



PRESS RELEASE

WUWF Radio and TV Present "Man's Best Friend" Humanitarian Award

September 28, 2005

PENSACOLA- The law firm of Kerrigan, Estess, Rankin, McLeod and Thompson is the first recipient of WUWF Radio and TV's "Man's Best Friend" Humanitarian Award. The award was presented in a private ceremony at the firm Sept. 16, the first anniversary of Hurricane Ivan. The hurricane and its aftermath was the impetus for the award, which recognizes "unconditional loyalty and devotion to the greater community and dogged determination to dig in and help."

UWF President John Cavanaugh, Vice President for Development Dean Van Galen and Associate Vice President for Marketing Communications Patrick Crawford made the presentation on behalf of the university's public radio and community television stations.

"Kerrigan, Estess, Rankin, McLeod and Thompson have always been great philanthropists, but their support of hurricane relief and rebuilding efforts this past year has been remarkable." said Cavanaugh. "Not many realize the extent to which they have contributed to these efforts because they seek no recognition for their philanthropy. That is precisely why they deserve this award. It's all about doing the right thing for the right reasons."

As a board member of the United Way of Escambia County, Crawford became aware of the firm's involvement immediately after Hurricane Ivan. "In addition to several substantial gifts to the United Way, they provided additional staff to the organization to assist in coordinating the relief effort," said Crawford, "and they were the first to step up. They have continued to support the rebuilding efforts. At their request, you don't hear about all the things the firm does for our community. That is true philanthropy."

Denis McKinnon, then interim president of United Way of Escambia County, was particularly impressed by their quick action. "Bob Kerrigan contacted me immediately after the storm asking me what we needed," said McKinnon, "The firm stepped up at the right time with the right resources. We would have been way behind the curve had it not been for their generous support."

The "Man's Best Friend" Humanitarian Award will be awarded annually by WUWF to the individual or organization that best exemplifies a selfless spirit of giving to the community. The award is a unique ceramic "blue roof" dog house created by artist Xinia Marin, wife of ceramic artist Peter King of StoneHaus Gallery.



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