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Perry A. Nardo, General Manager

J. Michael Myer, Executive Editor

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Pats on the Back

■ To the outstanding community leaders recognized last week by Wheeling Mayor Glenn Elliott during his State of the City speech. They included:

■ Hydie Friend, named as winner of the mayor's annual Gateway Award. Friend's numerous successful efforts to help the city capitalize on its heritage were cited.

■ Community Spirit Award winner Jay Frey was honored for his leadership of the Wheeling 250 Committee. Members of that group staged a variety of events marking the city's 250th anniversary.

■ Elliott also honored two Wheeling businesses, one old and one new. They were Lou W. Nau Inc., a century old this year, and the Grow Ohio Valley Public Market, brand new less than a year ago.

■ Jeanne Finstein was honored for many activities to preserve local history and architecture, as well as for her career in education and as an author.

■ The late Jim Bordas, a highly successful attorney from Charleston

who began his career in Wheeling in 1972, was recognized for his many acts of philanthropy and his ideas on improving the city. "I have not forgotten his call to action," Elliott remarked.

■ Youth Services System was praised for work helping troubled youths, the homeless, those recovering from addiction and others.

■ The Augusta Levy Learning Center, which continues recovering from a disastrous fire in 2018, was singled out for its work to aid autistic youths and their families.

■ Ron Scott Jr., who is cultural diversity and community outreach director for the Wheeling YWCA, was recognized for "dedication to his community and his commitment to advocating for justice ..."

■ Gail "Boatsie" VanVranken and her husband Jim were cited for their "Boatsie's Boxes" national campaign to furnish those in the military overseas with items they need and want. Tens of thousands of packages were sent out.