AGLIME SALES PRESIDENT, RAY BASSETT (BSBA ’51) RECEIVES LIFETIME AWARD

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WINTER HAVEN - The Winter Haven-based Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association has honored Aglime Sales President Ray Bassett with its highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bassett, 80, received the award during FFAA’s 77th annual meeting in July

The grandson of Bowling Green dirt farmers, Bassett graduated from the University of Florida and served as a captain in the Army Reserve on active duty during the Korean War. He returned to Polk County after the war, became an accountant with Bunting Tripp & Ingley in Lake Wales, married and became a citrus grower.

He joined the Florida agriculture chemical industry when he went to work for Dolime Minerals Co. in Bartow. He founded Aglime Sales in Babson Park 20 years ago in partnership with Emil Jahna and later the Jahna children. Today, Aglime Sales, Florida’s largest agricultural limestone company, is wholly owned by the Bassett family.

Throughout his career, Ray Bassett has been known for his kindness, integrity, professionalism and service to others, according to an FFAA news release. He was FFAA’s chairman of the board in 1996-97 and was a longtime member and president of the Bartow Rotary Club, where he was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Bassett was widowed and now is married to Karen, who he met at Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake Wales, where he served as treasurer. He was on the church vestry for 30-plus years and was a senior warden for a couple of terms after his tour as treasurer. He spent a good portion of his life at the Little League field as an administrator and was on the Little League board of directors for more than 20 years.

Between them, Ray and Karen have seven children. There are three daughters: Lee, married to Dan Helmick; Lynn, married to Al Holland; and Lou Bassett. And there are four sons: Evan, married to Nichole; and Ryan, Carson and Justin Bassett. These children have given the Bassett’s seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all living in Florida.

FFAA Chairman Gaylon Pfeiffer presented Bassett with the award.