



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

lakecountyohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 31, 2024

County Contact: Summer Torok
440.350.2220
summer.torok@lakecountyohio.gov

Commissioners Establish the Key to Lake County and Recognize David E. Anderson as the Inaugural Recipient

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, May 31, 2024– At yesterday's Commissioners' meeting, the Board presented David E. Anderson with the very first *Key to Lake County* to recognize his exceptional achievements and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our county.

The Board of Lake County Commissioners established the *Key to Lake County* program. For so long as Lake County persists, the *Key to Lake County* shall be our community's highest honor and most prestigious award. It shall be presented by the Lake County Board of Commissioners and given very selectively to honor an individual who has made extraordinary and significant accomplishments and contributions to Lake County.

Commissioner John T. Plecnik proposed the *Key to Lake County* program with the support of Commissioner John R. Hamercheck and Richard J. Regovich. The *Key to Lake County* will only be awarded after unanimous consent of the Lake County Board of Commissioners.

"David E. Anderson is a shining example of the kind of leader and community champion we strive to recognize with the Key to Lake County," said Commission President John T. Plecnik. "His tireless work on behalf of Willoughby and our entire county has made a lasting impact, and we are honored to present him with this prestigious award."

"We are thrilled to present David E. Anderson with the first-ever Key to Lake County," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck. "His dedication to our community is truly inspiring, and we are grateful for his contributions to our county's growth and prosperity."

"I am proud to join my colleagues in presenting David E. Anderson with this well-deserved honor," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich. "His leadership and commitment to our community have made a significant difference, and we are proud to recognize him as our inaugural recipient of the Key to Lake County."

David E. Anderson is most deserving as the inaugural recipient of the *Key to Lake County*. His exceptional achievements and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our county make him an admirable recipient of this prestigious accolade. We congratulate Mr. Anderson on this well-earned recognition and thank him for his invaluable contributions and exceptional leadership as Mayor of the City of Willoughby and Director of the Lake Development Authority.

David E. Anderson expressed, "I'm at a loss for words today, surrounded by so many friends and colleagues who have worked alongside me for so many years. I'm honored to share with you the principles that have guided me throughout my career. I've always believed that doing what is right, even when it's not easy or popular, is the key to success. As Mark Twain once said, 'Always do what is right. This will gratify some people and astonish everyone else.' I've tried to live by these words, even when it meant making difficult decisions. I've also learned that true leadership is not about individual achievement, but about building and empowering a strong team. I was fortunate to work with an exceptional team in Willoughby and later in the county, and I'm grateful for their hard work and dedication. I want to express my deepest gratitude to my family, who have supported me throughout my career. Without their love and encouragement, I wouldn't be here today. I'm humbled to receive this award, and I appreciate the recognition of my work. Thank you."

###

See below for photos.



Figure 1 David E. Anderson thanking the Commissioners.



Figure 2 David E. Anderson thanking the Commissioners.



Figure 3 From the left: Commissioners John R. Hamercheck and Commissioner Richard J. Regovich, John Rampe (LDA Board Member), John Urhan (LDA Board Member), Tim Cahill (LDA), Debbie Conner (LDA), Myranda Keister (LDA), Donna and David E. Anderson, Commission President John T. Plecnik, Kevin Freese (LDA Board Member), Bill Martin (LDA Board Member), Amy Cossick (LDA).



Figure 4 From the left: Commissioners John R. Hamercheck and Richard J. Regovich, Donna and David E. Anderson, Commission President John T. Plecnik.



Figure 5 Donna (Wife) and David E. Anderson



Figure 6 Donna (Wife) and David E. Anderson



Figure 7 David E. Anderson with the inaugural Key to the County