Topeka Business Hall of Fame names 2013 inductees

Laureates to be inducted Feb. 28

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Junior Achievement of Kansas announced the business leaders being inducted into the Topeka Business hall of Fame during a news conference Tuesday morning at the the Top of the Tower. This year's inductees include, Frances Dudley, left, Eldon Danenhauer, center and Terry Kimes, right. Robert Brock, deceased, was the fourth inductee announced.

By Samantha Foster
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Four Topeka business leaders were announced Tuesday as the 2013 inductees for the Topeka Business Hall of Fame.

The laureates are Eldon Danenhauer, a former pro football player and owner of the Lapeka distributorship; Frances Dudley, president, owner and CEO of Florists’ Review Enterprises; Terry Kimes, who managed marketing activities with Mize Houser & Co. and served several stints as president before his retirement; and the late Robert Brock, a hotel executive.

Junior Achievement of Kansas announced the names at a news conference at the Top of the Tower in the Bank of America building, 534 S. Kansas Ave.

The purpose of the Topeka Business Hall of Fame is to honor prominent business leaders who have made extraordinary contributions to Topeka. A portrait of each laureate hangs in the Business Hall of Fame housed in the Washburn University School of Business.
Each of this year’s laureates will be inducted into the hall during a tribute dinner Feb. 28 at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center. Tickets are $150 each or $1,500 per table, and sponsorships are available.

Danenhauer, who was raised in Clay Center, began playing football during college. After serving in the Army, he became the starting offensive tackle for the Denver Broncos. He retired in 1966, and he was named to the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.

After his football career, he served as a sales representative and sales manager for Coors in Denver before purchasing the Coors Distributorship in Topeka, which he called Lapeka.

After moving to Topeka he became active in community affairs and served on the Urban Renewal Board, as president of the Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association, board of directors of the YMCA, chairman of the Better Business Bureau and chairman of the Public Employees’ Relations Board. He served as chairman of United Way, the Topeka Chamber and as chairman of many fund drives.

“I’m very proud and humbled to be inducted into the Topeka Business Hall of Fame,” Danenhauer said, noting that he felt especially glad to be inducted along with friends.

Dudley owns Topeka-based Florists’ Review Enterprises, the publishing house for Florists’ Review Magazine and related items. It is the largest trade publication in the floral industry. Dudley purchased the magazine in 1987.

She also owns Super Floral Retailing, which caters to large-volume floral buyers, and she has served as a judge at the Rose Bowl Parade.

Dudley said she was “always fascinated with business” as a child and “would cook up crazy little schemes to make money.”

“I am so grateful to live in America, where the dream of creating a business can come true through the free enterprise system,” she said.

Kimes has spent his life working in accounting and has served on boards of directors for numerous organizations. He worked with Mize Houser & Co. from 1967 until his retirement in 2006. He was named a partner in charge of information technology and management consulting in 1969 and served several terms as president after the firm incorporated in 1979.

Since his retirement, Kimes has worked part time for the American Home Life Insurance Co. as an accountant advising the CEO on management issues.

His community and professional activities include work with the YMCA, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, United Way, and Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

He spoke of the support he received from his wife, from the people with whom he worked during his career and from those who asked him to serve on various boards.
“Thank you, Topeka, and thank you for this award,” Kimes said.

Brock, who was born in Pawnee Rock, was at one time the largest Holiday Inn franchisee in the U.S. with a total of 76 hotels. The Wall Street Journal referred to Brock as “the guru of the hotel industry.”

He and business partner Ed Linquist were credited with developing the concept of indoor pools and entertainment centers. Brock also created the ShowBiz Pizza Place restaurant and the Residence Inn, Park Inn and Park Plaza hotels.

Brock was a strong supporter of the Democratic Party and a personal friend of presidents and other leaders. He was an active supporter of The University of Kansas, including the School of Business and the Alumni Center.

Brock died in June 1998 in Dallas after a battle with lymphatic cancer.

Laureates inducted earlier this year were Mark V. Heitz, Robert O’Neil, Mike and Bruce McPherson, Robert Cotton, and Arthur Capper. Cotton’s and Capper’s inductions were posthumous.

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