

Sunday, February 2, 2025

IHSAA Foundation to Honor Late Founding Board Member **A new award in honor of Jim Morris will be presented to those making an impact.**

The IHSAA Foundation was blessed to have the late James T. Morris serve as a Founding Member of its Board of Directors. His vision and leadership were crucial in the Foundation's early, formative years.

Additionally, Jim was instrumental in forming the partnership between Pacers Sports & Entertainment and the Indiana High School Athletic Association. Through the continued sponsorship of the Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament Series, student-athletes across the state can celebrate a state championship in the same place where Pacers and Fever players similarly compete for a championship. The IHSAA and the IHSAA Foundation will forever be indebted to Jim for his remarkable contributions to our collective organizations.

In recognition of Jim's extraordinary service to our city, state, nation, and the world, the IHSAA Foundation has created a new award named **The Jim Morris Humanitarian Award**.

"Jim was a mission-driven servant leader who believed you should see every opportunity in its largest context," said **Andy Arnold, Senior Vice President Facilities Operations of Pacers Sports & Entertainment, and member of the IHSAA Foundation Board of Directors**. "He loved partnering with the IHSAA to help Hoosier high school students push their boundaries and dream big both on and off the court."

The Foundation will seek nominations from IHSAA member school principals and athletic directors of outstanding individuals from their communities who embody and display Jim's family values. On the fireplace mantel of his home, his motto reads, "**Thank God for Family, Friends, Faith, Community, and Vocation.**" Recipients will be evaluated by a committee of representatives from the IHSAA, IHSAA Foundation, Pacers Sports & Entertainment, and key philanthropic leaders within Indiana. The Foundation will recognize the winning recipient during the IHSAA Boys Basketball State Finals at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. The member school in which the winning entrant represents shall



Jim Morris (left) presenting the game ball for the 2016 IHSAA 4A Boys' Basketball State Finals.

Supporting education-based athletics for the next generation.

be awarded \$1,000 to the school's athletic department to continue the recipient's impactful work and Jim Morris' legacy.

The Foundation will soon provide instructions to member schools on how to nominate a member of their community. Full details on the criteria to consider when nominating a deserving candidate, the deadline for nominations, and a date when the winning nominee will be included in the communication.

Please contact Foundation Director, Trip Lukemeyer, at tlukemeyer@ih saa.org, with any questions.



ABOUT JIM MORRIS

James T. Morris served as vice chairman of Pacers Sports & Entertainment, joining the company in 2007 following a long and distinguished career as a global, national, state and local leader, and statesman. A graduate of Indiana University with a master's degree from Butler University, Morris was one of the most influential and impactful leaders in state history and helped shape the economic, social and cultural landscapes of Indianapolis, and Indiana over his 60-year professional career.

Upon graduating from Indiana University, Morris started his career with American Fletcher National Bank in 1965 before serving as chief of staff to Indianapolis Mayor Richard G. Lugar from 1967-73. In 1973, he joined the Lilly Endowment, ultimately becoming its president and holding that position from 1984-88. Beginning in 1989, he spent 13 years as chairman and chief executive officer for IWC Resources Corporation and Indianapolis Water Company.

Morris' passion for service and love of children took him next to the United Nations World Food Programme, where he served as executive director for the world's largest humanitarian agency from 2002-07. In that role, Morris spent time in some of the world's most impoverished areas, working alongside world leaders to care for the hungry and poor across the globe, particularly children. Additionally, he served as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for the humanitarian crisis in southern Africa during those same years.

Morris also served numerous organizations in a variety of leadership roles, including as a university trustee and board chairman for both Indiana University and Indiana State University. Other significant roles he held include service on the Executive Board of UNICEF, the National Advisory Board for the Boy Scouts of America, the United States Olympic Committee (Treasurer), Riley Children's Foundation (Chairman Emeritus), the American Red Cross (Board of Governors), Hulman & Company board of directors, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway board of directors, the Eiteljorg Museum, and the Indianapolis Power and Light Advisory Board.

Morris' awards and accolades are too many to count, including 17 honorary doctorates. Two of the most notable are the Sachem Award, given to him by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb in 2021, and the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, given to him by United States President Barack Obama in 2016.

About the IHSAA Foundation, Inc.

The IHSAA Foundation was created in 2015 as the philanthropic arm of the IHSAA. Its mission is to help protect, sustain, and nurture high school sports in Indiana for the 409 high schools it serves. The 17-member Foundation Board is made up of member-school superintendents from each of the three IHSAA districts, at minimum two member-school athletic directors, the Chair of the IHSAA Executive

Committee, the current IHSAA Commissioner, and 11 at-large members from all corners of the state. Members of the Board are nominated by IHSAA Commissioner, Paul Neidig, and ratified by Board Approval.

About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its 411-member high schools - public, institutional, parochial, and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 24 sports, 11 for girls, 11 for boys and two co-ed (unified flag football, unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.