

# Railroad board recognizes Hannibal centenarian

By **ALYSE THOMPSON**  
Staff Writer | 217-221-3385  
athompson@whig.com | @AThompsonWHIG

**HANNIBAL, Mo.** — Hannibal resident Bob Richards still remembers the message he heard over the public address system 80 years ago.

He was at work as a laborer for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad when management announced President Franklin Roosevelt had signed the Social Security Act into law. It meant Richards, 20 years old at the time, would later be entitled to benefits through the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, a federal agency that serves railroad workers.

On Thursday — two days before Richards' 100th birthday — the retirement board showed its support in a different way. The agency awarded him a certificate of achievement for joining a special group of centenarians retired from or associated with the U.S. railroad industry.

"It's sort of overwhelming, really," Richards said of the distinction.

Robin Kleemann, a claims and program representative for the board, presented the certificate to Richards in the living room

of his Pleasant Street home. She said she's visited 10 other railroad pensioners and surviving spouses celebrating their 100th birthday this year.

"It's a wonderful achievement," she said. "It's something to be proud of."

Before the presentation, Richards recounted highlights from his 40-year career with the CB&Q. He said he climbed the promotional ladder, becoming a district store keeper based in Hannibal.

Richards then moved up the ranks on the purchasing side of the business, buying what the railroad required to function in the region. He said the company sent him all over the country to find the best suppliers.

"I just learned everything a railroad needed," he said.

In the 1960s, Richards took a top-level position and relocated to Chicago. He was also named chairman of a committee that oversaw the merger of the CB&Q's operations with those of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railroads in 1970. Richards retired five years later, resettling in Hannibal.

Though he's been away from the railroad



Robin Kleemann, claims and program representative for the U.S. Railroad Retirement board, right, presents Hannibal resident Bob Richards with a certificate of achievement for turning 100 this year. Richards, who is nearly blind, served in the railroad industry for 40 years before retiring in 1975. | H-W Photo/Alyse Thompson

for four decades, Richards said he enjoyed the time he served.

"I just loved the railroad and the challenge it gave (me)," he said.

## FIXING IT UP



Joel Hill with Supreme Electric Co. troubleshoots problems with light poles Tuesday near Washington Park in Quincy. Hill is checking the electrical wiring and replacing receptacles on several poles. | H-W Photo/Michael Kiple

## New president hopes to build on interfaith communication

**QUINCY AREA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION:** Chaplain at Good Samaritan Home elected to one-year term

By **STEVE EIGHINGER**  
Staff Writer | 217-221-3377  
seighinger@whig.com  
@StevieDirtWHIG

**QUINCY** — The new president of the Quincy Area Ministerial Association hopes to build on what his predecessor established.

The Rev. James Riley, who serves as chaplain at Good Samaritan Home, was recently elected to a one-year term as QAMA president.

His first action was to praise the work of the organization's outgoing president, the Rev. Ivan Greuter of Central Baptist Church in Quincy. "Ivan revived QAMA," Riley said. "He had a great vision."

Greuter helped promote dialogue and ecumenical cooperation among the city's faiths, helping to bring together a wide range of denominations that included Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic.

Greuter had served as president of the association since 2013, encouraging conversation and cooperation among the different church bodies through prayer and a variety of activities.

"The idea of interfaith

communication will continue to be the main focus of the group," Riley said.

Riley previously served as president of the Christian Ministers Fellowship, so he now holds the distinction of being president of both Quincy pastoral groups. He said there are several pastors who belong to both organizations, and he hopes to promote more conversation between the QAMA and the fellowship.

"I get something different out of each organization," Riley said.

Riley had served as a full-time pastor at Quincy Church of Christ before becoming chaplain at Good Samaritan Home a little more than five years ago. It

is a move he said has been rewarding.

"I feel this is what God has called me to do," Riley said. "I love coming to work every morning. I especially love interacting with the residents. The strength of many residents' faith has been an inspiration to me."

The Rev. Chuck Hetzler of First Union Congregation Church in Quincy is the new QAMA president-elect and will assume the presidency at the end of Riley's one-year term.



Riley

**Happy Birthday TOM!**

from your family and friends at **TOM GEISE PLUMBING**

www.geiseplumbing.com  
217-223-5437 | 1304 Cherry Lane, Quincy

**Good Samaritan Home**  
of Quincy, Illinois | (217) 223-8717

Looking for Your Friends?

**Where it's always great to be... home**

2130 Harrison Quincy, IL.  
www.gshq.com

**Hansen-Spear**  
FUNERAL HOME

**PRE-ARRANGED SERVICES**  
Peace of mind for you and your family

1535 State Street • Quincy, IL • 217-222-4907  
www.HansenSpear.com

Will Spear | Brian Durante

Don't just search for any job.  
Find one that's right for you!

whigjobs.com  
Seek. Find. Connect.

FREE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE HERALD-WHIG FOR ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS & ANNIVERSARIES!

milestones@whig.com  
or 217-221-3375

Restrictions may apply

By **JIM SALTER**  
Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS** — Missouri's attorney general proposed reforms Thursday to curb what he calls abusive debt collection practices that target low-income and minority residents, a concern raised by the commission that examined racial disparities following the 2014 fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson.

Attorney General Chris Koster said he sent a letter to the Missouri Supreme Court's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness requesting changes in court rules that he said would help prevent unscrupulous

collection practices.

"These proposed regulations would expose these types of debt-collection practices for what they truly are — unfair and deceptive," Koster said at a news conference in St. Louis. "The problem needs to be fixed."

The treatment of black and other minority residents in the St. Louis region has come under scrutiny in the 16 months since the fatal shooting of Brown, 18, who was black and unarmed. The white officer who shot Brown, Darren Wilson, was not charged, but the shooting led to an examination of the way the area's courts, police and others interact with minority residents.