Ritchie, O’Sullivan honored for service 2010 Junior Achievement Hall Of Fame

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Buzz Ritchie (left), CEO of Gulf Coast Community Bank, and Mort O’Sullivan of O’Sullivan Creel CPA were feted June 30 in Gulf Breeze for their impact on the region.

Junior Achievement of Northwest Florida hosted its second annual Business Hall of Fame on June 30.

The event at Tiger Point Country Club in Gulf Breeze honored two deserving local businessmen – Buzz Ritchie and Mort O’Sullivan – for making major, positive impacts on the region through the private sector economy.

Laureate induction into the Junior Achievement of Northwest Florida’s Business Hall of Fame is a lifetime achievement award. This was the second year for the Hall to induct new members.

Ritchie, CEO of Gulf Coast Community Bank, received his Bachelors Degree in Accounting in 1969 and his Juris Doctor in 1972, both from the University of Florida. In 1994 he was named as a UWF Honorary Alumnus. He was the President of the Southern American Mortgage Co., and later Southern Home Savings Bank before serving as the District 3 Representative to the Florida House of Representatives for 10 years.

O’Sullivan, Managing Partner of O’Sullivan Creel CPA, attended Washington & Lee University and ultimately earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from the University of West Florida in 1973. He became licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in the state of Florida in 1975. He began his accounting career with the international accounting firm Touche Ross and Co. in Atlanta.

Both Ritchie and O’Sullivan served in many worthwhile local organizations and contributed much to the community. They have consistently demonstrated business excellence, a visionary nature, innovative leadership and strong community involvement throughout their professional lives.

Through these accomplishments, they serve as role models for the next generation of business leaders, many of whom are currently Junior Achievement students.