

Glenn Poshard to hold book signings in the area

Former area U.S. Rep. Glenn Poshard and journalist Carl Walworth have scheduled a series of book signings in the area for Aug. 3.

Son of Southern Illinois, Glenn Poshard's *Life in Politics and Education*, is a new book by Walworth with Poshard that covers the entirety of Poshard's life. Published by the SIU Press, the book moves through Poshard's story beginning in rural poverty up to and including the Poshard Foundation For Abused Children.

The signings are scheduled for 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Joe Siper's in Effingham; 11:45 a.m.

to 1 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Mattoon; 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Elizabeth Titus Memorial Library in Sullivan and 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Decatur Public Library.

Copies of the book will be available at the signings. The price of \$30 includes tax.

A partial list of topics Poshard faced that have relevance in 2023 are money in politics, faith in politics, mental health, rural/urban relationships, public service, higher education affordability, bipartisanship, the 1998 gubernatorial race, and regional leadership.

Poshard served more than

four and a half years as a state senator and 10 years in Congress. He was the Democratic nominee for Illinois governor in 1998. He returned to his alma mater as vice chancellor for administration at SIU-Carbondale. In 2004 he was appointed to the SIU Board of Trustees and then was appointed president of the SIU system in 2005, serving until 2014.

A life of principles, service, and faith This profound portrait unveils a life and career dedicated to making higher education affordable and improving the quality of life for the community of Southern Illinois.

Beginning with his childhood in a two-room home near Herald, Illinois and the early, tragic loss of his sister, this biography navigates Poshard's service in the military, his time as a state senator and United States congressman, his run for governor, his years at Southern Illinois University, and the establishment of the Poshard Foundation for Abused Children. Intimacies of his personal life are disclosed, such as his struggles with and treatment for depression, his passion for education, and the lasting bonds he formed with his teachers. His unpopular decision to refuse PAC donations is also highlighted, along with the work that went into sponsoring the Illinois Wilderness Act, and his relationship with civil rights activist John Lewis.

Poshard's path from poverty was riddled with hardship, but his perseverance and family values ultimately allowed for longstanding personal and civic growth. From an admirable work ethic to a steadfast commitment to problem-solving, this biography illuminates the life and accomplishments of an impressive and generous leader.

"There is much to learn from Glenn's life story and the varied ways he served Southern Illinois and beyond," Walworth said. "The ongoing work Glenn and his wife Jo do for abused children is but one example that underlines their commitment to improve the world around them. Glenn is recognized most everywhere in Southern Illinois. I'm confident even readers who know him well will learn something new as well as deepen their understanding of an important leader."

Poshard has been at the fore-

front of educational and economic development initiatives at the regional, state, and national level for more than five decades.

"I've been blessed by many opportunities to work for and with people in Southern Illinois. I learned strong values growing up in White County," Poshard said. "I've had great teachers and mentors. I've benefited from excellent staffs. I hope that sharing this story will both contribute to the historical record of our region and be a resource that others use in positive ways."

John Jackson, a political scientist who has followed Southern Illinois politics and higher education leadership for five-plus decades, is among those offering early praise. "Nobody represents the quintessential Horatio Alger great American success story better than Glenn Poshard, and nobody represented southern and central Illinois in the halls of power better than Poshard."

From his birth and growing up in a hard-working blue-collar family in White County to a career in education and a

second career in public service, progressing from southern Illinois to Springfield, and then Washington, and back to southern Illinois Poshard compiled a distinguished career in both fields.

"But it was not always easy or smooth," Jackson said. "Walworth delves deeply into the challenges Poshard faced. The author is especially candid, often using Poshard's own words, to describe in stark detail particularly the mental health problems Poshard faced and overcame. Poshard reveals, in unprecedented detail for a prominent political leader, the price public officials sometimes pay to provide leadership and service."

Very few, if any, biographies of prominent politicians are this candid, resulting in a unique and important political biography."

Former Governor Jim Edgar said of Poshard: "Glenn Poshard has lived a remarkable life ... His is an American story worth reading."

