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2021 FELLOWSHIP OPEN HONOREES ANNOUNCED

Green Bay Packers Super Bowl Champion LeRoy Butler and Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas President and CEO Charles R. Matthews to Receive 21st Annual Salute

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (April 1, 2021) – The Fellowship Open, Wisconsin’s premier corporate and community golf event, today announced the awards for its 21st annual tournament: two-time NFL Hall of Fame finalist, Super Bowl XXXI Green Bay Packers Champion, and inventor of the Lambeau Leap LeRoy Butler, and Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas President and CEO Charles R. Matthews. The Legends and Corporate Leadership Honorees for 2021 will formally receive their awards during Fellowship Open golf tournament weekend August 19-22, 2021 at Silver Spring Golf Club in Menomonee Falls.

Annually, the Fellowship Open acknowledges individuals who have had demonstrable positive impact in improving the lives of people in America, with specific focus on those who have created significant opportunities for youth. Past recipients include Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Oscar Robertson, Hank Aaron, Dan Bader, Commissioner Bud Selig, Vel Phillips, Frank Robinson, Wayne Embry, Senator Herb Kohl, Sidney Moncreif, Bobby Dandridge, Tommie Smith, Thelma Sias, Junior Bridgeman, and many others. The Fellowship Open is one of the nation’s premier community and youth empowerment events, attracting participants and support from more than 25 states.

About the Fellowship Open

The Fellowship Open was founded in 2000 by a group of corporate and community leaders to engage and inspire Milwaukee youngsters toward professional careers, and to foster support for diversity and inclusion in Wisconsin’s civic and business communities. The event’s list of honorary chairs includes Wisconsin’s most prominent professionals in business, government, and civic affairs. Each year, its ranks expand with individuals that bring outstanding attributes and commitment to the event. Over the past 20 years, the Fellowship Open has contributed more than \$3 million to programs and projects supporting over 100 youth-serving organizations and initiatives throughout Wisconsin.

“When Wisconsinites think about greatness, no one leaps to mind more than LeRoy Butler,” remarked Fellowship Open President John W. Daniels III. “While he is credited for creating the Lambeau Leap tradition, his legacy in service to youth and community as the Fellowship Open Legends Honoree will forever salute his loyalty and excellence off the field.”

About LeRoy Butler

Overcoming hardship and adversity has been the path by which LeRoy Butler has come to understand the need for giving back, especially to youth who are vulnerable, impressionable, and critically at-risk. Like many former Packers whose connection and commitment to the community runs deep in Wisconsin, LeRoy Butler has dedicated himself to being a part of the solution through efforts like his Butler versus Bullying initiative. The two-time NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame finalist, member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame 1990's All-Decade team, 4-time Associated Press All-Pro selection, and 4-time NFL Pro Bowl selection, labors in the tradition of Green Bay Packers and Fellowship Open Legends Willie Davis, and his good friend and championship teammate Dr. George Koonce. LeRoy Butler's impact on Milwaukee's social justice landscape is enduring and constant.

"After I had chosen to make Wisconsin my home forever, it was John Daniels and the Fellowship Open that gave me the opportunity and a partnership to give back to those who had done so much for me in my career," remarked Mr. Butler, 2021 finalist for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame and NFL Champion with the 1996 Green Bay Packers along with teammates George Koonce, Reggie White, and Brett Favre. "While I certainly appreciate this award personally, to me it is validation that what we're all trying to do to engage youth in Milwaukee is working through the Fellowship Open. I am humbled and grateful and will continue to support this great organization and its mission to empower community."

Leroy's personal story is rife with examples of overcoming adversity. From impoverished to empowered, even a wheelchair could not prevent this servant leader and elite athlete from a lifelong pursuit for access and inclusion. It has been his exemplary work ethic and unrelenting passion to move people to equity which drives this Super Bowl champion.

"The core leadership group from the '96 Super Bowl Champion Packers was led by LeRoy, Reggie White, and Brett Favre," noted John W. Daniels, Jr., Fellowship Open Founder and Chairman. "Leroy's nomination to join his teammates in the NFL Hall of Fame maybe testimony to his greatness as an athlete, but his enshrinement as the 2021 Fellowship Open Legends Honoree solidifies his legacy in service to the young people of Wisconsin. He will always be a champion to Milwaukee."

About Charles R. Matthews

Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas President and CEO Charles R. Matthews will be recognized as the 2021 Fellowship Open Corporate Leadership Honoree. Mr. Matthews oversees the strategic expansion, daily operations, and administrative functions of WEC Energy Group's two Illinois utilities, which collectively provide natural gas service to more than 1 million customers in the city of Chicago and 54 communities within the northern suburbs.

"Our work delivering safe, reliable energy to communities is accompanied by the equally vital tasks of creating jobs and developing education and workforce training opportunities for community members," remarked Mr. Matthews, whose career took him from Southern Company in Georgia, to Jamaica Public Service in Kingston, to WEC Energy Group here in Wisconsin. "I will use the Fellowship Open honor to advance that work, and our civic engagement and leadership overall. I am excited to join the class of Super Bowl Champion LeRoy Butler, and am extremely proud and humbled to receive this award."

The Fellowship Open golf tournament event is scheduled for Friday, August 20, 2021 at Silver Spring Golf Club in Menomonee Falls. All Wisconsin state mandates regarding social distancing and public health and safety will remain prioritized and will be strictly enforced. For more information visit www.fellowshipopen.org.

ADD PHOTOS