

Jim Davidson
Distinguished Hoosier
Presented on August 11, 2007
2007 ASR Furfey Lecture,
Marriott Maquis, New York, NY

Jim, it is an honor to present to you, on behalf of Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, the Governor's *Distinguished Hoosier Award*.

Here's why Governor Daniels has chosen to honor Jim...

Jim received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame in 1969 and joined the faculty of Purdue University in 1968. Jim has served there as a Professor of Sociology since 1987 where he specializes in the Sociology of Religion. You may know Jim as the outgoing President of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. But you may not know that Jim was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Dayton in 2001. He was also a *Distinguished Service Award* winner from the North Central Sociological Association in 1989. Jim has dedicated his life to education, published extensively, has served his community and state in countless ways – and he even saw fit to pass me out of his Sociology of Religion course at Purdue in the fall of 1979!

So what exactly is a Hoosier? State Representative Luke Messer, a colleague of mine from Indianapolis puts it like this...

The word Hoosier is a mystery
No one knows where it comes from for sure
Some say it was a pioneer greeting
Others say someone once lost an ear
But whatever a Hoosier used to be
We all know what one is today
A Hoosier is someone with a warm and big heart
Who serves our state and its people in extraordinary ways!

As a *Distinguished Hoosier* Jim joins the ranks of other Indiana notables such as:

- Astronaut Gus Grissom
- Entertainers David Letterman, Cole Porter, James Dean and John Cougar Mellencamp
- Basketball legends Ocsar Robertson and Larry Byrd
- Yankees superstar Don Mattingly
- Poet James Whitcomb Riley
- Johnny Appleseed, Wilbur and Orville Wright, and Orville Redenbacher

Jim, it is my honor to present this award to you. And it is my great honor to present to each of you Indiana's newest "Distinguished Hoosier," Dr. James D. Davidson.