

For Immediate Release
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**Campbell County YMCA & City of Ft. Thomas
Name Local Sports Legend Homer Rice As Independence Day Parade Grand Marshall**

May, 2010 -- The Campbell County YMCA and City of Ft. Thomas have just named their 2010 Independence Day Parade Grand Marshall – legendary sports champion, coach and Athletic Director Homer Rice.

His father, a Methodist minister, moved his family to Ft. Thomas in 1942, where he became an all-state quarterback, all conference basketball guard and a track sprint champion at Highlands High School. As a junior the following year, his football team claimed the state and conference championship. And by his senior year, he was captain of the team that again was named conference champion. Rice left Northern Kentucky to excel as an all-American quarterback at Centre College.

Throughout his professional career he has been regarded as a respected leader, character builder and master motivator. As a high school coach he was named the 1961 'Winningest football coach in America. As a college coach, his development of the triple-option attack revolutionized offensive football. As director of athletics at North Carolina and Georgia Tech, he built programs that became models of achievement on and off the field. He also was athletics director at Rice University before being lured back to his home town as the head coach of the Cincinnati Bengals. In 1980, he was named athletic director at Georgia Tech, where he was soon acclaimed as "the man who saved Georgia Tech athletics." He was the first president of the NCAA Division 1A Directors of Athletics Association and was the recipient of the James Corbett Award, the highest award given in the field of athletics administration. He retired from Georgia Tech in 1997 and became an adjunct professor.

During that time, Rice has moved to Ft. Thomas four times – first as a high school student, then as the Highlands High School football coach, then as the head football coach for the University of Cincinnati, and finally as the head coach for the Cincinnati Bengals.

Rice is also one of the founding members of the Fort Thomas Junior Football league that will celebrate 80 years of youth football this year.

The Campbell County YMCA 2010 Independence Day Parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 3rd. The parade committee includes: Mike Jansen, Linda Stapleton, Fred Otto, Scott Johnson, Jim Trauth, Shane Ruffin.

For more information, the public can contact: Elizabeth McDougal or Mike Jansen at the Campbell County YMCA (859) 781-1814.

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