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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INDIANA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF AWARDED SAGAMORE OF THE WABASH

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., December 15, 2016 – At the Indiana Bicentennial Gala, held Dec. 10, Vice-President elect Governor Mike Pence and Governor-Elect Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb presented the 15 members of the Bicentennial Commission and six staff members with the Sagamore of the Wabash for their work toward the success of Indiana’s Bicentennial year.

The Sagamore of the Wabash is one of the highest distinctions in Indiana designated by the state’s governor. The term “Sagamore” was used by Native American tribes of Indiana to describe lesser chiefs or a great man among the tribe whom the chief consulted for wisdom and advice.

The Indiana Bicentennial Commission was appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2011. The four pillars of the Bicentennial year are youth and education, historical celebration, community involvement and nature conservation. To ensure a truly statewide celebration the Commission endorsed Legacy Projects – local celebrations of the Bicentennial. Throughout the Bicentennial year the Commission endorsed more than 1,600 Legacy Projects, greatly exceeding the original goal of 200. These Legacy Projects represent all 92 counties as well as the pride and dedication of Hoosiers across the state. Indiana residents have embraced the Bicentennial year and demonstrated true Hoosier pride in the planning and execution of Bicentennial Legacy Projects.

Nine signature projects were also undertaken by the Commission with the help of partners and private sponsors. These include [The Children of Indiana Nature Park](#), [Bicentennial Plaza](#), [Statehouse Education Center](#), [Indiana State Archives](#), [Bicentennial Nature Trust](#), [Bicentennial Torch Relay](#), [commemorative medal](#), [commemorative books](#). Three events were also part of the signature projects. [Hoosier Homecoming](#) in October and [Ignite the Future](#) on Statehood Day were free events open to the public. The [Bicentennial Gala](#) was an invitation-only event held to honor the dedicated volunteers, partners, sponsors, dignitaries and leaders who contributed to the success of the Bicentennial year.

To learn more about Indiana’s Bicentennial celebration or to find Commissioner biographies, visit www.indiana2016.org.

Indiana Public Broadcast Stations created a one-hour highlight program of the Gala which can be viewed here, indianapublicmedia.org/bicentennialgala.

A complete list of Indiana Bicentennial Commission Members:

Becky Skillman, Co-Chair – Bloomington
Lee Hamilton, Co-Chair – Bloomington

Judge Sarah Evans Barker – Indianapolis
Charlie Brown – Gary
Stephen L. Ferguson – Bloomington
Anton H. George – Indianapolis
Brenda Gerber Vincent – Fort Wayne
P.E. MacAllister – Indianapolis
James H. Madison – Bloomington
Michael S. Mauer – Carmel
Mary McConnell – Indianapolis
C. James McCormick – Vincennes
James W. Merritt, Jr. – Indianapolis
Ellen M. Rosenthal – Indianapolis
Randall T. Shepard – Indianapolis

Indiana Bicentennial Commission Staff:

Perry Hammock – Lebanon
Renè Stanley – Lebanon
Valeri Beamer – Muncie
Sam Alderfer – Indianapolis
Adrienne Smith – Noblesville
Jylian Vigar – Peru

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