

# **One Great Community Salutes**

## ***Chamber Champion***

### ***Gary Criss***

A Hometown Champion! Gary was born and raised in Richmond, IN. Gary was a Richmond High School Graduate - Celebrating his 35 year class reunion this month! He is an avid sports fan and he loves his Meijer Family!

Sandie Wagenknecht, Meijer Store Manager, still remembers her interview with Gary over 10 years ago. Over 1200 applications were received and she said they immediately knew that they wanted Gary to work for them. "We hired him and I would gladly take 10 more of him if I could", stated Wagenknecht, "he's very dependable". Gary just celebrated his 10 year anniversary with Meijer for which he received an award. He was recently on vacation and Sandie said, "Customers were asking for him and wanted to be sure he was ok." There is a noticeable void when Gary is not at the store.

The One Great Community Salutes Program was created with the hope of recognizing people in our community that make it a better place to live, work and do business. Phil Monger of Richmond and a Meijer customer said that when he thought about it, nominating Gary made perfect sense. Phil stated in his nomination, "Gary speaks to customers", "he is always friendly", "and he is an asset to Richmond and to his employer". Gary participates fully in this community. He lives here, works here, goes to church here and said he does the best he can every day. Gary said, "You work hard every day and do your best but sometimes you have to improvise!"

A Chamber Champion is highly respected for the good work he does every day to make our community a special place to be. Gary exemplifies Hoosier Hospitality and the well-known Midwest work ethic. He sets the bar high and leads by example. Phil said, "I don't know him personally, he's just somebody that is a goodwill Ambassador for the community." It is for this reason that Gary Criss is our most recent Chamber Champion!