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CIVIC ATLANTA

Wesley Woods to recognize four Atlanta leaders at 2019 gala

The **Foundation of Wesley Woods** will honor four Atlanta leaders with its 30th annual Heroes Saints & Legends awards at a gala on March 28, 2019, at Flourish in Buckhead.

They are **J. Neal Purcell**, a leader in financial services; **Ray Robinson**, a telecommunications executive; and the

husband-and-wife team – **Lyn and Bob Turknett**, leadership consultants.

The annual awards program spotlights longtime regional leaders in business and philanthropy who have made significant ongoing contributions to the community.

The evening benefits more than 1,800 older adults who live throughout Wesley

Woods' residential communities across North Georgia, and it also raises funds for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease research at Emory University.

"For 30 years, Heroes, Saints & Legends has celebrated some of the most notable Georgians who continue to make an impact in the community and



Ray M.
Robinson

inspire us all to do the same," said **Tracy Crump**, CEO of the Foundation of Wesley Woods, in a statement. "It's wonderful that as we mark this significant anniversary, we once again have such distinguished honorees who truly make a difference

for others and help make possible the life-changing work of Wesley Woods."

Anne Boyd, who is chairing the 2019 event, said Purcell, Robinson and the Turknetts are role models who have paved the way for many.

"Through this honor, they are also helping older adults age with grace, dignity and purpose" Boyd said in a statement. "We look forward to having the community join us as we all gather to shine a light on our 2019 honorees and to support the cherished seniors at Wesley Woods.

Purcell is the retired vice chairman of audit for KPMG, and he has been a leader



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CORRECTION

In the story "Legacy of an environmentalist" on Page 1 of the Oct. 26-Nov. 1 edition, the photograph of Ray Anderson incorrectly credited the photographer. The photograph is by Karin P. Koser.



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AtlantaBusinessChronicle.com

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16-22, 2018
VOLUME 40, NUMBER 20

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Bob
Turknett



Lyn
Turknett

in civic, corporate and United Methodist organizations.

“Heroes, Saints & Legends is a wonderful way to recognize the work Wesley Woods does for a part of our population that is often overlooked,” Purcell said. “Older adults are a segment of our population that are underserved. Some of them have outlived their resources because perhaps they didn’t quite expect to have the challenges they are now facing.”

Robinson is a retired president of AT&T Southern Region, and he has held leadership roles in the East Lake community and been involved with the PGA Tour Championship.

“As the population ages, many of us are looking for a place where you can feel comfortable knowing that your loved ones are there,” Robinson said. “People recognize the good work that is being done at Wesley Woods, and I’m pleased to be able to help others learn more about it.”

Bob and Lyn Turknett are co-founders and co-chairs of the Turknett Leadership Group, who are being recognized for helping instill character and ethics in leaders.

Lyn Turknett said it is important to take care of people who have a harder time with resources later in life. “I fundamentally believe that we are responsible for each other in this life,” she said.

Bob Turknett said he quickly learned the role emotional support plays in healthy relationships.

“One of the things I have noticed about Wesley Woods is that the emotional support is strong from staff to residents, residents to staff, peer to peer,” he said.

Last year’s gala attracted 330 attendees and raised a record \$358,525 for the Wesley Woods Foundation.

By the way, Tracy Crump will be retiring as CEO of the Foundation in January, and a reception was held in her honor on Nov. 14. The board is actively searching for a replacement.

Dave Stockert – Woodruff Foundation

The highly-influential **Robert W. Woodruff Foundation** has named **Dave Stockert** to its five-member board of trustees.

Stockert is a director of Mid-America Apartment Communities and Duke Realty Corp. He served as CEO of Post Properties from 2002 to 2016. He holds a number of a civic roles including serving on the boards of the Community Foundation

for Greater Atlanta, Grady Health System, Horizons Atlanta, the Westside Future Fund, the Commerce Club and the YMCA of Metro Atlanta where he served as chair.

Woodruff Foundation President **Russ Hardin** described Stockert as a devoted, humble and extraordinarily effective volunteer.

“I cannot think of a more active community leader in Atlanta over the last 15 years,” Hardin wrote in an email. “He

cares about our community, he knows it well and he has years of experience raising funds for and leading charitable organizations large and small. His experience and perspective will be valuable to both the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation and the Lettie Pate Evans Foundation.”

Jenner Wood, who chairs the Woodruff Foundation, echoed Hardin’s comments.

“The selection of Dave as a Trustee of the Woodruff Foundation was easy when

we focused on his commitment to the Atlanta community and his engagement with the not-for-profit sector,” Wood said.

Stockert fills the vacancy created by the passing of Wilton Looney on June 1.

By the way, Stockert was honored as Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year during the National Philanthropy Day luncheon Nov. 8 at the Georgia Aquarium. **Rex Fuqua** was recognized as Philanthropist of the Year.

