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ECIDC to present Jay Markwell with Business Ethics, Social Involvement Award

Since 1993, East Central Illinois Development Corporation (ECIDC) has partnered with Lake Land College (LLC) and Eastern Illinois University (EIU) to award the Business Ethics and Social Involvement (BESI) Award which recognizes outstanding business firms and leaders in east central Illinois who pioneer enlightened business practices and display social leadership. The intent is to publicize creative, long-term-oriented and morally thoughtful efforts by business managers/owners that might serve as models or examples for aspiring managers/entrepreneurs, as well as for college of business students. This year the award goes to Jay Markwell of Casey and Richard (Dick) West of Mattoon.

Jay Markwell, a lifelong resident of Casey, has shown exceptional dedication and commitment to the betterment of the City and the region. Through Jay's leadership and professionalism, his business Markwell Funeral Home, has



Jay Markwell.

been a caregiving asset, exceptional community partner, and a past Casey Business of the Year award recipient. As a well-respected funeral home director, Jay will be honored by his peers this coming June when he will be sworn in as President of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association (IFDA).

Beyond his business success, Jay's volunteer work in community and economic development has spanned more three decades and has yielded many achievements. According to nominator Nicole Weigand, "Those who work with and know Jay consider his community and economic development successes to be manifold and all-encompassing, from working for the schools through Rotary, to making community events more memorable and special through bringing in unique events, to helping individuals and families through the difficult task of burying loved ones, and to engaging the community through his work

forms accounting and auditing services for many companies and governmental agencies throughout the region. Nominator Dr. Robert Webb said, "Mr. West utilizes several avenues for networking with community leaders and associates in his profession. West & Company partners are active members of state and national CPA professional organizations to which they contribute their time and talents."

Dick's commitment to success extends well beyond his business as he has been an avid supporter of multiple community organizations. He has been a member of the Mattoon Kiwanis Club for over 28 years. For the Mattoon Chamber of Commerce, he has either personally served

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Shimkus supports right-to-carry reciprocity bill

Congressman John Shimkus is cosponsoring legislation that would allow someone with a valid concealed carry permit in one state to legally

the City of Casey, the Casey Chamber of Commerce, and Casey Industries, Inc. – into one group, the Casey Liaison Steering Committee, with the shared goal of planning for the future and revitalizing the community. Through Jay's leadership, these three entities were able to work together in a cohesive group and move Casey forward.

Dick West is managing partner of West & Company, LLC, a regional CPA firm with eight partners, over 55 employees, and five offices located in Mattoon, Sullivan, Effingham, Greenville and Edwardsville. The firm per-

the first Hospice for the Tri-County area and he served as a member and officer for what is now known as Lincolnland Hospice. He also served on the Clark County Enterprise Zone Committee, the Clark County Development Organization, and as a director for ECIDC from 1996-2000. He has been involved in the revitalization of Greenup and active in the downtown revitalization for both Westfield and Martinsville. Additionally, his work with the Peace Corps Fellows program at Western Illinois University laid the foundation for creating an economic development director position for the City. As a result, Casey has since undergone a comprehensive planning process and received grants such as the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity IKE Planning Grant.

Jay has been active in the grassroots community development organization Casey in Action. He led the efforts to coalesce three very distinct entities with different goals –

with Casey in Action."

Jay has been involved with and supported many organizations such as the Casey Chamber of Commerce, the Casey Reward Group, the Casey Country Club, and Casey Industries, Inc., a local not-for-profit economic development organization. As a past Casey Citizen of the Month award recipient in 1993, his service extends beyond his hometown. He was instrumental in creating the

have to be followed, but you wouldn't have to worry about driving into Indiana or Kentucky or Missouri and instantly not being in compliance with