



LIVING LANDMARK AWARD 2013 **Gary Wink**

Gary Wink, a native of Iowa, graduated from Preston High School, attended Iowa State University, and then graduated from Northwest School of Hotel-Motel Management. He is a graduate of Professional Association Development for Chamber of Commerce Executives and several hospitality management training courses.

After completing over four years in the U.S. Air Force, Gary spent 25 years in hotel, motel and restaurant management. Over the past 21 years, Gary has served as President/CEO of two chambers of commerce, first in Roseville, MN and now here in Golden, CO.

In 1995 when Gary became the President/CEO of the Golden Chamber of Commerce it had 240 members. Under his leadership, the Chamber had grown to 506 members in 2012. Gary has been instrumental in providing programs and activities for members that support the Golden Chamber mission.

Of the many programs Gary has been involved in, the Golden Fine Arts Festival (GFAF) is one of the most nationally recognized. Ranked #50 by *Sunshine Artist Magazine*, the GFAF has grown from 20 artists in 1980 to over 140 artists. In 2012 reported sales of art from the artists reached over \$385,000.00

Gary also recognized a need and helped develop the Golden Farmers Market. Today it is considered one of the finest in the State of Colorado. Last summer vendors' sales were in excess of \$500,000. The Golden Farmers Market is the only market in Jefferson County to accept food stamps through the EBT program.

The Chamber's *Olde Golden Christmas* has become one of the premier holiday events in the Denver Metro area. The candlelight walk has had 40 successful years and the Saturday morning parades have enjoyed success the past 8 years. *Westword Magazine* rated this event one of the best Metro Denver Yule Tide activities.

Among Gary's many other accomplishments, is the receipt of the 2012 Governor's Award of "Downtowner of the Year" by Downtown Colorado Inc.