PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FLORENCE CELEBRATES 2017 WALK OF HONOR INDUCTEES

FLORENCE, ALABAMA—Mayor Steve Holt and the Florence City Council announced today that the City of Florence will host the annual ceremony for the 2017 Walk of Honor Inductees at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, October 30, 2017, at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center. The Walk of Honor, located in the beautiful River Heritage Park, recognizes individuals of Florence and Lauderdale County who have achieved national or international acclaim. This is a means to give honor and perpetuate the name and achievements of deserving individuals, either current or former citizens, through a form of civic recognition. Areas of national or international accomplishment include, but not limited to, the following: agriculture, art, athletics, business, education, government, humanities, literature, medicine, military, music, public service, religion, and science and technology.

CONTINUED...
The 2017 Inductees and their achievements are as follows:

**HOMER J. GIVENS**
(Plaque reads) For unparalleled bravery on the battlefield in France during World War I, Corporal Homer Givens was awarded the *Croix de Guerre* by the French government which hailed him as the war’s first American hero.

Bio Summary for Media:
According to an article by Steven Goss, in the March 13, 1985, *Courier-Journal*, Homer J. Givens of Florence, Alabama, enlisted in the U.S. Regular Army in 1916, only shortly before the American entry into World War I. He was attached to the 16th Infantry F Company, 1st Division, Regular Army. Givens sailed for France on June 14, 1917, with the 1st Division, which later was known as the “Big Red One.” This division, led by General John Pershing, had been on duty along the Mexican border before leaving for France.

In France, Corporal Givens and his men had been fighting the Germans for several months. On November 1, 1917, at 1:00 a.m., “the whole world looked like it was blowing up,” said Givens. He and four other men had been sent to a listening post to learn what the Germans were planning to do. After these five men had hidden in a mortar hole under fire for forty-five minutes, the Germans came “over the top.” Givens’ companions fled and were captured, but this young corporal stood his ground, killing three Germans before he was wounded, trampled and left for dead.

Later he was found, and at an army hospital 28 pieces of shell were removed from his body. After Givens was hospitalized and the Army tried to send him home, he declared, “I am not going until I get even with those Huns.”

Because of his bravery, the French newspapers published with a headline in tall black letters: “F.A.H.” These letters stood for “First American Hero.” France gave Givens the *Croix de Guerre*, the highest honor she awards her great heroes. General John Pershing was present for the award and later visited with Givens at the army hospital.

The United States gave him medals, too, but even his family cannot identify them because Mr. Givens refused to talk about them. He had a number of Oak Leaf Clusters and a Purple Heart.

After the war, Sgt. Givens returned to the States and lived for a while in St. Louis, MO; before returning to Florence. He died October 22, 1971, and is buried in Greenview Memorial Park.
AARON GUS GREEN

(Plaque reads) In 2001, Aaron Green, a Taliesin Fellow and a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, was awarded the very first Gold Medal by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

Bio Summary for Media:
(Taken from the webpage of Aaron G. Green Associates, Inc.) Aaron Green was an internationally recognized Architect and Associate of Frank Lloyd Wright. His works were very diverse and included residential, commercial, industrial, municipal, religious, and housing projects. Aaron Green’s career spanned over six decades, with fifty of these from his office in San Francisco.

Aaron was born in Corinth, Mississippi, in 1917, but spent the majority of his youth in Florence, Alabama. He received his architectural education at The Cooper Union in New York City, then returned to Florence in 1939. In short time, Aaron was engaged in residential commissions, one being a design for a newlywed couple, Stanley and Mildred Rosenbaum. Aaron persuaded his young clients to engage Frank Lloyd Wright as their architect, and subsequently contacted Wright on their behalf. Aaron served as the clients’ liaison with Wright throughout the design and construction of their home, now a historic landmark structure. Wright was impressed with the young man’s dedication, and offered Aaron membership into his apprenticeship group, the Taliesin Fellowship. Aaron maintained a close personal and working relationship with Frank Lloyd Wright for twenty years thereafter, until Wright's passing in 1959.

During World War II, Aaron enlisted and served in the Air Force for three years as a bombardier in the Pacific conflict. After the war, Aaron somewhat surprisingly did not rejoin Frank Lloyd Wright, but instead set up practice in Los Angeles. He also married and started his family. For a short period, Aaron worked in the office of the renowned industrial designer, Raymond Loewy. Still, Aaron continued to correspond with Wright as well as assist with projects developing in Southern California.

In 1951, when Frank Lloyd Wright learned that Aaron was relocating to San Francisco, he suggested opening a joint office together where Aaron would not only continue his own independent practice, but would also serve as Wright’s West Coast representative, as well. They continued on this basis until Wright’s passing in 1959. In all, Aaron Green participated in forty of Frank Lloyd Wright’s projects and in 1957 was designated by Wright to serve as his Associate Architect for the Marin County Civic Center project. Aaron continued this relationship with Wright’s successor firm, Taliesin Associated Architects.

