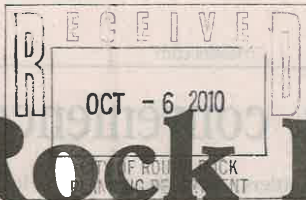


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A COMMUNITY REMEMBERS

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Residents honored for their contributions

Local Legends award goes to six for range of accomplishments

By **ROBYN VOSE**
Special to the Leader

The Round Rock Historic Preservation Commission marked its 20th year in recognizing outstanding citizens by naming four community leaders as the 2010 Local Legend Award recipients during the Sept. 23 Round Rock City Council meeting.

Commission Chair Jerry Hodges announced this year's winners as Judy McLeod, Francinn and Martin Parker, Dr. Robert Peters, and Nancy and Virg Rabb.

"Tonight's award winners are recognized as having a positive and lasting impact on the culture, development and history of our community," Hodges said before beginning the individual presentations.

Since moving here in 1973, Judy McLeod has served Round Rock in the areas of health, education, advocacy and economic

development, with her latest efforts focused on broadening the arts community.

McLeod's involvement over the years include: president, RRISD Board of Trustees; president, District Council of PTAs; chairperson, Project C.A.R.E. (Concerned Awareness Reaching Everyone), promoting communication and respect among middle school children; and charter member, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Williamson County, guiding foster children through the court system.

She has also served on the boards of St. David's Round Rock Medical Center, United Way, AGAPE Pregnancy Center, and the Greater Williamson County YMCA, among others.

McLeod was a charter member and vice chairperson of the Round



Clockwise from top left: Nancy Rabb, Virg Rabb, Francinn and Martin Parker, Judy McLeod and Dr. Robert Peters were named this year's Local Legends, according to the Round Rock Historic Preservation Commission.

See LEGENDS, page 2A

Leader file photos; Courtesy JUDY MCLEOD, NANCY RABB

Local Icons | Round Rock Local Legend Awards

By Rebecca LaFlure

The Round Rock Historic Preservation Commission announced the winners of the 2010 Round Rock Local Legend Awards Sept. 23. Established in 1990, the award recognizes residents for their role in the city's growth, association with a historic place or event, service to the community and personal achievements that have benefited the city.

This year's Local Legends helped shape Round Rock's future while working to preserve its past, from rallying support for a minor league baseball team to writing books chronicling the city's history.

Judy McLeod

Judy McLeod, a former teacher and long-time singer and pianist, has spent nearly four decades advocating for children and the art community in Round Rock.

And she is not finished yet. McLeod said after she was named a Local Legend she thought, "Wow, there's got to be some other things I can do."

McLeod, 66, moved to Round Rock in 1973 so her husband, Wade, could open the city's first veterinary clinic, McLeod Animal Clinic. Her first community involvement was with the Round Rock Woman's Club.

McLeod then focused her efforts on Round Rock ISD, serving as president of the District Council of PTAs and of the RRISD board of trustees. Under her leadership, the

board passed a bond that funded the district's only performing arts center at McNeil High School.

She is especially proud of her role as chairperson of Project CARE, which taught middle school students to communicate and respect one another. This effort led to the hiring of counselors for all RRISD schools.

At the request of former Mayor Charlie Culpepper, McLeod led the Vote Yes for Express campaign in 2001 in support of bring the Round Rock Express minor league baseball team to the area.

McLeod is president of the Round Rock Symphony, vice president of the Penfold



Photo by Rebecca LaFlure

Theatre Group and a member of the Round Rock Area Arts Council.

For more on Judy McLeod, visit more.impactnews.com/985



Martin E. and Francinn Parker

Martin E. and Francinn Parker serve as the unofficial historians of Round Rock. The Parkers, who have written or co-written more than a dozen books on local history and their travels, have dedicated much of their lives to ensuring the city's people and places are remembered.

Born and raised in Round Rock, Martin, 84, graduated from Round Rock High School in 1944 and enlisted in the Navy, serving in World War II and the Korean War.

