



CATAWBA COUNTY

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June 6, 2011

CATAWBA COUNTY PRESENTS HIGHEST HONOR TO NASCAR HALL OF FAME MEMBER, NED JARRETT

At its meeting on June 6, 2011, in Newton, NC, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners presented its highest honor, the Catawba County Spirit Award, to Mr. Ned Jarrett in recognition of his having been inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame on May 23 and for his commitment to the support and betterment of the community.

Mr. Jarrett won two NASCAR Premier Series championships, two Sportsman Division championships and 50 Premier Series races, with a graciousness that so fittingly christened him "Gentleman Ned". After retiring from driving, he became the "voice of racing" as a television and radio broadcaster. Throughout his years in the racing world, Mr. Jarrett remained steadfastly committed to home and family. He has given limitless hours to numerous community efforts including his role as Honorary Chairman of the Greater Hickory Classic Golf Tournament and the Mental Health Fund Capital Campaign, and as an active volunteer and supporter of the Palliative Care Center & Hospice of Catawba Valley.



(L to R) Catawba County Commissioner Barbara Beatty, Commissioner Lynn Lail, Commission Chair Kitty Barnes, Ned Jarrett, Commissioner Randy Isenhower, Commissioner Dan Hunsucker

The text of the Award is as follows:

"The Catawba County Golden Nugget is awarded by the Catawba County Board of Commissioners to persons who have displayed that unique "Catawba County Spirit" – goodness, valor, creativity, benevolence, compassion, patriotism and a high order of service to Catawba County, North Carolina and/or the Nation.

Catawba County is located in one of the largest gold producing areas in the entire country. The largest reported nugget found at the Shuford Gold Mine in Catawba County was a honeycombed nugget about one-half inch thick and about three-inches long. The Board of Commissioners chose the golden nugget because of the County's history and its relevance to the word "spirit". These are: *Gold*, something regarded as having great value or goodness – a heart of gold; *Golden*, lustrous radiant, resplendent – the Golden Sun, of the greatest value or importance, precious – marked by peace, prosperity, and often creativeness; and, the *Golden Rule*, the maxim or teaching that one should behave toward others as one would have others behave toward oneself.

From his first race fifty-nine years ago at Hickory Motor Speedway's inaugural event, Ned Jarrett has made his mark

"Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!"

on racing – one of consistency, aggression tempered with commitment to fair competition, and gentility. In the fourteen years he devoted to driving, Ned Jarrett amassed two NASCAR Premier Series championships, two Sportsman Division championships and 50 Premier Series wins, all accomplished with the graciousness that so fittingly christened him “Gentleman Ned”. But leaving the driver’s seat did not end his impact on the sport; for the next forty-three years, Ned Jarrett was the voice of racing in his award winning role as a television and radio broadcaster. While his driving ability and calm demeanor shaped the sport of racing on the track, his voice, broadcasting ability and commentating style brought growth to the sport’s fan base. Appropriately, Ned Jarrett’s lifelong contributions to the quality, evolution and popularity of the racing industry were recognized on May 23, 2011 with his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Throughout his years in the racing world, Ned Jarrett has remained steadfastly committed to home and family. He has given limitless hours to numerous community efforts including his role as Honorary Chairman of both the Greater Hickory Classic Golf Tournament and the Mental Health Fund Capital Campaign, speaker at the Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and as an active volunteer and supporter of the Palliative Care Center & Hospice of Catawba Valley. These organizations and events have come away better for his involvement and input. He has been selfless and generous with both his time and resources and reflects the highest standard by which any true commitment to others should be measured.

Ned Jarrett is one of the select few to receive the Catawba County Spirit Award since its inception in 1998. The manner in which he has conducted his life and career exemplifies the truest meaning and spirit of Catawba County’s highest honor.”

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