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LOCAL BUSINESSMEN HONORED IN *INGRAM'S* **Cray, Ferrell, Braude named Kansas City Legends**

ATCHISON, Kan. (Feb. 10, 2009) — Every five years, Ingram's magazine, a nationally-renowned business publication in Kansas City, honors area businessmen and women as Kansas City Legends. Though Atchison may pale in size to most of the Kansas City-area communities, it more than makes up for it with the accomplishments of its business leaders.

Two local businessmen, Bud Cray and Jim Ferrell, are part of Ingram's third class of Legends. Another, Michael Braude, has strong ties to the Atchison community as a board member at MGP Ingredients, Inc.

"In each anniversary issue we take a long look at the region and how it has been blessed with great leaders," said Michelle Sweeney, senior vice president of Ingram's. So has Atchison.

Cray, who succeeded his father, Cloud L. Cray, Sr., was president of MGPI In 1962, has had a direct influence on the growth of the company. Once a company with annual sales of less than \$10 million, under Cray's leadership the company is now a state-of-the-art, multi-plant complex that generated more than \$392 million in sales this past fiscal year. Not only did Cray achieve success in the business world as the long-time chairman of the board and executive officer at MGPI, he used that position to have a major influence in the community.

Cray has served on the Board of Trustees of the Atchison Hospital Association and as a member of the Advisory Council of the University of Kansas Medical Center. In 1981, Cray and his wife, Sally, established the Cray Medical Research Foundation at the medical center. Funds from this foundation have supported a diabetic clinic and ongoing diabetic research.

He has also given much to educational and civic projects. He served on the USD 409 Board of Education and has been an active supporter of Benedictine College. Cray helped

raise funds for the restoration of the Santa Fe Depot in Atchison and has been a supporter of the Atchison County Historical Society and the Boy Scouts of America, just to name a few organizations.

Ingram's wrapped up its feature on Cray with a simple yet unique statement: "Ingram's extends its deepest gratitude to this generous man for his lifetime of dedicated community service."

Ferrell's feature began with an equally telling sentence: "Sometimes those who do the most for those around them somehow miss the spotlight."

Ferrell, chairman and CEO of Ferrellgas, has turned his company from a single location in Atchison into the largest propane retailer in the country, with more than 1 million customers in 45 states.

Like Cray, Ferrell also spent much of his energy on improving his community. In Atchison, Ferrell underwrote the renovation of Freshman Hall into the magnificent Ferrell Hall at Benedictine College. He has also given his time and money for improvements at Baker University and has received awards from William Jewell College and UMKC. Friends and business associates established the Jim Ferrell Scholarship Fund at the UMKC Block School to honor his business acumen and contributions to higher education.

Braude is a trustee of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System. He is a director of Kansas City Life Insurance Company, a director of Midwest Trust Company, Kansas City, Mo., and a director of Hodgdon Powder Company. Braude is a trustee of the World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas City. He is an honorary consul of Japan for Kansas City. Braude additionally is a director of the Jewish Community Foundation, a director of the Kansas City Board of Trade, and a trustee of the Midwest Research Institute in Kansas City.

The mission of the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce is to focus on the quality of life, attraction, growth and retention of jobs and businesses in Atchison County. Established in 1919, the Chamber continues to be the leading business organization of the community. With the support of over 400 member investors, the Chamber delivers programs and services that make our community a better place to live, work, raise a family and visit.

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For more information about the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce and its role in helping local business and workers, please call Jacque Pregont at 913-367-2427 or 800-234-1854, or e-mail Jacque at president@atchisonkansas.net.