

2017 Parade float winners announced

Staff report

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CANTON The National Association of Realtors and the Stark County Association of Realtors have taken the top award for float entries in the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Canton Repository Grand Parade. The organization took the grand prize for best overall entry in the parade for “Homeownership: We Were Made for This.”

All 15 float entries will be seen in the parade in downtown Canton Saturday.

Chairman Pete Truemper announced the 2017 float award winners, which were selected by judges Megan Kalman of Pepsico, Mike Walpole of Brewster Cheese and Jim Chapman of Selinsky Force.

The awards and winners are:

- **Grand prize** (best overall entry in the parade): “Homeownership: We Were Made for This,” sponsored by the National Association of Realtors and the Stark County Association of Realtors.
- **Builders’ Award** (best professional builder entry): “The 12th Man Float,” sponsored by Akron Auto Auction.
- **Ohio State Award** (best non-professional builder entry): “Local 540 Union,” sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.
- **Enshrinees’ Award** (most-effective use of color harmony): “Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Queen & Court,” sponsored by Ziegler Bolt & Nut House.
- **Mayor’s Award** (best display of animation): “Celebrating 100 Years,” sponsored by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.
- **HOF Board of Trustees’ Award** (most-original concept): “Crane Float,” sponsored by Midwest Crane Rentals.
- **NFL Award** (best use of flowers or natural covering): “Freedom Float,” sponsored by Newcomer’s Chapel of Pigeon Run United Methodist Church.
- **Janice C. Meyer Award** (best display of enthusiasm): “Tailgating Begins at Sam’s Club,” sponsored by Sam’s Club.
- **Exceptional Merit Award**: “Louisville Constitution Town Queen and Court,” sponsored by Louisville Chamber of Commerce.
- **Exceptional Merit Award**: “Cash Explosion 30th Anniversary,” sponsored by the Ohio Lottery Commission.

- **Exceptional Merit Award:** “Jackson Polar Bears Basketball and Baseball State Champions,” sponsored by Akron Auto Auction, Jackson Youth Basketball Association, and Jerzee’s Sports Bar & Grille.

The Grand Parade has been a tradition since 1963 when 40,000 spectators attended the first parade. Since then, it has grown to a crowd of 200,000 lining the 2.2-mile parade route each year and millions more viewing it via television broadcast.

The parade typically features about 110 entries, including floats, marching bands, helium balloons, costume characters, unique specialty units and the current class of Enshrinees and their presenters.

For more news and a complete schedule of the remaining Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival events, visit www.profootballhofef.com.