



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **MORE THAN 700 HONOR RICES**

For Immediate Release  
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A sell-out crowd of more than 700 attended the community-wide tribute honoring University of Southern Indiana President David L. Rice and Mrs. Betty Rice for their 27 years of educational and community leadership.

The Rices will retire as USI's first family at the end of June. Donald B. Cox, long-time USI Foundation leader, was emcee for the tribute, where the USI Mid-America Singers and Band entertained and participants bestowed laudatory remarks and many gifts, including:

- Robert D. Orr**, former U.S. ambassador to Singapore and Indiana governor - remarks and introduction of the video on the Rice years at USI
- Dr. James S. Vinson**, president of the University of Evansville - announced that UE will present an honorary degree to Dr. Rice
- Mayor Frank F. McDonald II**, City of Evansville - presented the key to the city and proclaimed March 2 as David and Betty Rice Day
- Judith A. O'Bannon**, wife of Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon - presented the Rices with Sagamore of the Wabash citations and announced he will be recognized as honorary lieutenant governor for a day
- Clyde R. Ingle**, Indiana Commission on Higher Education - remarks regarding Dr. Rice's achievements at the state level
- Michael K. Phillips**, Indiana General Assembly - presented a legislative resolution proclaiming March 2 as David and Betty Rice Day in Indiana
- Dr. Richard G. Landini**, former president of Indiana State University - remarks on ISU/USI history
- Dr. John J. Pruis**, chair of the USI Board of Incorporators and former USI Board member - remarks
- Dr. Marlene V. Shaw**, USI Faculty Senate - remarks on behalf of the USI faculty, staff, and students
- Richard J. Borries**, Vanderburgh County Commissioners - announced a resolution will be introduced to rename the proposed Eickhoff-Koressel road improvement the Rice Parkway
- Janice K. Davies**, Raintree Council of Girl Scouts - represented Raintree, the American Association of University Women, Evansville Philharmonic, YWCA, and Operation City Beautiful in bestowing representative gifts
- Rolland M. Eckels**, Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. - remarks
- James R. McKinney**, Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce - announced that Dr. Rice would be named "Businessman of the Month"
- Robert A. Swan**, Rotary Club of Evansville - announced that Rotary will present two Paul Harris (International Rotary) Fellowships, valued at \$1,000 each, in the Rices' names
- Connie D. Romain**, USI alumna and community volunteer - reminisced about growing up as neighbor of the Rices, cited Mrs. Rice's contributions, and announced that several of Mrs. Rice's friends have created a scholarship in her name
- Robert E. Griffin**, Southern Indiana industrial community - presented gifts representative of community industry
- Bruce H. Baker**, USI Board of Trustees, USI Varsity Club, and Alumni Affairs - presented gifts and announced the creation of Rice Plaza near the David L. Rice Library; he was assisted by **Wayne and Betty Worthington**, who will serve as honorary chairs of the fund drive to finance the plaza

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