in the late 1960s to make charitable contributions to worthy causes in Lafayette. It has contributed more than $2 million to hundreds of nonprofit organizations since.

A true Bayou Scout, Heymann received numerous awards for his generosity, among them the Albert Hunter Award and Service Award from the Bayou Scouts of America, Civic Cup Award, Volunteer Activist Award, Alvin de Toledoque Society of Acadia Award, and the Roll On Josied and ULL Alumni Award from the university.

Childhood friend and current Bridge Board member Virginia Fangar recounts how Heymann did this way. "He was the most generous, kind-hearted person I knew. He was a true friend to Lafayette. You just looked at him and hoped every body could grow up to be just like him."

End of text on Page 2