

## 2011 Minnesota Grain & Feed Association Community Service Award Recipient Albert "Boots" Hoffman

Albert "Boots" Hoffman of rural Bellingham was selected to receive the 2011 MGFA Community Service Award at ceremonies held during the opening general session of the recent MGFA convention. In 2008, MGFA established the Kim Turner Memorial Community Service Award, to recognize a grain elevator or feed mill member for his or her strong leadership, dedication and commitment to the community in which they reside. Information on current and past recipients can be found on our website at [www.mgfa.org](http://www.mgfa.org).



Albert "Boots" Hoffman was born and raised in rural Bellingham. He has farmed in the area for nearly his entire life. He served 21 months in the U.S. Army and spent 14 of those months serving in the Korean Conflict. While serving in Korea, his battalion had the distinction of being the one that moved the farthest north of the 38th parallel during the war. On July 16, 1953, his battalion was on the front line attempting to stem the tide of a major enemy attack. After 4 days of intense fighting, the enemy pushed his battalion and the American line back to approximately the 38th parallel, which became the demilitarized zone on July 27th with the signing of the peace agreement. This harrowing experience was certainly a character builder and one he will never forget. He still keeps in touch with some of his buddies from the battalion to this day.

Boots has been married to Doris (or Dorie) for 56 years. They raised 4 boys and 3 girls on their rural Bellingham farm. His one son, Tom, died at age 41. They now have 9 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and more great-grandchildren on the way.



For those who know Boots, you know he loves to talk and his use of humor is legendary. To him, humor is an important ingredient, both at home and in the board room. It is his opinion that if you don't have a sense of humor, you shouldn't serve on a board.

Boots was very active in and around his Bellingham community. He has been an active member of the local American Legion and VFW for nearly 50 years. He served 27 years on the board of the Farmers Co-op Elevator Company of Bellingham, 15 years on the (state) Farmers Elevator Association of Minnesota board (now MGFA) and served as its President from 1992-1997. He has spent the last 24 years as a Lac Qui Parle County Commissioner, serving on numerous committees. He has been a member of the Agassiz & Odessa Mutual Insurance Company for 25 years and served as its Secretary for 15 years. His grandfather was a charter member of the company.

Boots also served on his township board and served as the community committee manager. He was a member of the Lac Qui Parle Fair Board, St. Joseph's Parish Council and St. Joseph's church choir. He will be the first one to tell you that without the support of his wife Dorie, a lot of this would not have been possible.

Boots finally retired from his career as county commissioner in 2010 but certainly not from life and not from the active role he continues to play in and around his community. It is for these reasons that the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association honors Albert "Boots" Hoffman as the 2011 recipient of the MGFA Community Service Award. Congratulations Boots!