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TECHNO-COPS: NOT A MOVIE, BUT REAL LIFE FOR THE ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Operation Shield Equips APD with technology worthy of their mission: Our Safety

The economic axiom is that productivity drives business growth and personal well-being. In the past, efficiencies created by productivity gains were driven by advancements in technique, technology and training: the creation of the industrial assembly line, general accessibility to electronics and high-powered digital devices and more specialized education.

Each yielded momentous growth in our capacity to manufacture goods, process information and communicate ideas.

This, in turn, enabled the establishment of integrated networks across every conceivable industry – networks that yield real time, actionable information, and a cadre of people dedicated to using that information to advance ideas and create value.

In no place is this information revolution more profound than in law enforcement.

Ten years ago, the Atlanta Police Foundation (APF) created Operation Shield, an ongoing initiative to harness technology, improve efficiency and productivity to assist the Atlanta Police Department (APD) in its mission to reduce crime.

The scorecard for Operation Shield and other APD technological advances is impressive:

- More than 10,600 installed surveillance cameras and license plate readers in residential and commercial neighborhoods
- Camera placements outfitted with APD signage and a law enforcement blue light
- Crime rates reduced by 20 to 50 percent where cameras have been installed
- A proprietary ComNet radio network that allows APD to communicate directly with private security teams, enabling real time notification of alerts to the private sector
- The Video Integration Center for 24/7, real time monitoring of our camera network, as well as dispatching capability of historical crime data to police officers on their beats
- Body cameras for all APD patrol officers, enabling post-event transparency and situational awareness of APD officer actions
- APD’s digitized archives, allows ready access to historical crime data about prior arrests, suspects and other historical data that can be transmitted quickly to police who arrive at a crime scene, giving investigators a head-start on solving hot crimes

These initiatives have served as an APD force multiplier, increasing police visibility and deterring crime. Police visibility remains the most effective deterrent to crime. Even career criminals don’t want to get caught.

The most telling statistic, however, is that part one crimes – violent felonies like murder, rape, armed robbery, assault and carjacking – have been reduced more than 70 percent since the late 1980s.

Reducing part one crimes from 89,000 to 26,000 over 30 years is not wholly attributable to technology, but the dramatic changes

in how the police do their jobs makes an APD police officer and the entire force more productive.

Ensuring that APD is equipped with the most effective technological tools, superior training to leverage that technology, and the commitment to update and sustain these tools are the building blocks of public safety.

We all know that police use of technology is increasingly important, they’re not alone in their embrace of new tools. Everyone in Atlanta is aware of the criminal hacking of our city computer system earlier this year.

The bad guys are not mere street thugs, but often sophisticated technologists. As such, we must be vigilant in safeguarding and updating our technology.

The Atlanta Police Foundation is enabling that vigilance. The next phase of Operation Shield will include:

- Patrol beat redesign, through a partnership with Georgia Tech, informed by real time and historical crime and incident data
- ShotSpotter, a system in test now, that captures the sound of gun fire and through GPS technology can triangulate to the geographic source of the gunfire
- Implementation of Microsoft AWARE, a platform that integrates real time information, centralized historical crime information and data-sharing over a secured network that can dramatically shorten the timeline of detection, investigation and collaboration that leads to arrests

Private sector companies are heavily invested in technology, many adopting their third and fourth generation of innovation. The Internet of Things – the computerized and integrated network of devices and machines – is revolutionizing how we live and work.

The Atlanta Police Foundation is committed to researching, testing and investing in the best technological solutions to fight crime. “Smart Policing,” once a sci-fi conception, is a reality today.

It has made each police officer 8-10 times more productive than his counterpart of just a few decades ago. It expands APD’s reach, its presence and its effectiveness.

The evolution of the Atlanta Police Department over the past decade is proceeding apace. APF’s initial investment into tech has become a full-fledged embrace. We’re committed to evolving our existing APD technology infrastructure into a seamless integrated network – one where an officer on the beat has real time access to the historical data to make him or her more effective and where the command staff can direct the departmental resources necessary in real time to address incidents and developing criminal situations.

The Information Age moves at the speed of light. The Atlanta Police Foundation is committed to ensuring that public safety has the benefit of state-of-the-art technology, superior training and the best strategies to make Atlanta the safest big city in the nation.

The Atlanta Police Foundation is a non-profit organization supported by the private sector, the philanthropic community and individuals whose goal is to make Atlanta the safest large city in the nation. Working closely with the City of Atlanta and the Atlanta Police Department, APF’s focus is ensuring that Atlanta has a police force equipped with best-in-class technology, training, equipment and strategic planning all designed to reduce crime and sustain the South’s premier city as a safe and prosperous place to live, work and play. To donate, volunteer or receive more information, contact: atlantapolicfoundation.org or call us at 404-586-0180.