

## *Awards of Chamber Excellence*

### **2013 BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR JAMES S. PEACOCK**

James S. (Jim) Peacock has been a consistent example of excellence in the Howard County business community, lending his accounting expertise and personal support to many area businesses and nonprofit causes. He is currently a partner in UHY, LLP and managing director for UHY Advisors Mid-Atlantic MD, Inc. He specializes in providing consulting, tax and financial advisory services.

Jim started working in Ellicott City when the company where he was employed in Baltimore bought another practice in 1974.

“I’ve always said it was the Wild West,” Jim said. “With some common sense, you could work hard and have some personal success. I just came and stayed.”

Jim raised his family in Howard County and said he enjoyed the educational and cultural opportunities that were available to his family. He also found that many small businesses were getting started in the area and looking for accounting and tax advice. “We had an array of services that were in demand.”

In 1998, he continued to serve his local client base when he formed Peacock Condron Anderson & Co. with two new partners: Dave Condron and Jennine Anderson. In 2007 that company merged with UHY Advisors, a national firm. As a result, the firm has gained a wider selection of service offerings which have led to a number of large clients.

Despite the broad reach, “I think we still have the local firm culture,” Jim said. “People still deal with the local partners and staff. ... We still take on small business owners as clients and nurture them. We do a lot of that in the government contracting sector.”

Jim is a long-time member of the Chamber, noting that “back when we started, the Chamber was the place to go and meet people you didn’t know.” He is a founding member of the Economic Indicators Committee, which brings together representatives from the Chamber, Economic Development and many local business sectors to forecast business conditions on the local level. He has also been active with the Tech Council of Maryland, the



Jim Peacock (third from right) accepts his award from Miles Coffman of M&T Bank, Chamber Board Chair Greg Lowe of Lowe fs, and Pete Mangione of Turf Valley at the 2013 Signature Event on October 4. Photo by Bittner Photography

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the BWI Partnership.

Jim is credited by his employees with demonstrating a commitment to balancing work and home life and with encouraging others to do the same. He fosters an environment where people are supported in serving on non-profit and philanthropic boards and leads with his example of public service.

“A key in any business is the partners you have,” Jim said. “I’ve had great partners all along the way. Dave and Jennine have the same outlook on how important community is, they have similar values.”

Jim said he remains enthusiastic about his work because he enjoys “meeting new people and helping them work on their problems and watching their business grow.”

He said: “You like to feel a small part of that. ... You have to care about your clients, pay attention to their needs and try to help them. People are smart and they’ll see through you if you don’t.”