

2014 Adult Leadership Award Nomination

The community of Albany is proud to nominate Robert Smith for our 2014 Adult Leadership Award.

Robert was born and raised in Albany; his parents instilled in him at a very young age his responsibility to his community. Even when he attended college at the University of Central Missouri—Class of 1974, he came home weekends to help out at the family business, Raymond Smith Body Shop. Robert grew up in the body shop, helping his father as a boy, and joined the business full-time upon graduation. He and his wife, Barb, now own and operate the business.

Returning home from school, it took little time for Robert to become an integral, active and respected community leader. Within 4 years, he had joined the Albany Volunteer Fire Department, was elected to the Albany RIII School District Board of Education, became an Albany Rotarian, joined the Albany Chamber of Commerce, was elected to serve on the Gentry County Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, and became a committee chairperson for the Albany First Baptist Church.

Robert is always in the trenches doing whatever it takes to make his beloved town the best it can be. So proven when he was the incident commander of Albany after the 2004 tornado swept through town. Robert organized teams of volunteers to help during the cleanup process. He made sure that the residents were safe and ensured that the Red Cross was utilized to its full potential. His own business suffered damage, but Robert put his community's needs above his own.

Robert has given countless hours of his time with Albany's young people. Robert volunteered to coach, umpire, and assist his children in their Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations. He also volunteered to work

with other children's groups when his children were not even members. Robert worked at the Girl Scout Camp mending fences, mowing pastures, roofing and siding buildings and cutting trails through the woods. Robert was also active with the Boy Scouts as a merit badge counselor and became an honorary member of the Tribe of Mic-o-say. For 11 years, he and his wife sponsored youth dances through the Albany Community Team. Many times, over 100 high school & middle school students would attend these dances. Robert and his wife still get positive feedback on the impact that they made in the lives of those students.

Robert is compassionate with everyone. Not many businesses or individuals would be willing to open their home to strangers, but since his business offers towing services as well as body shop repairs, Robert and his wife, Barb, have offered their home to stranded travelers more than once. One Christmas eve, they took in a family who had car trouble and insisted they join the entire Smith clan for Christmas dinner.

Robert has dedicated over 40 years of service to his hometown! Below is a list of his remarkable contributions:

- Married to Barbara Smith for 38 years.
- Is the father of 3 children, Robb, Mikala and Linsey. (Mikala and Linsey were both active members of the Albany Youth Community Betterment Teams.)
- Elected to the Albany R-III School District Board – 1978
 - President for 1 year
- Inducted as Honorary FFA Member
- Was volunteer KAAN Radio announcer for the Albany High School Football Team 1981-1982
- Served on the Albany Volunteer Fire Department since 1978
 - Fire Department Chief from 1999 to present
 - Incident Commander 2004 Albany Tornado Recovery
 - Teaches extrication for EMS classes
 - Fire Inspector for area businesses
- Weather Spotter
- Albany Rotary Club – Rotarian since 1978;
 - Rotary President 1987-88;
 - Sergeant at Arms for many years

- Led the committee to restore the historic log cabin at elementary school
- Organized the crew to install fence at the new track field
- Roofed and sided Girl Scout buildings
- Built stage for annual Frontier Holidays event
- Has been a member of the Albany First Baptist Church since 1960
 - Sings in church choir
 - Serves on the personnel committee
 - Chairs the nominating committee
- Elected to the Board of Directors for Northwest Medical Center (formerly Gentry County Memorial Hospital)
 - Served as board member for 20 years
 - Chairs the building and grounds committee –
 - Led the group to open a new clinic site in New Hampton, MO in 2013
 - Organized efforts to install a Helipad at the hospital
 - Serves on the Roger Wherli golf tournament steering committee
- Owner and operator of Raymond Smith Body Shop LLC which is 2nd oldest family owned business in the Albany community
 - Has provided wrecker service to Gentry and surrounding counties for over 40 years
- Albany Country Club Member since the 1970s
 - President in 1984 when grass greens were installed
- Albany Chamber of Commerce Member
 - Selected as Member of the Year in 1999 and 2003
 - Served on Frontier Holidays committees
 - Provided sound system and music entertainment for over 11 years
 - 2003 honored for continual service to Albany
 - Volunteers for set up and tear down of the Albany Rhythm and Roots Festival
- Provided music for the Albany Community Team's dances for youth—1994-2005
- Won the Girl Scouts' Leadership Award in 2009

Albany is extremely proud of our native son, Robert Smith. We think there is no one more deserving than he to receive the coveted Missouri Community Betterment Adult Leadership Award!