

The Honorable Order of KENTUCKY COLONELS



ERNIE FLETCHER
GOVERNOR

LEXINGTON—The Commonwealth of Kentucky recently awarded Paul Vitale their highest honor: that of Kentucky Colonel. Members of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels are ambassadors of good will and fellowship around the world.

Commissions as Kentucky Colonels are presented for an individual's contributions to the community, state or nation, and for special achievements of all kinds. Award of the title requires nomination from an existing colonel. Nominators consider the nominee's service and contributions to the global community before making a nomination.

Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher bestowed the honor of a Colonel's Commission to Paul in recognition for his service and accomplishments on behalf of others.

Originated in 1813 by Kentucky's first governor, Isaac Shelby, early Colonels actually served military roles. During the latter part of the 1800's, the position took on a more ceremonial function.

In 1931, then Governor Flem Sampson gave his blessings to "Formulate a society to more closely band together this group into a great non-political brotherhood for the advancement of Kentucky and Kentuckians." Minutes of the early meetings confirm that charitable programs were to be a central part of the organization.

Today, the Honorable Order's Board of Trustees distributes approximately 1.5 million dollars each year from their "Good Works

Program," touching someone in every state in the nation. The program is funded by the voluntary, tax deductible contributions of Kentucky Colonels around the world.

The list of Kentucky Colonels is a Who's Who of outstanding men and women around the world. The Commission certificate, signed by both the Governor and Secretary of State, and bearing the Great Seal of Kentucky, has graced the walls of such distinguished leaders as President Lyndon B. Johnson and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. John Glenn, America's first man in space, was commissioned while orbiting Earth on his historic mission.



Other well-known Colonels include: Muhammad Ali, Tiger Woods, Whoopi Goldberg and Walt Disney. Once a year Kentucky Colonels from all over the world gather for a celebration of fellowship in the true spirit of Kentucky hospitality.