For fifty years, from the opening of the San Francisco office, to Aaron’s passing in June of 2001, the scope of his work varied between custom residences and large scale urban planning. Aaron taught as lecturer/critic at Stanford University, Department of Architecture for fifteen years. His work was frequently published in national magazines, and he received several prestigious national design awards. In 1968, Aaron became a member of the College of Fellows, American Institute of Architects.

Following an intensive national competition in 1999, at age 82, Aaron was awarded the commission to master plan and design a new co-educational boarding school in Greensboro, North Carolina—the American Hebrew Academy. Over the final two years of his life, Aaron completed designs for 74 buildings to be constructed on the 100-acre campus, several of which were nearing completion of construction at the time of his passing. The trustees of the Academy honored Aaron with their commitment to complete his vision for their campus. The continuing office of Aaron G. Green Associates is also dedicated to this effort as well as extending Aaron’s legacy far into the future.
Jonathan Quinn Pettus
(Plaque reads) Named Associate Director of Marshall Space Flight Center in 2016, Jonathan Pettus was honored with the NASA Medal for Outstanding Leadership in 2005 and the Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executives in 2009.

Bio Summary for Media:
(Taken from NASA's website) Jonathan Q. Pettus, associate director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, manages and leads development of the center's business operations, guides daily business decisions and oversees center operational policy and processes. In addition, he serves as a senior adviser in advancing the direction of the center's future.

Marshall, which employs 6,000 on-and near-site civil service and contract employees, has a strategic, critical responsibility to advance NASA's exploration mission. Pettus, appointed to the position in December 2016, provides executive leadership to the center's senior management for NASA space transportation, propulsion, space systems and scientific research programs and projects.

In 2005, Pettus was named director of Marshall's Office of the Chief Information Officer, where he was responsible for leading the delivery and operations of information technology solutions to enable Marshall's programs and mission, including the center's computing infrastructure, communications networks and software systems.

He served as agency chief information officer at NASA Headquarters in Washington from 2007 to 2009. In that position, he managed an integrated portfolio of information technology infrastructure and applications that supported NASA's human spaceflight, scientific and aeronautical programs. He also led the development of a new information technology strategy for NASA that focused on integration, efficiencies and security. In 2009, he returned to Marshall to reassume the position of chief information officer.

Pettus was appointed as director of the NASA Integrated Enterprise Management Program Competency Center in 2002. Supporting NASA business systems for improving fiscal and management accountability, he led a team of more than 300 business and information technology professionals tasked with the integration, development and operation of NASA's enterprise-level business applications.

In 2000, Pettus was named manager of the Integrated Enterprise Management Program, NASA's previous computerized business management model. He led planning, testing and implementation of the program's electronic financial applications at Marshall. He also led the successful technical configuration and deployment of a new budgeting system used by NASA Headquarters to develop and submit the agency's annual budget to Congress, which is still in use today.
Pettus joined Marshall in 1991 as a computer engineer, initially providing center employees with computer and application support services. He designed critical elements of desktop computing environments used center-wide, and led development of Marshall's first internet website. He also led a pilot program demonstrating the value of electronic commerce at NASA, showing how outside companies can conduct business with NASA in a computer-based environment. The program resulted in an operational procurement system later adopted as a government-wide solution.

Before joining Marshall, Pettus worked for two years as a software developer at McDonnell Douglas Corp. in Huntsville, where he developed and maintained computer software used to define and manage space shuttle payloads. From 1989 to 1990, he provided classroom training and technical support to business software users of McCormack and Dodge Software, a financial software development company in Huntsville.

A native of Killen, Alabama, Pettus earned bachelor's degrees in computer science and mathematics history in 1987 from the University of North Alabama in Florence and a master's degree in computer science in 1995 from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

He has received numerous awards and special recognitions, including a Meritorious Presidential Rank award for exemplary federal service in 2008. In 2005, Federal Computer Week magazine named Pettus to its "Federal 100," an annual list of individuals who turn innovative technology ideas into real-life solutions. He also was awarded the NASA Medal for Outstanding Leadership, NASA Medals for Exceptional Service and NASA Special Service Awards.

Pettus and his wife, Angela, live in Athens, Alabama, and have two children.

After receiving nominations from the public, the Walk of Honor Selection Committee chose the three inductees. These Inductees join the thirty-nine individuals selected from previous years. A bronze plaque with a picture of each inductee, along with a brief inscription of his accomplishments, has been placed on the Walk of Honor monuments in the park. The public is invited to visit the site. More detailed information on these individuals is available in the Local History and Genealogy Department at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library.