

BENNY BINION TO RECEIVE HUMANITARIAN AWARD



LAS VEGAS -- Benny Binion, owner since 1951 of The Horseshoe Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, will be guest of honor Dec. 18 at Las Vegas 1982 benefit dinner for the National Jewish Hospital/National Asthma Center (NJH/NAC).

His selection was announced by Mel Exber, president of the Las Vegas Club Hotel and Casino, who is serving as chairman of this year's benefit campaign for the Denver-based medical center that specializes in chronic respiratory, allergic and immune diseases. Exber is an NJH/NAC trustee.

The campaign will begin Nov. 4 with a noon luncheon at the Stadium Club of the Las Vegas Club Hotel and Casino and culminates with the \$150-a-person dinner in honor of Binion at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Binion will receive the NJH/NAC National Humanitarian Award, which is presented in Las Vegas and other cities to recognize persons who have demonstrated great humanitarian concern and outstanding community service.

Serving as honorary chairmen are Michael O'Callaghan of the Las Vegas Sun and Sen. Paul Laxalt. Benefit treasurer is Richard A. Etter of the Valley Bank of Nevada. Greetings book chairman is Steven Wynn of the Golden Nugget and NJH/NAC Trustee Henri Lewin of the Hilton Hotels Corp. is program chairman.

Proceeds from the dinner will help fund the patient-care, research, professional-training and education programs at NJH/NAC. These programs focus on the study and treatment of such diseases as asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, tuberculosis, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, occupational and environmental lung diseases, lupus, and immune-deficiency diseases.

The nonprofit, nonsectarian medical center provides care to children and adults from throughout the United States regardless of race, faith or financial circumstances. During the past two years, NJH/NAC has treated 11 Nevada residents from Boulder City, Carson City, Henderson, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Silver Peak. Since its founding in 1899, NJH/NAC has provided more than 13,000 days of care to Nevada residents.

NJH/NAC -- has developed a patient-care program for the chronically ill that is noted for its breadth and depth. In addition to specially trained nurses and physicians, members of a patient's treatment team may include psychologists, psychiatrists, occupational and recreational therapists, social workers, physical therapists, and teachers in the hospital's on-campus, accredited school. The team's goal is to return patients to near-normal lives despite their illnesses.

NJH/NAC also conducts extensive research into the origins and potential cures for the diseases it treats. Scientists are studying the mechanisms that may lead to many chronic lung diseases, and they are examining how lung cells react to a broad range of environmental and occupational irritants.

As a natural complement to lung research, NJH/NAC immunologists are probing the body's protective immune system to more fully understand how it works and why it sometimes doesn't work correctly or at all. They hope someday to learn to manipulate the immune system to better fight disease.

For additional information about the upcoming Las Vegas benefit, contact the dinner chairman, Mel Exber, telephone 385-1664.

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