

Citizen Of The Year - Leigh Hart

From being an Olympic torchbearer to shining a light in her community, Leigh Hart has had an impact on the lives of our youth. You can travel the streets of Dresden and throughout the entire county and you will find stories of Leigh Hart touching lives through her teaching, coaching and philanthropy.

Leigh Hart listens with her heart. She has a genuine love for people, taking an interest in lives and impacting many. While offering encouragement and leading by example, she has a gift for allowing people to see the potential in themselves. Her impact has reached far and wide, making others live better and be better. Hart is not only a sports coach, she's a life coach. This year marks the 8th anniversary of the Dresden Middle School store,

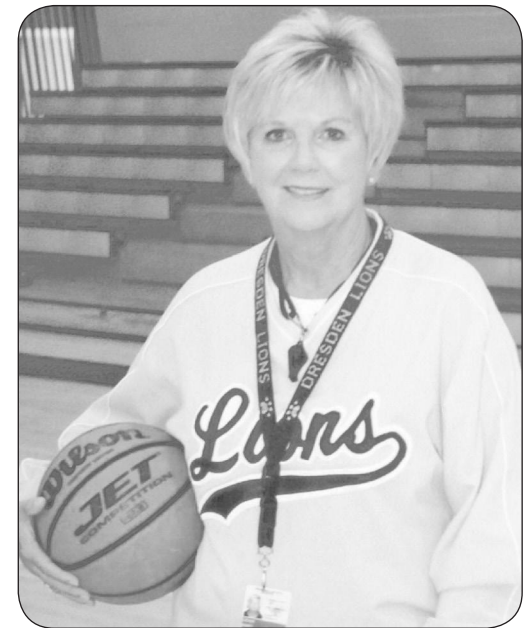
The Lion's Den, a project Hart started to help meet the needs of students. The school store has grown tremendously since Hart was honored as 2012 Tennessee Iris Festival Volunteer of the Year.

Hart is an avid Lady Vols fan who enjoys outdoor activities including yardwork and beach time. She spends much of her time fostering relationships that do not end when students leave middle school. She keeps track of countless individuals and families. Married to Dickie Hart for 28 years, Leigh has a stepson, Andrew, and a daughter, Haley. She is "LeLe" to 10 month old granddaughter Avery. Leigh is the daughter of Mary Margaret Avery and the late Dr. Thomas Lee Avery. She is a graduate of Bartlett High School and the University

of Tennessee at Martin. Hart is a teacher and coach at Dresden Middle School. She is a member of Lebanon Church of Christ. Leigh Avery Hart has built an army of supporters through cultivating and sustaining relationships over the years, and now these prayer warriors have gone to work for her. "Team Hart" has been in full court press recently as Leigh was diagnosed with cancer. The community showed phenomenal support by packing the gym at an alumni basketball game in her honor. Everyone rallied around Coach Hart at the "Hoops for Hart" event. Funds were lovingly raised by sponsors, donations, silent auction, bake sale, concession stand, t-shirt and bracelet sales to aid in her fight against cancer. Former player and project

coordinator, Carrie Cashion Sronce commented, "I wish every kid had a Coach Hart to prepare for this game called life." We couldn't agree more.

The Executive Board of the 40th Annual Tennessee Iris Festival shares the overwhelming love for one of Dresden's greatest, Leigh Avery Hart. A friend, coach and mentor- the citizens of Dresden also share in the excitement as she's named 2019 Citizen of the Year. Coach Hart said, "I am thankful to God for leading me to Dresden as a college student in 1980. He definitely knew where I needed to be." Leigh Hart will lean on her faith, family, friends and community to get through her battle with the same winning spirit that she has spent her career instilling in others.



Leigh Hart

Golden Iris - John & Kay Salmon

John and Kay Salmon have lived on a small farm raising red angus cattle in the Ore Springs community since their marriage in 1965. John retired from Goodyear in 1999 with thirty years of service. Kay retired from Dresden Elementary School as school secretary and bookkeeper in 2013 with thirty seven years of service. Kay is a 1963 graduate of Dresden High School and Bruce Business College. Kay has met and loved thousands of students, parents, teachers, staff members, community leaders and people from all walks of life. She is still

affectionately called "Miss Kay" by former students and parents. Kay has enjoyed being involved with all the many projects and programs that have been implemented over the years. The children were her top priority. Kay was instrumental in forming the first Middle School and High School band in Dresden. John served as County Commissioner for 28 years, Board member of Tennessee County Commissioners Association for many years, serving one term as Chairman. John, a 2001 graduate of the WestStar Leadership Program, currently

serves on the Weakley County Emergency Communications (911) Board and the Steering committee of the 27th Judicial District Drug recovery program. He also served many years on the Weakley County advisory council for adult education. He is still an active realtor at Moore Real Estate Company.

Kay and John are active members of Dresden First United Methodist Church. Both have served on many committees. They are the proud parents of three children, all graduates of Dresden

High School and UT Martin, Tracy (Natalie) of Lexington, Tennessee. Gina {Ross} Workman of Kansas City, Kansas, and Andy {Farrah} of McKenzie, Tennessee. They have six wonderful grandchildren. For several years they have had Camp Salmon on their farm, when all children and grandchildren come and stay a week with them for fun, games and great family time. John and Kay think Dresden is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Many THANKS to this wonderful community for the kindness shown to them.



John and Kay Salmon

Golden Iris - Larry & Beckie Jolley

Larry and Beckie Jolley are extremely honored and excited to be the recipients of the 2019 "Golden Iris" award for the 40th Annual Tennessee Iris Festival. Together they have 25 years of service, giving back to their beloved hometown and community. In 1988, Larry Jolley Realty opened in Martin, and then relocated to Dresden in 1994. Through the years, they have helped hundreds find their forever homes in Weakley County.

Larry and Beckie faithfully attend Dresden First Baptist Church and are members of the Agape Sunday School Class. They are also actively involved

in the Dresden Rotary Club where they enjoy volunteering for the Weakley County Backpack Program. In 1999, Larry served as the club's President. Additionally, Beckie was involved in the Dresden Pilot Club, serving as their president in 1997.

In 2002, Beckie was the Star Realtor of the Year for Reelfoot Regional Association of Realtors. She also served as their board President in 2001 and 2002. In 2004, Larry was the recipient of the Citizen of the Year award from the Iris Festival Executive Board. He also proudly served as a Weakley County Commissioner for 8 years and has been a Mason

for over 25 years where he served as Past Master of the Dresden Lodge #90.

Together, they have served on many boards and committees; holding various titles for the Iris Festival Executive Board, Reelfoot Regional Association of Realtors, Leadership Weakley County, Weakley County Fair Board, and Dresden First Baptist Church. Volunteering their time is something they have done individually for years and continue to do as a couple. One fun community interest they share is their love for all things Dresden Lions. They are huge supporters of the various athletic and academic

programs at Dresden High School and Dresden Middle School. They can always be found in the crowd showing their Lion Pride at every game, race, and state tournament. A testament to their support was in 2018 when they received the first ever "12th Man Award" from the Dresden Quarterback Club.

Larry and Beckie have been married for 26 years and between them have 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Along with the support of their growing family, they look forward to continuing their service through the great organizations that are offered in Weakley County.



Larry and Beckie Jolley