



JIM'S STORY OF THE SAGAMORE OF THE WABASH AWARD

In 2003, Jim's wife, Lauralee Baugh, submitted a letter to Senator Connie Lawson nominating him for the "Sagamore of the Wabash" award. The Senator had no doubt that Jim would receive the Governor's award. Instead of giving it to him at the time, it was decided that it would be more special for him to receive it at his retirement celebration in April 2004. Due to the rule that the 'Sagamore' cannot be awarded posthumously, Jim never received the State's highest honor.

This is the narrative that Lauralee submitted...

"Why Jim, You May Ask?"

Persons who have interacted with Jim Baugh, either in a professional or personal way, would tell you he is an example of a person who believes in community service. He took advantage of all opportunities to help people through or around a life situation, educating all the way.

After graduating from Belle Union High School in 1961 he enlisted in the US Air Force, serving in the Vietnam War as a fireman on the B52 Crash Rescue group. When his tour of duty was completed, he knew he wanted to return to his home state of Indiana, and the county of Putnam. Although his air force training was in fire safety and prevention, he chose to serve his community as a Greencastle City Policeman. The county sheriff later asked him to transfer to the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, which he did and remained there for 32 years. From January 1975 to December 1983 he was honored to serve his county residents as their sheriff.

It seems at least weekly some person that he has influenced or helped over the years stops by our house or calls to share a minute or two. Many of these people are now adults whom he helped through some of the tough stages of "growing up."

Not much really gets to Jim, except maybe people spelling sheriff with two r's and marshal with two l's.

Here are more thoughts about this true Hoosier servant:

- Over the years he has been an adjunct staff instructor firearms instructor at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. He has developed a reputation of being a tough instructor, expecting the students to follow safety rules and do their best, and yet a gentle teacher, often being assigned the least skilled police officers to bring up to qualification requirements. Every time we attend a police related event, meeting or convention, some officer approaches us, and with a smile on his or her face says, 'This is the guy that taught me the value of respecting my firearm.'
- Since the early 70's, parents and teens have turned to Jim for help by being their referee and/or peacemakers. More than once he 'hung in' with the ones in conflict and guided them to an agreeable solution that saved relationships. There were times he simply listened, but oftentimes he had to, as Jim would put it, "get in their faces" and force them to look at the REAL picture and the possible scars that could occur if a solution was not found. The ones involved often thanked him for sharing with them. I always said, 'Just be around for our sons and us when we face similar challenges, because we will. It is part of maturing as individuals and families.'
- Jim is a wonderful, caring husband, father, uncle, brother, friend, and most of all, grandfather. Our marriage has been strengthened by what we have learned as he helped persons facing marriage problems and divorce through

their situations. Our sons are adult, loving, caring men because he expected their best and gave totally of himself to their raising. His extended family members know Jim will always be the helper or listener they need, whether it's taking his sister's car in for an oil change, spending the day at the race track to meet 'important people,' or helping them work through a tough decision. His friends know him as a true friend and as one who always will give from anything he has, even from his tin of pink mints he keeps on the back floorboard of his car.

- Jim puts on a Santa suit for the county children when the Putnam County Fraternal Order of Police shares Christmas gifts and joy with them. Over the years, nothing has been more exciting for the children/Jim than seeing/being Santa come to their homes in a police car. Of course, he was always chauffeured by a uniform policeman or two.
- Jim again expresses his love for our youth each August when he helps with the "Shop with a Cop" program sponsored by the Putnam County FOP and Putnam County Mental Health Association. Depending on the amount of money available for the program, he and a young man take off with the shopping cart at the local Wal-mart and spend an hour or more filling the cart with bargains in school supplies and clothing. He takes great pride in often having the fullest cart. He also usually goes over the limit, "by just a few dollars," which he pays, to be sure the child has not only the new tennis shoes, but also a pair of penny loafers. He hands the child a couple of shiny pennies and explains the value of just a penny and wearing one in your shoes, so you are not ever broke.

These are just a portion of the "Why Jim's."

Many rewards wait for him in heaven and I want him to also have the recognition he deserves here with us.

As he retires from his law enforcement profession, it would bring much pleasure and pride to those of us whose lives Jim Baugh has touched, to have him receive a 2003 Sagamore of the Wabash award.

Respectfully,

Lauralee Baugh

HISTORY OF THE SAGAMORE OF THE WABASH AWARD

The Sagamore of the Wabash award was created during the term of Governor Ralph Gates, who served from 1945 to 1949. Governor Gates was to attend a tristate meeting in Louisville with officials from the states of Ohio and Kentucky. Aides to the governor discovered that the governor of Kentucky was preparing a Kentucky Colonel certificates for Governor Gates and Senator Robert A. Taft, who to represent the State of Ohio. The Hoosiers decided that Indiana should have an appropriate award to present in return.

The term "sagamore" was used by the American Indian Tribes of the northeastern United States to describe a lesser chief or a great man among the tribe to whom the true chief would look for wisdom and advice.

Each governor since Gates has presented the certificates in their own way. It has been said that one governor even resorted to wearing full Indian headdress as he read the scrolls. The award is the highest honor, which the Governor of Indiana bestows. It is a personal tribute usually given to those who have rendered a distinguished service to the state or to the governor. Among these who have received Sagamores have been astronauts, presidents, ambassadors, artists, musicians, politicians, and ordinary citizens who have contributed greatly to our Hoosier heritage.

It should be noted that the Sagamores have been conferred upon both men and women. There is no record of the total number which have been presented, as each governor has kept his own roll; just as each has reserved the right to personally select the recipients.

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