

Western Kentucky (the Jackson Purchase specifically) is often called the forgotten part of the bluegrass state. But one man has contributed in ways that will never be forgotten. He will be remembered by the many people he has positively affected. That man is Brigadier General Bill Morgan. He served in the Air Force for 35 years. He has earned vast amounts of honor and respect for his service in the armed forces and has continued to give of himself to better his community.

Mr. Morgan has contributed to his community in many different ways. This was shown when he received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce (2010). He and his wife, Irene (of 58 years), reside in Benton, Kentucky (Marshall County). He served as chairman of the Benton City Council (1980). While chairman, he was also chairman of the Benton City Hospital Board. Through both of those positions, he was able to assist in Benton City Hospital transforming into Marshall County Hospital. It was then able to expand, grow, develop and, most importantly, help a wider range of people. He is a member of the Benton Church of Christ. There, he served as a deacon (1963-1988), then an elder (1988-2009) and has taught numerous classes. Western Kentucky is called the "buckle" of the Bible Belt. Christ is a very significant part of our community. Mr. Morgan being able to not only teach people in a classroom setting but also his ability to lead as an elder shows so much about his character. He also started the "Hall of Fame" at Marshall County High School. This recognizes numerous people in the community who either have or once had an extraordinary talent/ability in athletics and their plaques can be found on the wall of the gym at Marshall County High School. There is a quote in a movie called Coach Carter when the principal tells the coach "...some of these kids, this basketball season will be the highlight of their lives." In some

cases, that quote applies to Marshall County residents and those community members being able to come together and recall those amazing memories, recall the best few years of their life, can mean more than any words I can type in an essay.

Mr. Morgan has contributed to more than just the local community. He has helped the region as a whole. He helped start New Pathways for Children in the 1980s. He served as the president for a few years. New Pathways is a home in Melber and Paducah, Kentucky for children from ages 10-18 that are under custody of the state. They provide help to children that are challenged in such ways as abuse to neglect, mental to behavioral issues, and basic family/environmental issues. Above all, New Pathways administers a Christ-like atmosphere and is sponsored/affiliated with the Churches of Christ. Great work is done at New Pathways and Mr. Morgan is a large part of that. He also became the director of The Carson Center in Paducah, Kentucky (2005). The Carson Center has brought performing arts to Paducah so children and adults alike can experience the arts and it's given local actors a place where they can express themselves in a large scale performance. Outside of Paducah, Mr. Morgan was the vice chairman on the Board of Regents (1980) at Murray State University. Over the years, he has contributed in numerous ways to the local university. He financially helped with the building of the MSU basketball practice gym and the floor of that gym is named after him (2013).

Along with his tireless efforts in local and regional communities, Mr. Morgan has made an impact outside of the state of Kentucky. He has contributed to Freed Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee. FHU is a Church of Christ college with approximately 1900 students. He was awarded the "Outstanding Alumnus Award" (2005). Mr. Morgan was chairman of the

Board of Trustees at Freed (2000-2004) and has financially contributed to the university. He donated to help build the softball stadium and field at Freed Hardeman and it is named in his honor, Morgan Stadium (2006).

Brigadier General Bill Morgan has made an outstanding name for himself based on his accomplishments in his community, region, and beyond. His is definitely a candidate to be inducted into the Veterans Hall of Fame and, quite possibly, the best candidate in the state.