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Chamber presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Jerry Neely today

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Jerry Neely, an employee of Rogers Group for 35 years, was presented with the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award during the organization's 94th annual meeting today.

The Chamber also honored three "businesses of the year" and a number of other businesses, organizations and individuals for accomplishments in specific areas.

Neely, who is vice president of Rogers Group Investments Inc., and president and CEO of Rogers Management Inc., credited his family for his involvement in the community. He said his father, Norman Neely, "gave me the passion for the community and introduced me to this thing called ethics." Norman Neely was an attorney and served in the Indiana legislature in the 1950s.

Jerry Neely has served the community in a number of roles and is on the boards of Bloomington Hospital, the Bloomington Economic Development Corp., the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center's Building Corp., and is treasurer for Volunteers in Medicine. He was a long-time member of the Monroe County United Way Board and served as its president in 1986. He also is past chair of the Chamber board and still is a board member.

"He is extremely humble, but has amassed a great knowledge of our community, provides thoughtful guidance to others and has imparted priceless contributions to numerous organizations," Chamber president and CEO Christy Gillenwater said in presenting the award.

The Business of the Year Awards went to Jerry's Appliance Repair (10 or fewer employees), Bloomington Shuttle Service (11-50 employees) and Hylant Group (more than 50 employees).

Other businesses, organizations and individuals honored in today's luncheon event were

- The Herald-Times,
- United Way of Monroe County,
- Indiana University,
- Karst Park Playscape (Monroe County, Bloomington/Monroe County Foundation, Options for Better

Living),

- Smithville Digital,
- Best Buy,
- Mike Sonneborn of Commercial Service,
- Solution Tree,
- South Central Indiana Human Resources Association,
- Bloom Magazine and
- Monroe County Prosecutor Chris Gaal.



Travis Vencel, chairman of the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, left, and Doug Bruce, outgoing chamber board chairman, right, present the chamber's Lifetime Achievement Award to Jerry Neely today. Debbie Stroud | Herald-Times

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