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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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Plant City YMCA to Honor George Banning with Strong Leader Award

Tampa, FL (May 30, 2014) –The [Plant City Family YMCA](#) is pleased to honor George Banning at its 12th annual Strong Leader Dinner. This year's honoree's contributions to the Plant City community echo the Y's commitment to strengthening the community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

After serving as a U.S. Air Force captain in the Vietnam War, Banning formed a real estate company, specializing in industrial and commercial real estate. In 1980, Banning partnered with Dave Thomas' daughter and son-in-law to develop new Wendy's restaurants in East Central Florida. In 1992, Banning and a friend bought Wendy's restaurants in Lakeland and Bartow, Florida.

Although Banning is active in the day-to-day operations of Wendy's, he finds time to volunteer and give back to the Plant City community. Banning has served on the Plant City Y's Board of Directors and currently sits on the United Food Bank of Plant City's Board of Directors. He has also served as president of the Plant City Daybreak Rotary Club and as the Rotary's West Central Florida district governor. His awards include the *Meritorious Award for Service* from the Rotary Foundation and the *Service Above Self Award* from Rotary International. Both are the highest awards presented by the Rotary. The Plant City Chamber of Commerce also honored Banning with the *Good Egg Award* in 2011. As a member of the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scouts of America's National Honor Society, Banning continues to assist with their fundraising efforts. When he's not busy with community service projects and running a successful company, Banning enjoys gardening, bicycling and travel.

WHAT: Strong Leader Award Dinner – Honoring George Banning

WHEN: Tuesday, August 26th
6:30pm - Cocktails
7:00pm - Dinner
8:00pm - Program

WHERE: [John R. Trinkle Center at HCC Campus Plant City](#)

SPONSORSHIPS & TICKETS: Table sponsorships are available for \$1,000 and include a table of eight. Individual tickets are \$75 per person. All proceeds benefit children and families in Plant City through YMCA programs and services. Your generous contribution provides kids with values-centered summer day camp, sports and swimming experiences to help them grow strong in spirit, mind and body.

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About the Plant City Y

The Plant City Y is committed to providing kids with the tools they need to be successful in school and life; preventing/reducing childhood obesity; providing cancer survivors and their families with a place to heal through the LIVESTRONG® program; ensuring active older adults maintain/improve physical and social health while aging; and preventing and reducing accidental death due to drowning by providing aquatic education and swim lessons. The Plant City Y values diversity and inclusion by being open and welcoming to all. www.tampaymca.org