Martin worked nearly 38 years in the postal service, both as a carrier and later postmaster of the Round Rock Post Office.

He named several major roads in Round Rock during his 16 years as postmaster, including Hairy Man Road, Palm Valley Boulevard and Gattis School Road. Martin sought to preserve Round Rock history, naming roads after Round Rock residents, buildings and legends.

Martin and Francinn met at First Baptist Church in Round Rock, and the couple married 10 years

ago. Originally from Weatherford, Texas, Francinn, 75, moved to Round Rock in 1973 and worked as a dental assistant for two decades before retiring in 1998.

She volunteers for the American Cancer Society and cofounded the Joyful Noises Kitchen Band, which performs for schools, nursing homes and other community events. Both Martin and Francinn are active in their church.

For more on Martin E. and Francinn Parker, visit more.impactnews.com/493

Nancy and Virg Rabb

Nancy Robb was skeptical when her husband, Virg, approached her with an idea to start a Round Rock convenience store in the early 1960s. At that time, Round Rock had only 1,800 residents.

"Big chains weren't interested in coming to little towns, so that was his vision. He thought little towns needed convenience stores," Nancy said. "I was very leery. I said, 'This better work.'"

It worked. The Rabbs started Wag-A-Bag convenience store in

1964 at 701 E. Taylor St. in Round Rock. The business has grown to 18 stores across Central Texas.

The Rabbs moved to Round Rock in 1965 and immersed themselves in the community. Virg served on the Round Rock City Council in the 1960s after seeing the need for a city police department. The council hired the city's first police officer during his tenure. Virg remained involved in activities in the towns where Wag-a-Bag stores were located until his death in 1998.

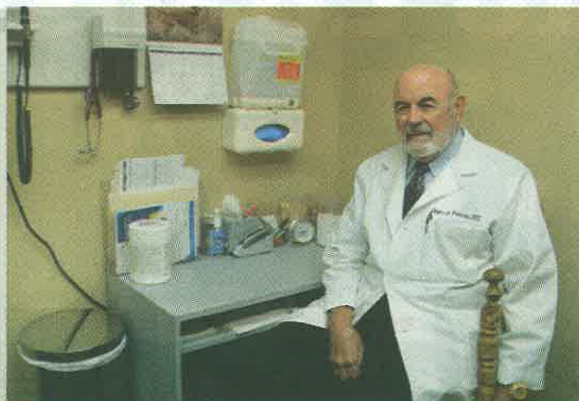
Nancy, 72, began her career as a

radio broadcaster on KGTV. In the mid-1970s, she was on the steering committee that helped start the Williamson County YMCA.

Nancy, who lives in Round Rock and is vice president of Wag-A-Bag, said she is excited that her husband was also named a Local Legend.

"I'm so thankful Virg was not forgotten," she said. "If it hadn't been for his vision, none of this would have happened."

For more on Nancy and Virg Rabb, visit more.impactnews.com/1698



Dr. Robert Peters

Dr. Robert Peters has treated generations of Round Rock children since starting the city's first medical practice 38 years ago.

When asked if he plans to retire, Peters, 77, laughed. "What for?" he said. "What would I do if I retired?"

Peters founded his medical practice in Round Rock in 1972 and, for three years, was the only practicing physician in the town of fewer than 3,000 residents. He was on call all day, every day.

Peters' passion for medicine stemmed from his father, Dr. Robert Peters Sr., who was a physician in Austin.

In 1983, Peters served on the committee that helped bring in the city's first hospital, St. David's Round Rock Medical Center. Then called Round Rock Hospital, the 75-bed facility has since grown to include 184 beds and a Level II trauma department. He has served as chief of staff, vice chief of staff and chairman of the department of medicine and

serves on the board of trustees.

For nearly four decades, Peters has also worked as the physician consultant for Round Rock ISD and as the team doctor for Round Rock High School football. He also serves as physician for the Texas Baptist Children's Home.

He moved his practice, the Round Rock Medical Clinic, in 1986 to its current location at 405 Old West Drive.

For more on Dr. Robert Peters, visit more.impactnews.com/6539