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Media Release

Bill and Marilyn Ballard Receive Chamber's Legacy Award

For Immediate Release

Billings, MT, September 13, 2016: The Billings Chamber of Commerce announced today that Bill and Marilyn Ballard have been selected as the Legacy Award honorees. The Ballards long history in Billings showcases their philanthropy, business support and dedication to the community.

"Bill and Marilyn's visionary leadership and nearly boundless philanthropy have been an inspiration to all of us," shares Chamber Board Chair Bill Cole. "They have strengthened the economic, medical, and cultural fabric of our community and left a legacy that will last for generations."

The Ballards have devoted their livelihood to the community of Billings. Marilyn, a Montana native, convinced Bill, an Arkansas native, to move to Billings in 1956. Montana had much to offer in raising a family and in the state's vast energy reserves. In partnership with Bill Cronoble, Bill formed Balcron Oil Company in 1963. After selling Balcron, Bill created Ballard Petroleum in 1992 and is the chairman and CEO. For more than 25 years he has worked with sons Dave and Jeff, in their oil and gas exploration company which employs 30 in Billings and another 17 in Gillette, Wyoming.

As their three children grew and the company flourished, Bill and Marilyn devoted more time to strengthening our community. Bill has served as director on the Billings Clinic and Rocky Mountain College boards for decades. In addition to providing leadership within healthcare and higher education, Bill has served on Rotary Club's board as well as the Montana Petroleum Association board.

Marilyn and Bill have invested in growth initiatives in healthcare, higher education, service and their faith community, First Presbyterian Church. They believe in helping people and organizations working to achieve positive outcomes. They are true heroes to many people within our community and have lived such generosity to mark a lifetime of achievement.

"We live in a great community because we have people like Bill and Marilyn Ballard," continued Cole. "The Chamber board of directors believes that the Ballards' selfless devotion to others over more than half a century makes them the perfect recipients for this award."

The Ballards will receive the Legacy Award during the Billings Chamber Annual Meeting Luncheon on September 27th. The program begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. Tickets are available by calling 406-245-4111 or at BillingsChamber.com.

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The Billings Chamber of Commerce represents you, our 1,200 members who employ more than 44,000 people. We help you grow your bottom line by connecting you to opportunities and advocating for your business and our community.