



## THE FARMHOUSE FOUNDATION

*Building the Leaders of Tomorrow*

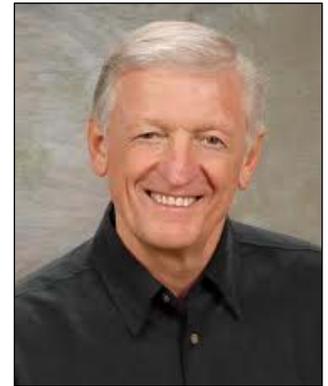
# Two Generous Alumni To Be Honored with the FarmHouse Foundation's Philanthropy Laureate Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Two alumni of FarmHouse Fraternity will be honored with the FarmHouse Foundation's Philanthropy Laureate Award, its most prestigious honor. **Michael Fayhee** (IL '67), the 2015 Philanthropy Laureate and **Lawrence "Sonny" Beck** (PU '59), 2016 Laureate, will be recognized during the Fraternity's 49<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conclave, August 3-6, 2016, in Denver, Colo.



**Michael Fayhee (IL '67)**



**Sonny Beck (PU '59)**

The Philanthropy Laureate Award was established in 1999 by the FarmHouse Foundation Board of Trustees.

This distinguished designation for outstanding philanthropic support is the highest honor bestowed by the Foundation. The recipient(s) must have exhibited great philanthropic intent throughout his/her life, be a member of the Fraternity, or have some connection with a FarmHouse brother, spouse, parent, relative, etc. Often the recipient is an individual who has made financial and service contributions of significant dimension to the Foundation, individual FarmHouse chapters and/or society. Recipients may be chosen annually, but are recognized at the Fraternity's biennial Conclave. Since its inception, only 18 men have been named a Foundation Philanthropy Laureate.

"Mike Fayhee and Sonny Beck are truly exemplars of the type of person the Foundation seeks to recognize through its Philanthropy Laureate Award," said Jim Tobin (IA '76), Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the FarmHouse Foundation, in announcing the recipients.

"We are grateful for and humbled by their continued generosity. Both are dedicated donors to the Foundation, as well as consummate volunteers in numerous capacities. Both of these men lend their time and talents with great integrity, innovation and a vision to build men. Their passion, commitment and philanthropy for FarmHouse is inspiring."

**Mike Fayhee (IL '67)** is a former member (2008-14) of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, providing outstanding leadership during his tenure. Mike helped develop the Foundation's Chapter Housing Loan Program and provided valuable counsel and legal advice to the Foundation Board and Staff. He has been a significant donor and supporter of *Live. Learn. Lead. – The Campaign for FarmHouse*, a past Power of 7 Seminar sponsor and mentor, and is a member of the Foundation's Century Club, for accumulative giving of \$100,000 to \$249,999. Professionally, Mike is a partner in the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery LLP, in the company's Chicago office. He is a member of the firm's executive committee and is also responsible for the firm's practice group in China. He focuses his practice on transactional matters, with an emphasis on mergers, acquisitions, joint ventures and the related financing required for such transactions. He is counsel to a number of agribusiness concerns. Mike is a frequent lecturer on tax matters and has taught in the master of tax program at John Marshall Law School. He is a member of the American, Illinois and Chicago Bar Associations. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1970 and earned his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1973. He and his wife, Jan, live in Kenilworth, Ill.

**Lawrence "Sonny" Beck (PU '59)** is a leader in FarmHouse, the agriculture industry and his community. He co-chaired the \$5 million campaign to build a house for the Purdue Chapter and provided the first \$1 million donation to a FarmHouse Foundation building fund for new chapter housing. Sonny attended and served as a mentor at two Power of 7 Seminars. In 2014, he received the Master Builder of Men Award, the highest honor bestowed by FarmHouse Fraternity, Inc. He is a member of the Order of the Crest, for accumulative giving of \$250,000 and above. Professionally, Sonny is the CEO of Beck's Superior Hybrids, a family business that is the sixth largest retail seed company in the United States. During his five decades of work with Beck's, Sonny has built a company culture that emphasizes quality, service and a farmer-first attitude. He founded Beck's Practical Farm Research Program, which conducts hundreds of field studies in order to assess how different farm management practices perform in different environments. The Beck Agricultural Center, located at the Purdue Agronomy Center for Research and Education, hosts a number of educational programs for farmers and agricultural businesses. Sonny has spent 20 years as a member of his community's school board and 10 years as the chair of his church's council. He was named the National Agri-Marketing Association Agribusiness leader of the year in 2014. He is the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Purdue University and serves on the University's Board of Trustees. Sonny lives in Atlanta, Ind., with his wife, Glendia. His three grown children are all involved in the family business and he has 13 grandchildren.

These two recipients will be honored on Saturday, August 6, at the Closing Banquet during the Fraternity's 49th Biennial Conclave, August 3-6, 2016, at the Marriott Tech Center Hotel in Denver, Colo. To learn more about Conclave, visit <http://www.farmhouse.org/conclave.htm> for event details and registration information.

The FarmHouse Foundation is a 501(c)3 public educational foundation supporting the educational and leadership programs of FarmHouse International Fraternity as well as providing scholarships to individual members for academic achievement. FarmHouse International Fraternity is a men's international agricultural-related fraternity founded in 1905 that seeks to build men intellectually, spiritually, socially, morally and physically. FarmHouse is located on 33 campuses throughout the United States and Canada, with over 1,700 undergraduates and 29,000 living alumni.

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