



**ELKINS-RANDOLPH COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

For Immediate Release:

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Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet Set for April 13th

The Elkins-Randolph County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Banquet will be held Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Beverly Fire Hall in Beverly. The annual awards program is the high point of the Chamber's program calendar with the largest gathering of business leaders in Randolph and surrounding counties. This year the event will celebrate Adventure in Business.

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Social Hour, presented by Headline Sponsor Allegheny Insurance, Lead Corporate FirstEnergy and Corporate Sponsors, Armstrong World Industries, Elkins Auto, and Freedom Bank. During this time members and guests will enjoy sampling local craft brews Big Timber Brewing Company, wine selections from Lambert's Winery as well as hors d'oeuvres, while networking with fellow business leaders.

At 6:30 p.m., members and guests will enjoy a deliciously prepared buffet style feast prior to the keynote address which will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The keynote speaker for the evening is Mr. David Arnold, Senior VP of Public Relations and Strategic Partnerships at Adventures on the Gorge.

Since former chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court John Marshall, surveyed the New River Gorge by bateau in 1812, it has been a place of wonder and adventure for all types of people. Adventures on the Gorge's story began in 1969, when a gangly young man ran the New River in a homemade raft, then went on to co-found Mountain River Tours, the second commercial raft company in West Virginia. 1977... a group of guides at Mountain River Tours spun off to form Class-VI River Runners on the very site where Adventures on the Gorge now sits. David is a founding director of Class VI River Runners Inc. in

Lansing, W.Va. Class VI. Founded in 1978, the outfit was named in 2008 as one “the best outfitter’s on the planet” by National Geographic Adventures. That same year, Class VI was sold and merged with The Rivermen and Adventure Mountain River to form Adventure WV LLC. These three legacy companies have a combined guest list of well over one million guests and now operate as Adventures on the Gorge.

Adventures on the Gorge provides rafting experiences for all ages and skill levels. Notable guests include astronaut Neil Armstrong, actress Jennifer Garner, West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin, NASCAR driver Terry Labonte, folk singer Arlo Guthrie, just to name a few.

David has started property companies that own and operate campgrounds and recreation properties throughout the New River Gorge and Gauley River region. From 1991 to 2002, David was Chairman of the West Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, where he is also past president of the Travel Industry Division. He served as Chairman of the West Virginia Tourism Commission from 2001-2005 and still sits on the commission. He also sits on the Small Business and Agriculture Advisory Council to the Richmond Branch of the Federal Reserve. David received his BA in pre-medicine from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

“David Arnold and his team at Adventures on the Gorge have done wonders for the state of West Virginia. He understands what it means to stand out while still holding true to the essentials that make a business and in this case, adventure, unique. We are truly humbled and honored that he is our special guest speaker this year,” remarked Chelsey Jones, Executive Director for the Elkins-Randolph Chamber of Commerce. “I know those present will all part with some bit of knowledge and appreciation for the place we all call home after this event,” she continued.

Following the keynote address, the Chamber’s premiere event will recognize recipients of twelve prestigious awards recognizing both businesses and individuals for outstanding service and exemplified excellence to the Elkins-Randolph County community in 2015. Awards and respective sponsors include: Tom Williams Award of Distinction, Business of the Year (The Inter-Mountain), Business Woman of the Year (Davis Trust Company), Business Man of the Year (Huntington Bank), Best Professional Services (Mountain Valley Bank), Best Health/Medical Services (Citizens Investment Services) Chamber Person of the Year (Elkins-Randolph County Chamber of Commerce), Citizen of the Year (Citizens Bank of West Virginia), Above and Beyond Service Award (Performance Motors), Educator of the Year (Elkins Auto) Non-Profit of the Year (Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad), and Young Leader Award (Bialek Insurance Agency).

It is encourage the community submit nominations by March 23rd. Anyone can submit a nomination simply by going online to the Chamber of Commerce

Website: www.erccc.com and click on "survey". For more information, contact the Chamber office at (304) 636-2717 or by email to chamber@erccc.com.

Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the Chamber office at (304) 636-2717 or by email to chamber@erccc.com The Event price is \$35.00 per chamber member, \$45.00 per non- chamber member, and \$250 for a table of 8. Companies or individuals purchasing a table of 8 will have their logo placed on the speaker banner.

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