

## **Avis Parman – 50+ Years of Community Service**

Avis Parman was born and raised in Northwest Missouri. She attended elementary and high school in Grant City and graduated from Northwest Missouri State Teachers' College in Maryville. She has been an active and visionary community leader in Northwest Missouri for over 60 years.

Avis began her business career and resulting community and regional involvement in 1947 when she and her husband, Vance, started their first business in Albany. Several years later, they purchased an auto dealership that prospered for 14 years until the death of her husband. Not being the kind of person to languish after her loss, she immersed herself into the banking world, eventually becoming the President of the Bank of Gallatin and First State Bank of Gallatin. After nearly 30 years in banking, she "retired" but still worked as a consultant for BTC Bank until 2000. Since then, she keeps busy by running her Albany area family farm and managing the family's investment company.

Avis' history of serving Albany and Northwest Missouri reads as follows:

- Was a Charter Member of Albany Business and Professional Women – a group that led business revitalization in Albany; initiated programs to assist Albany women in business; recognized Albany High School girls who demonstrated leadership and citizenship
  - has been active in BPW for over 50 years holding all local offices, serving as District Director, and Missouri State President
  - Was a Trustee of the BPW National Foundation and served on the National Financial and Investment Committee
- Is a member of the Northwest Missouri Regional Solid Waste Management District Board representing Gentry County
- Was Director Emeritus of the Missouri Independent Bank Association
- Served as membership committee leader of Northwest Medical Center Association
- Served as Secretary of Esther Chapter #13, Order of Eastern Star
- Was appointed by Governor Mel Carnahan to the Missouri Environmental Improvement & Energy Resource Authority serving as Chairwoman from 1998 to 2002
- Was a member of the Long Range Planning Committee for Albany R-III School District
- Served on the Northwest Region #2 Correspondent Banking Committee

- Participated several years in the Northwest Missouri Legislative Day in Jefferson City
- Served as President of the 6<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Women's Club
- Was elected as Missouri Delegate to the 1996 Democratic National Convention
- Served as Chairwoman for the Legislative Committee for the Independent Bank Association of Missouri
- **And last, but not least, has been a member of**

### **Albany Community Betterment for all 50 of its years!!!**

- Served many years as Secretary, Treasurer and Chairperson of The Albany Community Betterment Organization
- Served on the Albany Board of Aldermen
- Served on the Albany Board of Parks and Recreation that helped bring the first swimming pool to Albany
- Has been a member of Albany Chamber of Commerce since 1956 serving as Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chairperson
- Was instrumental in bringing our community hospital to fruition
- Was on the ACB committee that helped organize the community to build our own nursing home
- Campaigned for Albany's new Community Center and Aquatic Center
- Worked for numerous Albany R-III School District improvements including the new gymnasium and commons addition and campaigned for the passage of the latest school levy increase
- Led the committees to recruit manufacturing to Albany: first, the Rival Company; then later, Temp-Masters, York International, and Johnson Controls, Inc.
- Won Albany Community Volunteer award in 2010
- Was honored with the MCB Adult Leadership Award in 2008
- Received the Viola Blechle Award at the 2003 Community Betterment Conference
- Was the recipient of the Missouri Lt. Governor's Senior Service Award
- Was instrumental in establishing the Community Betterment Organization in New Hampton, MO
- Convinced the Missouri Department of Transportation to install a cross walk and signal at our high school entrance which is located on a busy state highway
- sponsored a program to assist our schools with drug and alcohol education

Everyone in Albany knows Avis because she is so actively involved in our community, but even more impressive is that Missouri State officials at every level know her, as well. She visits regularly with our state legislators and has traveled to Washington, D.C. on several occasions to speak with our Missouri congressmen, always with the intent of enlisting help to benefit our community.

Avis has put Albany on the map in more ways than one. She lobbied a few years ago to allow an “Albany” directional sign to be installed on I-35 near the Bethany exit. MoDot only identifies the first town off the interstate, and Albany was not first town. But Avis asked, and it was done! This was quite an accomplishment, and a real boon for our city since travelers would be able to “see” us from the interstate highway.

Avis has always been active with our area young people. As a member of Albany Business and Professional Women, she has mentored young ladies in Albany and around the state for 50 years. She personally has awarded a scholarship to a graduate of Albany R-III High School every year for the past 33 years; she assists annually with our town’s summer festival which features a multitude of events and activities for our kids; and she has never turned away a young person who is in need of personal or financial assistance. She does all she can and asks for no thanks or recognition in return.

We refer to Avis as “Mrs. Albany”, a title she inherited from Elender Barrett who was likewise a proponent of and a cheerleader for Albany. Avis was Chairperson of the Albany Community Betterment Organization when our city was honored with the “Community of the Year” award in the state-wide competition a few years ago and was part of our group when we won again in 2010. She has been the “go-to gal” for anything and everything the community has needed or wanted for many, many years. She recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and our district’s US Representative Sam Graves and Governor Nixon each issued proclamations honoring her service and dedication to community and state.

**We are so very thankful for her, and  
our community and our state are so much better because of her!**