



## **ADAIR COUNTY SB40 ANNOUNCES 2025 RAMON POLLARD MEMORIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO RECIPIENT RONNIE BEAN**

On Thursday evening, March 6<sup>th</sup>, Ronnie Bean received the 2025 Ramon Pollard Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award from Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board at the annual Spotlight Awards Banquet held at the Cornerstone Church in Kirksville. Missouri Representative Danny Busick and Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Cindy O’Laughlin’s Legislative Asst., Lois Bragg, attended the Annual Spotlight Awards Banquet and presented Ronnie with Resolutions from the Missouri House and Senate along with all 12 Spotlight Award Recipients.

Mike Hartman, Professional Manager with CVA/CHS, nominated Ronnie for this award, and shared, “The Ramon Pollard Award celebrates those that really have become an integral part within their community, tearing down barriers to a full life and striving to make all people feel valued and respected. Ronnie Bean represents the values of this award in all aspects of his life. It’s in his DNA.

Ronnie has persevered towards his goals since the moment he came to Kirksville. His journey has not always been easy. Ronnie would tell you, from the moment you met him, that he wanted to be on his own and not need staff support. Ronnie’s attempts to gain this independence would be described best by this Paula Abdul song lyric, “I take one step forward and two steps back, we fit together cause opposites attract.” At each step, whether going forward or back, he always continued to reach his goal. His idea of achieving this goal did not always line up with how the rest of his team thought it should go. There were always bumps in the road, but he persevered.

Ronnie literally doesn’t know a stranger. Almost everyone he encounters knows him. Whether that’s from one of many jobs he’s worked within the community, whether they were part of a program he may have been involved in or a previous staff member, everyone knows Ronnie Bean. Conversations usually start with, “How are you doing Ronnie?” and end with, “I can’t believe how well you’re doing now. You’re such a nice guy”. Truer words could never have been said. Ronnie truly is a nice guy. Ronnie thrives on being a helper and a protector. Whatever area he has lived in here in Kirksville, he is always thinking about his neighbors and how he can help them. From shoveling the sidewalk for a neighbor that he knows can’t do it themselves, to walking pets, lifting heavy things or simply bringing a smile to someone’s face, he wants everyone in his neighborhood to feel valued. These are qualities that I, and everyone, should strive toward daily. It is one of the many reasons I admire Ronnie.

Ronnie wants to make sure that people see him, not as someone with a disability, but as a caring, hardworking, valued individual. He works hard daily to build a feeling of community. When you're around him, you also feel like you're valued and seen. Ronnie more than deserves this award that is named after his friend, and it is my honor to nominate him."

Sean Jacob, Adair SB40 Executive Director, enthusiastically supported the nomination for Ronnie: "I'm so proud of Ronnie. He has worked so hard over many years. He has grown into a great communicator and strong self-advocate."

Andy Magruder, SB40 Service Coordinator added, "Ronnie's the epitome of a selfless individual who's always looking to help others. He's such a valuable member of his organization and always goes above and beyond with anything that's expected of him. He has numerous responsibilities at his job and has been employed at Centers for Human Services - Chariton Valley Association for many years. Ronnie continues to show that limitations don't define a person. His role is just as valuable as anyone else's, and he sets such a good example for others."

