

Media Release

2022 Legacy Award Recipient Announced

For Immediate Release

Billings, Mont., Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022: The Billings Chamber of Commerce announces that Jim and Chris Scott are recipients of the 2022 Legacy Award. This husband-wife team will be honored during the 2022 Billings Chamber Annual Meeting presented by PayneWest Insurance on September 20, 2022, at Alberta Bair Theatre.

Jim and Chris Scott are well known in the Billings community and across the state for their banking success, philanthropic endeavors, and involvement in the non-profit sector. The couple has called Billings their home since 1977 and raised their family here.

Jim built an impressive banking career of 45 years with his family. His brother Tom was named the Legacy Award recipient in 2014. Together they grew First Interstate BancSystem into a multi-state banking group that remains true to the Scott family values and community commitment today. In 1984 they changed the bank name to First Interstate and built the First Interstate Bank (FIB) tower in downtown Billings. With steady success and growth through the following years, FIB now serves customers in 14 states including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming.

Early in his career, Jim became involved with the Billings Chamber of Commerce and served as Chairman of the Board in 1988. "Billings has always had a progressive business community and the Chamber has been an anchor of that," shares Jim.

With Jim busy in banking, Chris became involved in non-profit work. She answered the call for women to get involved in business outside the home and with the group Landmarks conducted a historic survey of Clark and Minnesota Avenues and saved the Moss Mansion. This work led to her involvement with the Yellowstone Art Center, now known as the Yellowstone Art Museum, where she was instrumental in conducting the largest capital campaign for the arts at the time. Chris has also served in governance positions for The Nature Conservancy in the U.S. and around the globe.

Operating from long held family values has been the key to the Scott's success. They have a heart for community and giving back as evidenced by their philanthropic portfolio which includes but is not limited to: Alberta Bair Theatre, Art House Cinema, Billings Public Library Foundation, Rimrock Foundation, Riverstone Health, YMCA, and YWCA. Statewide charities include Montana Community Foundation, Nature Conservancy, Native American centers at University of Montana and Montana State University, and Little Big Horn College. Through the Foundation for Community Vitality, they support non-profits on the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Blackfeet nations.

"As Jim likes to say, 'as a westerner, I ride for the brand,'" states Chris. "It's all about what meets us in our heart with what we care about and we also work with our children now which is a wonderful part of philanthropy—being able to come together, decide the kinds of things we are interested in and give back."

According to one of the Scott's nominators, "Both Jim and Chris actively support nonprofits in the Billings community and because of their generosity, our community enjoys art, music, and a very busy library filled with families, children, and seniors. These two people truly emulate what this award represents by improving the business and economic climate plus enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Billings."

The Legacy Award is given to an individual who has consistently demonstrated success in improving the business and economic climate in addition to the quality of life for residents of Billings over their lifetime. Previous honorees include George Selover, Sam McDonald, Don and Marilyn Floberg, Ron Sexton, Joseph Sample, Michael Schaer, Jim Soft, Tom Scott, Karen Sanford Gall, Bill and Marilyn Ballard, Bruce MacIntyre, Bill and Mary Underriner, Ziggy and Stella Zeigler, Dr. Bob Wilmouth, and Kris Carpenter.

The Scott's will be honored during the 2022 Billings Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting on September 20, 2022 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Alberta Bair Theatre. Tickets for this event can be purchased at BillingsChamber.com.

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Catalyst. Convener. Champion. The Billings Chamber of Commerce represents our 1,100+ members who employ more than 48,000 people. We are a catalyst for business growth, a convener of leaders and influencers and a champion for a thriving community.