United States Senator Dick Durbin is among those who've had a front row seat to most

of Poshard's career. "More than any person I know, Glenn Poshard has given a life of commitment to the families of Southern Illinois," Durbin said. "The voters, even when they disagreed with him, knew he was an honest, caring man in a world desperately searching for public servants to believe in."

The Poshard story shows why experiences throughout his life, including military service in Korea, forged a kinship between Poshard and at-risk children. His impact in that area is broadly recognized. "It is difficult to estimate the influence of Glenn's life on vulnerable and 'faceless' children whose lives have been dignified and enriched through his vision, love, and service," wrote Jini Roby, professor emeritus of social work at Brigham Young University.

As an elected official, support for unions and fair wages was among Poshard's calling cards. "Glenn's tireless dedication to working men and women and their unions has not wavered in the forty years I have known him," said Edward M. Smith, president and CEO of Ullico.

Parade entries needed for "Big Cheese" Parade

Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival is celebrating its 50th anniversary this Labor Day weekend and the "Big Cheese" parade, sponsored by the Arthur Area Association of Commerce, will be held on Saturday, September 2. The Village of Arthur Sesquicentennial celebration will also be held in conjunction with this year's festival.

The parade will step-off at 3:50 p.m. and lineup begins at 2:30 p.m. in the old Progress Tank facility located at

402 East Progress Street.

Parade forms are going out this week as everyone is invited to be a part of the event.

The committee strives to make it one of the best parades of the late summer and one of the highlights of the Cheese Festival.

Forms are also available at the Arthur Welcome Center, Arthur Graphic-Clarion newspaper office, or contact Stephanie Wierman at 217/620-7460.

Affordable Health Screenings Coming to Arthur

Residents living in and around the Arthur, Illinois can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Penn Station will host this community event on August 3, 2023. The site is located at 122 E Progress St in Arthur.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.

- HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
- Diabetes risk
- Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Harvest of Hope Family to Return for the Third Year

The Harvest of Hope Family Concert is returning to Mattoon on August 12 to give Coles County, and surrounding counties, another music-filled night full of worship and fun. Rural King, America's Farm and Home Store, and local Christian radio station WBGL are once again teaming up to bring in talent from up-and-coming artists to award winning acts. With over 5,000 people in attendance last year, the third annual event is sure to be a hit. This year, the show will kick off with Emerson Day, followed by Tasha Layton, and then Matt Maher will take the stage before the headlining act We The Kingdom closes out the show. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at wbgl.org.

Tickets for the event are \$30 and every person or organization who purchases has the ability to donate the full price of their ticket to a registered Christian organization of their choosing. In the past two years,

this concert has given back over \$150,000 to the community. Amy Shafer, who leads Rural King's Foundation and charitable endeavors, has been thrilled by the community response and turnout.

"Harvest of Hope is such an inspiring event, and it is quite literally filled with a feeling of hope. For the past two years, artists have played to sold out crowds, with people coming from near and far, running to grab their seats, to join in a night of worship. The best part is not just the fun evening, it's that each person has the ability to make an impact, giving back to organizations that change lives everyday."

The concert will be held at Peterson Park inside the baseball diamond. The City of Mattoon Park Department's crew make it possible for the event to be held. Lauren Norris, Event Coordinator, is thankful for the support Kurt Stretch and his team have given to the event.

"Without Kurt and his team, the back-end setup and tear down would not be possible. They help with getting electricity and water for our vendors, setting up tents, fencing, and helping with clean up to ensure we can come in and seamlessly hold the event."

Gates will open at 3:30pm on August 12 for attendees to get settled and get a bite to eat from one of the many food trucks in attendance. Coolers and welcome to be brought in but please refrain from being pets. There is on-site parking available and also shuttles available for those who park at the Cross County Mall.

To donate through your ticket purchase, simply visit ruralking.com/hope, click on enter receipt information, and search for the organization you wish to support. You'll enter some information from your ticket and they will receive their total donation in the weeks following the event.

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