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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rutherford County Chamber honors Bill Jones, John Black
Award winners will be recognized at Business at its Best on Feb. 1

Murfreesboro, Tenn. – Jan. 4, 2018 – The Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce has named Pinnacle Financial Partners Area Executive Bill Jones as the 2017 Business Legend of the Year and Smyrna / Rutherford County Airport Authority Executive Director John Black as the 2017 Business Person of the Year. Both will be honored at the Chamber’s annual Business at its Best celebration on Thursday, Feb. 1, at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel & Conference Center.

Jones has almost 30 years of financial services expertise, and as area executive, currently leads all efforts of Pinnacle Financial Partners in Rutherford and Bedford counties. Prior to its merger with Pinnacle in 2006, he served as executive vice president and chief administrative officer for Cavalry Banking, following seven years as a trust officer. His experience also includes serving as vice president and trust officer for SunTrust Bank. He launched his career at Provow, Jones and Associates, an insurance and financial planning firm.

Jones has been involved with Destination Rutherford since 2003, and has chaired the economic development initiative since 2007. He is chairman of the Rutherford County Industrial Development Board and Christy-Houston Foundation. He serves as director for the Middle Tennessee State University Jones College of Business and previously served on the board of directors for the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce and Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital.

In 2012, he was named the Middle Tennessee Medical Center Foundation’s Philanthropist of the Year. He and wife Kathy were honored in in 2012 with the MTSU Jones College of Business Exemplar Award and in 2013 with YMCA of Rutherford County’s Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Jones is a graduate of MTSU, Southern Trust School at Birmingham-Southern University, and the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University. He and Kathy have two children, Alison and Sutton.

John Black began his career with the Smyrna / Rutherford County Airport Authority in 1991. During his tenure, the Airport Authority has invested over \$127 million dollars into the airport and twice garnered the State of Tennessee’s Airport of the Year Award. Black is a recipient of the coveted Airport Manager of the Year award for the Federal Aviation Administration Southern Region.

He is the immediate past president of the Smyrna Rotary Club, has served as an aerospace adjunct faculty member in the Middle Tennessee State University graduate studies program since 2001, and serves on the board of directors for TriStar StoneCrest Medical Center. He is the past president of Arnold Community Council, and previously served on the board of directors for the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of Leadership Middle Tennessee and Leadership Rutherford, which honored him in 2015 with the organization’s Pinnacle Award.

Black earned a bachelor’s degree in aviation management and master’s degree in aerospace from MTSU. He and wife Libby have two children, Chelsea and Austin, both MTSU graduates.

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The Business at its Best celebration will take place at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are \$50 for Chamber members and \$65 for non-members. To reserve a seat, please contact the Chamber at 615-893-6565 or visit www.rutherfordchamber.org.

The Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, which includes the Convention & Visitors Bureau, Destination Rutherford, Economic Development, Workforce Development and the Business Education Partnership, seeks to promote economic development and a quality of life to benefit all residents of Rutherford County. Programs, events and services are offered to both its nearly 1,600 member organizations and non-members. The Chamber operates out of a main office on Medical Center Parkway in Murfreesboro, and has branch offices in Smyrna, La Vergne and Eagleville. Learn more at www.rutherfordchamber.org.

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Teb Batey Named Leadership Rutherford Pinnacle Award Winner

Murfreesboro, Tenn. – Jan. 4, 2018 – Leadership Rutherford has named Rutherford County Trustee Teb Batey as the 2017 recipient of the Pinnacle Award, given to someone who has demonstrated significant leadership throughout his or her career.

Batey, a lifelong Rutherford County resident, has served in his current position since 2006. During this time, he and his team have worked to improve efficiencies in order to increase rates of return and significantly reduce the cost of banking services. In addition, he expanded the trustee's office to a second location in Smyrna and streamlined payment options.

After selling B&B Awards and Engraving, a partnership he started as a junior in high school, Batey pursued a degree in business administration from David Lipscomb University. After graduation, he returned to the family business, Batey's Office Supply and Photo, to work full time and to complete a Master of Business Administration degree from MTSU.

Batey is a 2015 Leadership Rutherford graduate and has served on many civic and professional boards during his tenure in county government. He was a founding board member of the Tennessee Association of Property Tax Professionals and was chaplain for the County Officials Association of Tennessee. In 2014, he was recognized as the Tennessee Outstanding Trustee of the Year.

A minister for the Milton Church of Christ since 1989, Batey serves on the board for Barnabas Vision and Journeys in Community Living. He has a love of farming and was named the Tennessee Cattleman's Association's Beef Producer of the Year in 1988. He and wife Kari live in the Milton Community with their son Houston and daughters Kate and Taylor. The Bateys were forever touched by the love of friends, family, and their great community when they lost their son Paul in 2014.

Batey will be honored at the Chamber's annual Business at its Best event at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1, at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro Hotel and Conference Center. Reservations are \$50 for Chamber members and \$65 for non-members. To reserve a seat, please contact the Chamber at 615-893-6556 or visit www.rutherfordchamber.org.

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