



For Immediate Release:

Gary Laws Remembered at Catawba EDC Annual Meeting

HICKORY - At this year's Catawba County Economic Development Corporation's Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, much of the program was dedicated to the remembrance of Gary Laws. Mr. Laws, who died unexpectedly on September 13, 2010, was, at that time, the chairman of the Catawba County EDC Board and chairman of the Greater Hickory Classic Foundation Board. Mr. Laws was involved with many other community groups including the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce, the Catawba County United Way, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, the Charlotte Regional Partnership, the NC Small Business and Technology Development Center at Appalachian State University, the Lake Hickory Rotary Club, the Lenoir-Rhyne University Business Council and many others.

To recognize Mr. Laws' far-reaching service to the Catawba County community, the Gary W. Laws Scholarship Fund has been established. Participants in the fund, which totals \$20,000 to date, include Catawba Valley Medical Center, Catawba County, the Greater Hickory Classic Foundation, the City of Hickory, the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce, the Catawba County EDC, the City of Conover, the City of Newton and the Rotary Club of Newton Conover. The scholarship will be administered by the Catawba County Champions of Education and awarded to students attending the NC Engineering Camp held at the NC Center for Engineering Technologies.

In recognition of his exemplary service to NC, Laws was granted the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Bev Perdue. The award was presented to his family by the Catawba County EDC Board at Wednesday's meeting. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is the highest award that the Governor can bestow on a NC citizen. The award is presented to individuals

who have a proven record of extraordinary service to their community and the state. Created in 1965, past recipients include such famous Tar Heels as Maya Angelou, Billy Graham, Michael Jordan, Bob Timberlake and Rick Hendrick, along with longtime state employees, prominent business executives and noted politicians, athletes, musicians, actors and advocates.

In recognition of Mr. Laws' service to the Greater Hickory Classic and his role as Chairman of the Greater Hickory Classic Foundation Board, his family was also presented with a custom made rocking chair by Jim Correll, executive tournament director of the Greater Hickory Classic, and Steve Mull, chairman of the Greater Hickory Classic Foundation Board. The rocking chair is the same honor that is awarded the yearly tournament champion.

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