

PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

by Megan Trotter

COOKEVILLE -- Claude Douglas (Doug) Gentry will be the grand marshal in this year's Cookeville-Putnam County Christmas parade, to be held at 7 p.m. Monday in downtown Cookeville.



Gentry has served as the chairman of the parade for nearly 30 years. He is a familiar face on parade day, when he can be seen setting up parade entry line-up markers as early as 3 p.m., and working until 9 p.m. at the corner of 6th St. and North Washington Ave., where the parade ends. His has also been a monetary contributor to the event.

Gentry has been active with many community groups, including acting as the district fundraising chairman for the Boy Scouts, serving on the Business Foundation Board at Tennessee Tech University and working with the State to house a Career Center in Cookeville. He also served on the board of directors of the Tennessee Career Center, Tennessee Association of Business and was a member of Tennessee Tech's College of Business Foundation and City Scope Board.

He and his friends had an award-winning cooking team that not only participated in Cookeville Cook-Off, Cooking on the Square and other events, they also traveled to national cook-off events as well. He was also active with the Cookeville Police Department's Soap Box Derby.

He is a former musician who played the keyboard and base guitar for the bands TCT and Pour Souls at local venues and across the southeast.

Gentry is the son of Billie Jo Gentry and the late Claude Gentry, who owned Genco Stamping & Manufacturing, of which he was also former co-owner and president. In 2003, the family decided to honor their father's wishes and make the employees the owners of the business through an employee stock ownership plan.

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*See History, Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>