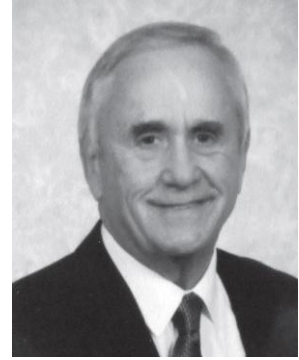


## **JIM HENRY**

### **2010 HIWASSEE COLLEGE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR**

The 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Award grew up in Madisonville. His uncle had attended Hiwassee and played football and baseball in the 1950's, so coming to Hiwassee was a natural choice.



Upon graduation from Hiwassee College in 1954, this year's honoree attended the University of Tennessee and then served with distinction in Vietnam. Following his discharge he became active in veterans' issues and became politically active, serving at age 26 as a city councilman in Kingston, Tennessee. He then became mayor of Kingston until 1978. Active in Republican circles, our honoree served as chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party. Elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1980, he served there for ten years. Afterward, he began to devote the majority of his efforts to his business, Omni Vision, working with persons with developmental disabilities and reaching out to children affected by drug abuse. In 2001, Henry was asked by state Republican leaders to run for Governor but was defeated in the primary.

When asked about one of his favorite Hiwassee memories, he recalls serving as a trainer for Coach Dwain Farmer. In those days, guys had just discovered that they could let their hair grow like the Beatles. "In the gymnasium, the coach's office and equipment room led directly to the gym floor. Some of us placed a large mirror where we could primp before the game, at halftime and whenever else we passed the area. Coach Farmer kidded us about trying to look pretty for the fans and girls. He didn't really like it, being a crew cut man himself, but knew he had to put up with it. After the team lost its first-ever conference game at home, he was infuriated. He came charging through the room and broke the mirror. We stayed clear of doing too much primping from that day forward."

Throughout his career, our honoree has always remembered the start he got in higher education at Hiwassee and says he will never forget people such as Frank "Birddog"

Robinson, who taught at Hiwassee at that time. "He was a regular person, helpful, with an openness about him that infected all the students at Hiwassee. We all loved him and tried to be as 'cool' as Birddog. He was a great mentor."

This year's honoree unselfishly gives of his time, talent and finances in support of Hiwassee College. He has served as a Hiwassee Trustee for years and is the current Chair of the Board. "I guess my experience was not unique. Hiwassee seemed like an extension of family. He reports that he experienced the entire college staff working hard to create a strong bond with the students, doing everything they could to help every student succeed. Our honoree says that he needed that kind of attention during those first years because he was not ready to be the 25,024<sup>th</sup> student at UT. "I felt special and feel blessed to have started my college career at Hiwassee."

Hiwassee College is proud to claim and name Jim Henry as the 2010 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.

Congratulations Jim!