

Mike Smith

Mike Smith, former Executive Director of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission (IHRC), has been selected as the latest inductee for the Quarter Horse Association of Indiana Hall of Fame. During his tenure at the helm of the IHRC until 2019, he provided a different approach to regulating the industry while maintaining the highest level of integrity.

Mike was born and raised in Rensselaer, Ind. He graduated from Rensselaer Central Schools in 1971 and graduated from International College in 1973 with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. He also holds licenses, certificates and degrees in insurance, real estate brokerage and financial counseling.

Mike's government relations include more than five terms as a State Representative, two years serving as Assistant Caucus Chairman and four years as Republican Floor Leader, which is the number two Leadership position in the caucus. He was always a big supporter of legislation to protect the horse racing industry. Along with his work in the horse racing industry, he also held positions in the gaming business as Executive Director of the Casino Association of Indiana where he worked closely with the IGC and ATC on rules and standards for the industry.

Mike also served more than 12 years on the Problem Gaming Board and led the efforts to ensure viability for the Indiana Council on Problem Gaming and served as a liaison between the Indiana Gaming Commission and involved state agencies. He also organized recommendations for the final rule on the transfer of ownership of the tracks while doing what was best for the program.

Mike has been recognized for his hard work and dedication by receiving several outstanding awards including:

- Government Leader of the Year 1995, Indiana State Chamber of Commerce
- Champion of Small Business, Indiana Small Business Council
- Legislator of the Year 1995, Insurance Institute of Indiana
- Statesmanship Award, House Democratic Caucus, 2000
- Outstanding support of the Judiciary, Indiana Judges Association
- Defender of Freedom, National Rifle Association, 1996
- Sagamore of the Wabash, Governor O'Bannon, 2002
- Sagamore of the Wabash, Governor Pence, 2016
- Indiana Standardbred Association Pinnacle Award, 2018

Mike's hobbies outside of gaming and horse racing include flying, Martial Arts (Black Belt 2008) and spending time with his family and three grandchildren.