

## The August 20, 2014 Golf for Scholarships outing

is one of the primary fundraising activities for the Ohio AgriBusiness Association Educational Trust scholarship program, through which nearly \$35,000 in scholarships is provided annually to students enrolled in an agriculture-related field attending The Ohio State University and OSU Agricultural Technical Institute, Clark State Community College and Wilmington College.

## 2014 Honoree Jerry Ward



August 20, 2014  
Sidney, Ohio

# Jerry Ward, 2014 Ohio AgriBusiness Association Educational Trust Honoree

Jerry Ward, today's honoree, grew up in Waldo, Ohio, the middle of three sons of Jim & Millie Ward. While attending River Valley High School (RVHS) in Marion, he worked at Marion County Landmark in Waldo during the summers and on the weekends. His father, Jim, was a manager there at the time. Jerry also met his future wife, Jackie, while attending high school. They both graduated from RVHS in the spring of 1965 and were married that November. Following high school graduation, he worked at the phone company and Whirlpool in Marion while taking classes at OSU-Marion. In late 1965, his father started OHIGRO, officially opening for business in the spring of 1966 for their first planting season as a company.

In January 1967, Jerry went into the U.S. Army and was stationed in Korea. During his 21-month stint, he went from Private to Sergeant, before returning home in late 1968. In November of that year he started working full-time at OHIGRO in Waldo. At the time, he was one of only a handful of employees, including his father, mother and uncle. In 1973, OHIGRO opened a second location

through the purchase of a plant in Richwood, Jerry transferred to the new location to open the store and serve as plant manager. In 1977, after the Richwood location was established, another manager was hired to take his place there, which allowed Jerry to move back to the home office in Waldo. In 1989, OHIGRO bought out the Delaware Farmers' Exchange and officially opened their third location in Delaware. Jerry brought his oldest son Jeffrey into the business in July of 1994 and his other son Joe joined the team in January 2001.

As the world of agriculture continues to change, Jerry has skillfully navigated OHIGRO through the waters. For more than forty years, OHIGRO has been a family owned and operated agricultural retailer striving to be a "full service" company. While many things have changed, Jerry continues to "Serve the customer!"

Jerry and his wife Jackie have been married for nearly 50 years and have three children

and six grandchildren. In addition to Jeffrey and Joe, they have a daughter, Julie. Jerry is very involved in his church, Delaware City Vineyard. He also serves as a Family Financial Coach with Dave Ramsey Financial Planners. As

many people know, Jerry is also a big OSU basketball fan. Jerry has given back to his industry in many ways. OABA has benefited directly from Jerry's leadership. He served for many years as a board member of both the Ohio AgriBusiness Association and Educational Trust. Jerry also served as the chairman of the OABA

board of directors from 2006 – 2008.

The Ohio AgriBusiness Association is pleased to recognize Jerry Ward as the 2014 OABA Educational Trust Honoree.

