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Civic club names 2011 Citizen of the Year



By MICHELLE STEIN

Staff Writer

MINSTER — The Minster Civic Association named the 2011 Citizen of the Year Saturday evening at its 45th annual dinner and dance.

Themed "Red Carpet Revue," the event was held at the Knights of Columbus hall in Minster.

The event featured a dinner party, followed by recognition of board members and past citizens of the year. To conclude the evening, Tom Roetgerman, president of the Minster Civic Association, revealed the newest honoree — Robert Lehmkuhl.

"Our 2011 Citizen of the Year exemplifies the strong characteristics of leadership and community involvement

we saw in the many citizens of the year honored here this evening," Roetgerman said.

"This year's recipient is a role model for us to follow. Our honoree has spent his lifetime staying busy and involved. This year's Citizen of the Year is a graduate of Minster High School and a lifetime resident of Minster."

Roetgerman spoke of the exceptional qualities that each citizen of the year has embodied, noting they serve their communities without seeking personal gain.

"Many times our outstanding citizens go unnoticed, while working diligently and many hours to make Minster and the surrounding area a better place to live and



Robert Lehmkuhl was named the 2011 Citizen of the Year by the Minster Civic Association Saturday evening. The dinner event was held at the Knights of Columbus hall in Minster.

Staff photo/Michelle Stein

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Citizen

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raise our families," he said.

"They volunteer whenever there is a need and they do not hesitate to take the lead in many organizational efforts without concern for recognition."

Lehmkuhl has been active in the St. Augustine Parish, having served on the parish council, finance committee and as a lay distributor, Roetgerman said.

He is also a member of Minster Eagles, Knights of Columbus, American Legion, VFW, and he served on the Minster school committee.

Some of Lehmkuhl's other volunteer duties have included serving as a board member and president of the Minster Civic Association; serving on the Minster Farmers Cooperative board of directors for six years and secretary treasurer for five years; serving as a board member for nine years and as a secretary treasurer for eight years for Minster Food Storage Cooperative; serving as

the district director for six years for Soil and Water conservation.

"Our new citizen of the year has always liked politics, having served on the Shelby County Republican Central Committee and selected as Republican of the Year in 2005," Roetgerman said.

"He worked and supported the state and national Republican campaigns for Jim Jordan, Bob Cupp, Derrick Seaver, Mike Oxley, John Boehner and both presidents Bush."

Roetgerman also outlined Lehmkuhl's life, noting he was born in 1923 and graduated from Minster High School in 1941 as salutatorian and FFA president.

Lehmkuhl went on to earn his bachelor of science degree in animal husbandry at The Ohio State University in 1944. He enlisted in the U.S. Army also in 1944, and after serving for more than one year in Japan, he was discharged in 1946.

Ultimately earning his master's degree in agriculture economics from OSU, Lehmkuhl joined

his father on the family farm in 1951, where he has remained for the past 60 years.

Supporting Lehmkuhl as he accepted his award

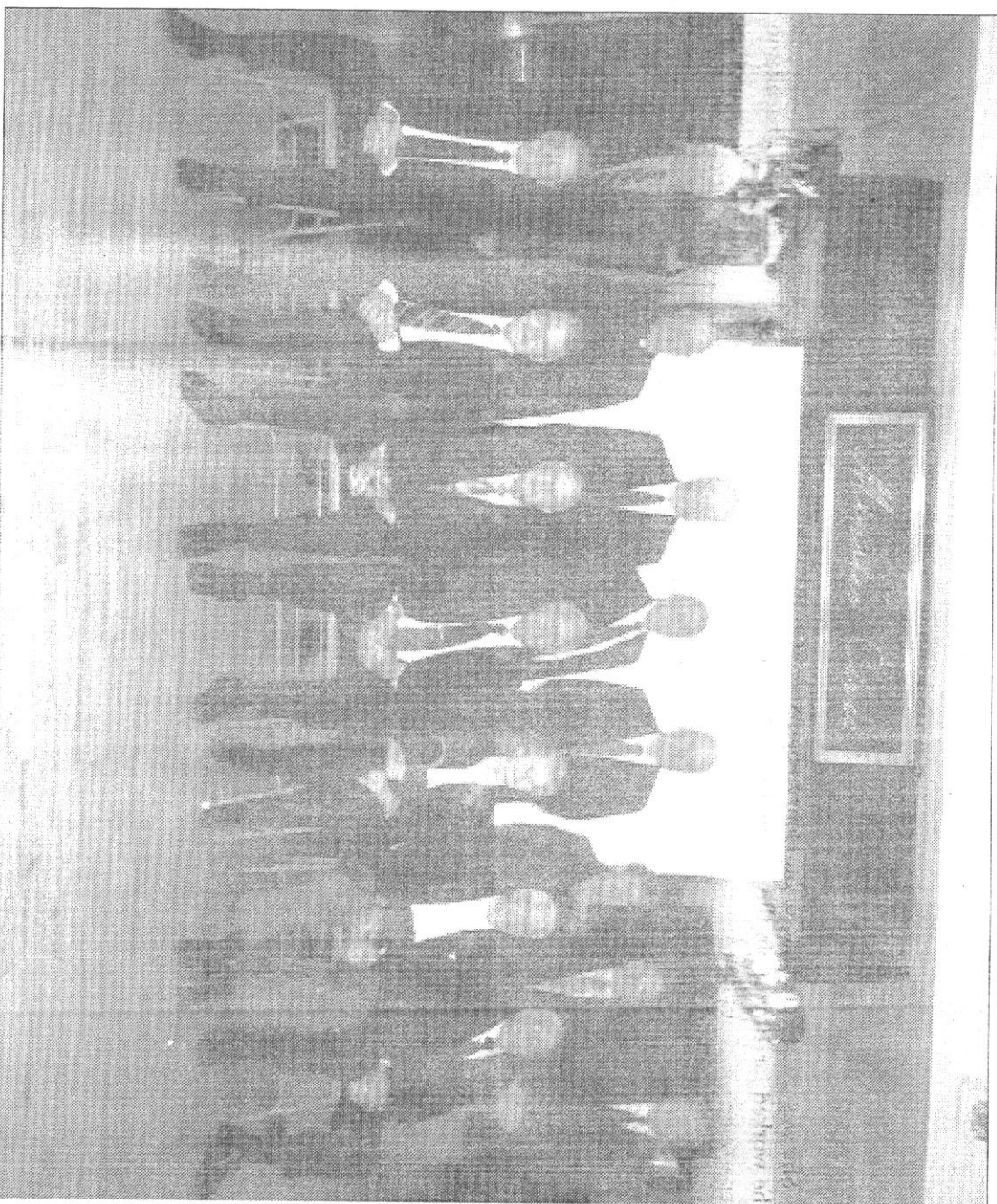
was his wife, Sylvia, his son Bill and wife, Carol, and his four grandchildren, Ben, Kaitlyn, Amanda and Rebecca. He shared a few words

of thanks to his fellow members of the Minster Civic Association.

"It's been a pleasure to be associated with this association and Minster,"

he said.

"There's not a better place in Ohio, or in the world and this area to live, to work and to bring up a family."



Past citizens of the year were also recognized by the Minster Civic Association. Shown above are all honorees who were present at the "Red Carpet Revue" held Saturday evening at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Minster.

Staff photo/Michelle Stein