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Martenses honored as Southcentral kentuckians of the year

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May 25, 2024



Jim and Eva Martens stand with the Southcentral Kentuckian of the Year Award, Thursday, May 23, at the National Corvette Museum

Jake McMahon/Daily News

The Community Foundation of South Central Kentucky on Thursday recognized two pillars of the Bowling Green community.

Jim and Eva Martens were named the Southcentral Kentuckians of the Year at the National Corvette Museum.

According to Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Wethington, the award, which has been given out since 2012, recognizes those who give back to the community personally as well as through their families and businesses.

"We as the board of directors felt like he really embodied that," Wethington told the Daily News.

Jim Martens has made an impact on the community with charitable donations to organizations like the Salvation Army, Hospice of Southern Kentucky and the Western Kentucky University College Heights Foundation.



"It's important for us to give back to the community of Bowling Green and Warren County because it's been so good to us," Jim Martens said.

The Southcentral Kentuckian of the Year award is not the first recognition Jim Martens has received. Since 2014, he has won awards such as the 2014 WKU Distinguished

Service Award and the 2022 naming of the WKU Alumni Center as the Eva and Jim Martens Alumni Center.

"We know that there were a lot of wonderful recipient possibilities, people that do a lot in our community, but we're honored that we got picked," Jim Martens said.

In a surprise to Wethington and those in attendance at the event, Jim Martens stated he would match the over $70,000 given at the ceremony and match up to $100,000 given to the Foundation between May 23-31.

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