

**Many of the past recipients of the BILL RENEKER MEMORIAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD have enriched our wonderful town through years and years of selfless efforts. Tonight's recipient has enriched our town through a LIFETIME of service, and that makes him a special award winner. Here are just a few noteworthy facts about the man that some would call "Mr. Winona" .....**

**Tonight's recipient has been a member of the Winona Lake Presbyterian Church for over 80 years.**

**He joined the Winona Lake Volunteer Fire Department in 1938 and served the department for 65 years.... 23 of those years he was fire chief for the town. On April 30, 1956 he personally saved the lives of two young boys who were trapped in the basement of a burning home.**

**The only time he truly left his beloved Winona was to serve in World War II during which he received 5 battle stars including Omaha Beach and the Battle of the Bulge.**

**For over 50 years he dedicated his life's work to the world of gospel music publishing which was a cornerstone of Winona Lake's national legacy. His close associations with Homer Rodeheaver, Rodeheaver Music Publishing, Word Records and the American Broadcasting Corporation helped maintain Winona's national prestige as the Gospel Music Capital of America.**

**His effort for this community's Salvation Army has been tireless. Beginning in the mid-1960's, our recipient worked**

**to honor local Salvation Army Brigadier Phillipson through fund raising efforts dedicated to support the “Tree of Lights” campaign.**

**Tonight’s winner has lived Winona history, and was an integral part of so many of the wonderful events that occurred here over the years. He has taken particular pride in helping to maintain the legacy of Homer Rodeheaver. Not only was Homer the “World’s Greatest Song Leader,” he was the driving force behind Winona’s years of being the World’s Largest Bible Conference. Today as we visit the Reneker Museum of Winona History we can continue to enjoy so many of the artifacts associated with “Mr. Homer” because of the loving care and preservation done by our award winner.**

**There’s so much more we could say, but let’s stop right here and honor the 2010 BILL RENEKER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNER: the man who has done so much for Winona Lake because he truly LOVES our community .....**

**Mr. Bruce Howe.**

