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## Raleigh Hall of Fame Honors Margie and Earl Johnson of Southern Industrial

RALEIGH, N.C. – Two locals known for working behind-the-scenes on behalf of many area children and nonprofit organizations were inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame Tuesday evening. Southern Industrial Constructors Founder and Chairman Earl Johnson, Jr., and his wife, Margery Scott “Margie” Johnson, were honored by Mayor Charles Meeker during a ceremony at the Raleigh Convention Center. The Johnsons are among 11 individuals and two organizations this year recognized for generously contributing time, effort and financial resources toward making Raleigh great.

Earl Johnson, a Raleigh native, served as a U.S. Naval officer during the Korean War. In 1962, he founded the company now known as Southern Industrial Constructors, and its subsidiary, Southern Crane. Combined, these two companies employ nearly 800 people across the Carolinas and Southeast.

Many see Johnson’s work in-progress and may not realize it. His Southern Crane team drops Raleigh’s famous acorn on First Night Raleigh each New Year’s Eve. His team also is responsible for rigging and installation of the Rodin exhibit at the N.C. Museum of Art. But somewhat less visible has been his and Margie’s tireless work with Raleigh’s leading organizations.

Earl Johnson has served on the RTI International Board for over 37 years, and is now serving his 17th year as chairman. He has been a champion for youth, serving as board member and president for the Wake County Boys & Girls Clubs, and on the boards of Ravenscroft School, Virginia Episcopal School, and on the board of visitors at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He continues as a 30-year member and past president of the Oakwood Cemetery Board, as vice chairman of the N.C. Zoo, and a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center board of visitors.

Margie Johnson became involved in the Junior League of Raleigh, serving on many committees and as president. She was a founding member and president of Haven House, and honorary chair of WakeUp for Children. She served on the boards of the United Way, St. Mary’s School, and the Foundation of Hope. A past president of the N.C. Museum of History Associates, Margie continues to support the museum and its mission.

A key leader in the North Carolina Symphony and N.C. Symphony Foundation, Margie has served as president and long term board member. She was a member of the board of the American Orchestras League. Equally committed to healthcare, Margie served as vice chair of the Rex Hospital board of directors, and continues to serve on the board of the Lineberger Cancer Center.

The N.C. Museum Natural of Science, Marbles Kids Museum, and the N.C. Museum of Art have also been beneficiaries of pro bono services from Johnson’s companies, Southern Industrial Constructors and Southern Crane.

“Our entire organization is very proud of the honor bestowed upon Earl and Margie,” said John Wilson, president of Southern Industrial Constructors. “We’re fortunate to have such good people as founders of our organization. Margie and Earl are an outstanding couple who love Raleigh, and who give so much of their time and energy toward making this a great city.”

**About the Raleigh Hall of Fame**

Eleven individuals and two organizations were selected to be honored in the Raleigh Hall of Fame's sixth year. The mission of the Raleigh Hall of Fame is to honor individuals and non-profit organizations that have made significant contributions to Raleigh's proud history. For more information, contact L. Merritt Jones at [lmj301@bellsouth.net](mailto:lmj301@bellsouth.net) or 787-9617 or visit the organization's website at [www.raleighhalloffame.org](http://www.raleighhalloffame.org) .

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