



The Lafayette Mayor-President's
**AWARENESS
COMMITTEE**
FOR CITIZENS WITH
DISABILITIES

2017 Annual Awards



On October 11, 2017, the Mayor-President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities recognized community members who have improved the lives of those living with disabilities. Honorees were recognized at the ninth Annual Awards Ceremony held at the George Bowles Recreation Center at Pa Davis Park in Lafayette. A total of nine awards were given in various categories.





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Lafayette



Vickie Nettles Advocacy Award – Sarah Conque

For selfless acts, going above and beyond to be a voice and advocate for the disabled and the determination to make this world and our community a better place for all of those living with disabilities.





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Distinguished Merit – 232-HELP

For extraordinary service in working to advance opportunities for persons with disabilities so they may achieve full participation in society.





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Educator of the Year – Dr. Hunter Beasley

For his significant contributions in educating persons with disabilities in our community.





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Employer of the Year – Albertsons

For providing the opportunity of dignified work, offering long-lasting career and advancement opportunities, boosting confidence and providing stable income to individuals with disabilities.





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Family of the Year – Libby Airhart Family

In recognition of involvement in the community and for serving as an example of courage, strength, and unity for other families living with disabilities.





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Outstanding Direct Support Professional – Vanessa Culbertson

For unwavering support and dedication to families with disabilities and serving as a role model and a care provider.





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Outstanding Individual with a Disability – Barry Guidry

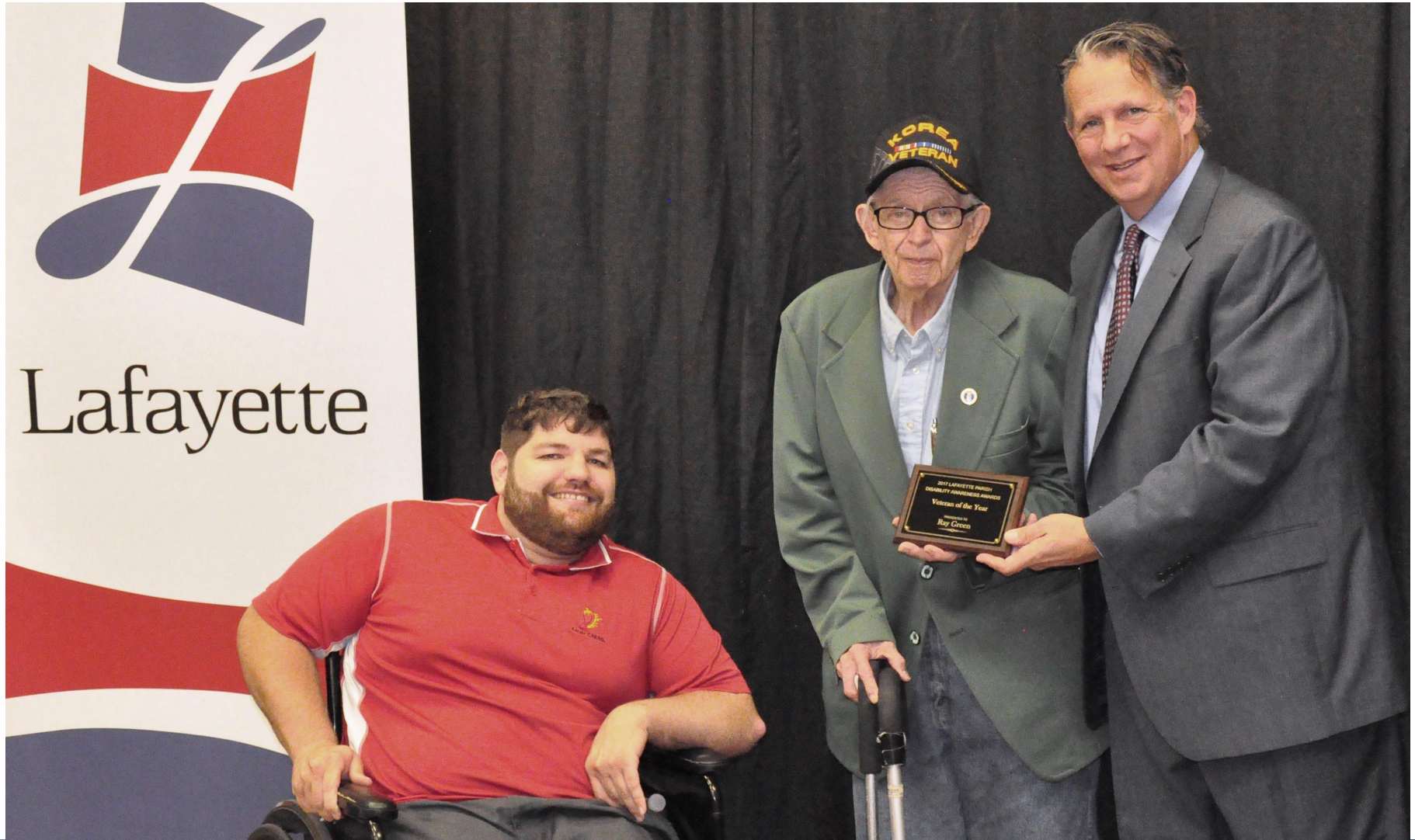
As a trusted liaison and inspired communicator for the disability community, developing relationships, teams and connections that benefit the entire community.





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Veteran of the Year – Ray Green

For serving as an inspiration, demonstrating what it means to be selfless, whether through service to his country or through his passionate dedication of time and efforts to the disabled community.





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Youth of the Year – Lillian DeJean

As a living example of achievement to people at any level of ability and for providing encouragement and inspiration to everyone around her, particularly other teens who she challenges to advocate for their cause.





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All award recipients were nominated through a community-wide, open submission process and were ultimately chosen for their outstanding work by a selections committee. The honorees' families, friends, colleagues and those who nominated them attended the event to celebrate the recipients and their contributions in bettering the lives of the disabled community.

All winning nominations were submitted for the 2017 State Gold Awards presented by the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. This year, Lafayette Parish resident and ACCD Award recipient Lillian DeJean will be honored as the 2017 Youth of the Year at the GOLD awards.

Entering its tenth year, the Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities was established to give a greater voice to citizens living with disabilities in Lafayette Parish. The committee's purpose is to serve in an advisory capacity to Lafayette Consolidated Government, and works to: develop and channel information regarding disabled persons to the citizens of the community through the introduction of special activities; work with all aspects of community life so that persons with disabilities will realize the rights and responsibilities afforded to all citizens; receive recommendations, requests, and citizen complaints regarding problems affecting the disabled and; help increase opportunities for employment for persons with disabilities.

For more information on the committee visit www.lafayettela.gov/dac.

