

WMA Member Honored By The Heritage Foundation

James and Melisha McAlister

WASHINGTON, May 5, 2016—James and Melisha McAlister, part-owners of the Clem Lumber and Distributing Co. in Alliance, Ohio, have been honored with The Heritage Foundation's "John Von Kannon Patriot Award."

A long-time executive at the Washington, D.C., based think tank, Von Kannon was a legendary figure in the conservative movement, equally renowned for his irrepressible sense of humor as for his fundraising prowess. He passed away last year.



The McAlisters have been Heritage members for 22 years, supporting the think tank's work both with their donations and their participation in Heritage conferences and other events. "They are determined to turn this country around—and to have fun doing it," noted Heritage Group Vice President of Development John Fogarty in presenting the award to the couple.

Said Heritage President Jim DeMint, "James and Melisha exude a friendly, positive attitude and a steadfast commitment to making America a land of freedom and opportunity for all. Their cheerful patriotism is as fresh and appealing as it is sincere."

While still a student, Jim McAlister started working summers at Clem Lumber and Distributing. He stayed on after receiving a degree in microbiology from Ohio State in 1975. Four years later, he bought into the business in 1979. Melisha is a graduate of Mount Union College with a degree in Elementary Education. The McAlisters received their award during a special dinner ceremony April 7 at The Heritage Foundation's annual Leadership Conference, held this year in Amelia Island, Fla.

With more than a half-million members, The Heritage Foundation is the nation's most widely supported think tank.