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Fuller, Tinsley Receive Banker's Cup

NYT Regional Media Group

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WINTER HAVEN | Philanthropist Eunice Fuller and businessman George Tinsley were honored for their community contributions Thursday night during the 2010 presentation of the prestigious Banker's Cup awards at Nora Mayo Hall.

The awards program recognizes Winter Haven's man and woman of the year, two people who have made a significant impact in Winter Haven through their service. It is sponsored annually by the Greater Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Taste of Winter Haven dinner,

The award winners are chosen by a committee following a review of nomination letters.

Last year, Fuller was the first living recipient of the Community Foundation of Winter Haven Legacy Award, usually a posthumous honor for local philanthropy.

Fuller gives to colleges, education and community groups, arts organizations and groups serving the disadvantaged, among other Winter Haven and Lakeland organizations.

A nomination letter cited 45 organizations to which Fuller contributes financially. They include Theatre Winter Haven, the Polk State College Foundation, Meals on Wheels of Polk County Inc., the Women's Resource Center and the Polk County Humane Society.

A native of Michigan, Fuller moved to Winter Haven in 1947. She married William H. Fuller in 1943 and had three sons, Brad Fuller and Mike Fuller, who live in Orlando, and the late William F. "Slim" Fuller Jr.

Tinsley is founder, president and owner of PenGeo Inc. and manages more than 40 food franchise operations in the Southeast.

He sponsors teams for local youth sports leagues and is active with the Citrus Center Boys and Girls Clubs.

He has served on boards for several community and nonprofit organizations, including Winter Haven Hospital, the Polk Education Foundation, the United Way of Central Florida and the Youth and Family Alternatives advisory board.

The Auburndale KFC restaurant, owned by PenGeo Inc., offers employees a \$300 book scholarship each year.

Tinsley and his wife, Seretha, moved to Winter Haven after he graduated in the late 1960s from Kentucky Wesleyan College, where he was an All-American basketball player and member of the dean's list. The Tinsleys have two children, George Jr. and Penni.

The Banker's Cup has been presented each year since 1923.

During the Taste of Winter Haven event that preceded the awards ceremony, local restaurants served samples of their favorite dishes.

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BANKER'S CUP AWARD

Eunice Fuller, George Tinsely take top Banker's Cup honors

Raising the cup

By [Kara Phelps](#)
News Chief staff

Published: Friday, February 12, 2010 at 4:01 a.m.

WINTER HAVEN - Philanthropist Eunice Fuller and businessman George Tinsley were honored for their community contributions Thursday night during the 2010 presentation of the prestigious Banker's Cup awards at Nora Mayo Hall.

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George Aycrigg / News Chief

George Tinsley, left, won the Man of the Year at the Bankers Cup while Mrs. William Fuller won the Woman of the Year award Thursday evening at Nora Mayo Hall. Thursday, February 11, 2010.

A nomination letter cited 45 organizations to which Fuller contributes financially. They include Theatre Winter Haven, the Polk State College Foundation, Meals on Wheels of Polk County Inc., the Women's Resource Center and the Polk County Humane Society.

Fuller breathlessly accepted the honor, saying it was unexpected.

"I don't know what to say, but thank you very, very much," she told the audience.

She thanked her mother and her grandparents for "teaching me how to give."

A native of Michigan, Fuller moved to Winter Haven in 1947. She married William H. Fuller in 1943, and had three sons, Brad Fuller and Mike Fuller, who live in Orlando, and the late William F. "Slim" Fuller Jr.

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Upon accepting the award, Tinsley said his wife had called him away from business in Dallas, Texas for "a family matter."

"Now I know what's going on," he said, to laughter from the audience.

He said he was "very humbled" by the honor. "My wife and I consider it a responsibility to do what we can to touch lives."

Tinsley and his wife, Seretha, moved to Winter Haven after he graduated in the late 1960s from Kentucky Wesleyan College, where he was an All-American basketball player and member of the dean's list. The Tinsleys have two children, George Jr. and Penni.

Thursday night's ceremony included a moment of silence for Larry Tucker, a past recipient of the Banker's Cup Man of the Year Award, who died in September.

The Banker's Cup has been presented each year since 1923, except for a hiatus in the 1940s. After 1965, the Banker's Cup began being awarded to women as well as men.

During the Taste of Winter Haven event that preceded the awards ceremony, 10 local restaurants served samples of their specialty dishes: Sundown and Fred's Southern Kitchen, Tanner's Pub, Arabella's, Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q, Richard's Fine Coffees, Outback Steakhouse, the Auburndale PenGeo-owned KFC restaurant, Chalet Suzanne, the Florida Future Farmers of America Leadership Training Center Inc. and the International House of Pancakes.

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