



'Unsung hero' recognized

Randal L. Ringhaver is presented the Gus Craig Award
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A man characterized as "an unsung community hero" is the latest winner of the Gus Craig Award.

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Randal L. (Randy) Ringhaver, 59, president of Ring Power Corp., was saluted at the annual dinner at Casa Monica on Thursday evening.

"He -- and his family -- have a long history of helping out the community. His father provided critical financial support to the newly founded Community Chest United Fund 50 years ago. He's continued that through United Way," said Capt. Bethany Delaney of the Salvation Army in St. Johns County. "Mr. Ringhaver seemed a natural choice."

The Salvation Army Advisory Council created the award in 1998 to recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves through volunteer service to the community. All proceeds from Thursday's dinner benefit The Salvation Army's Feed the Hungry program.

Ringhaver said giving back to the community was a family tradition.

"It's been a family philosophy and part of the corporate mission to give back to the communities where our employees work and live. Ring Power has to take credit for all we do," Ringhaver said on Wednesday. He credited his father, L.C. Ringhaver, with starting the giving tradition.

Since the company has become one of the largest Caterpillar equipment dealers in the Southeast, that means support goes to a variety of charitable events including everything from local soccer teams to a charity steeple chase in South Florida, he said.

Ringhaver said the communities have been good to his family's company and giving back was a great opportunity.

John Bailey and Mark Bailey gave the tribute to Ringhaver at Thursday's dinner. Guest speaker was U.S. Rep. John Mica. R-Winter Park.

Thursday's program saluted Ringhaver both as an unsung community hero and a role model for business success.

"That's due to his quiet, but effective support of civic causes and charities throughout Northeast Florida. If that comes as a surprise, you're in good company. Ring Power isn't inclined to announce how many dollars it donates annually to area charities. It is safe to say it's a big number, and often matches employees' contributions at a 50 percent or 100 percent level," read the program.

As a volunteer, Ringhaver serves as a director of the Florida Forestry Association and the Mayo Clinic Foundation Advisory Board and is a past director of Methodist Hospital in Jacksonville. He is an executive committee member of the Boy Scouts of America, a past director of the Outback Gator Bowl and past chairman of the Jacksonville Port Authority. He serves as chairman of the executive committee of the Flagler College Board of Trustees and is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Society. A 32nd degree Mason, he served in the Florida National Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

Ringhaver is a financial booster of athletic programs at both the University of Florida, where he is a Bull Gator, and Florida State University, where he is a Seminole Golden Chief. He is a graduate of Darlington School in Rome, Ga., where he serves on the school's Board of Visitors, and of the University of North Carolina, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Order fraternity.

Married for 30 years, Ringhaver and his wife, Paula, have one daughter.

Gus Craig, a longtime legislator and St. Augustine businessman, was the first recipient of the award that has been named for him. Other winners include Dr. William L. Proctor (1999), Hamilton Upchurch (2000), John D. Bailey Sr. (2001), Sue Hale (2002), John "Jack" Wilson (2003), A.H. "Gus" Craig (2004), James D. Conzemius (2005) and William (Bill) Young (2006).

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