

2026 GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
HEISE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT AWARD
GUIDELINES & NOMINATION FORM

Standards For This Prestigious Award:

- 1) Open to business owners including partners/families that originated, developed, and/or significantly expanded business
- 2) Willingness to take risks with possibility of losing all
- 3) Involved in the community
- 4) High ethical standards
- 5) Nominee must be a member of the Chamber of Commerce
- 6) Demonstrated leadership (through one or more of the following)
 - By overcoming a formidable problem that threatened the business's existence
 - By showing business acumen through embarking on a creative, insightful or overlooked opportunity that makes important contributions to Garrett County's business environment
 - Through substantive community impact

The winner will be announced at the Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner on June 4, 2026. Past honorees include Jonathan "Smiley" Kessler, Bill Sisler, Olen Beitzel, Johnny Marple, Jim Flanigan, Sr., Will and Sharon Roszell, Barry Rush, Rob Michael, Dave and Mimi Demaree, Brenda McDonnell, Bill Meagher, Michael Deligatti, Sr., Jan Russell, Frank Vitez, Judy Devlin, Skip & Linda Carr, Brian Branthoover, Rob Heilig, Nancy Railey, Tom & Sara Jane Kuhn, Hugh Umbel, Steve Green, Jodi & Joe Refosco and Chad Taylor, Bill Weissgerber, Tim Bender, Karen Myers, and Kate Collins.

**Send Nominations to the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce,
15 Visitors Center Drive, McHenry, MD 21541
Or nick@garrettchamber.com**

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER MARCH 6, 2026 @ 5:00 PM

Nominators and Nominees Must Be a Member of the Garrett County Chamber

Nominee _____ Business _____

Your Name _____ Business _____

Please include at least 250 words supporting your nomination (how and when the business was started, some of the more difficult challenges and some of the successes they are enjoying today, community involvement, etc.)

IF A DESCRIPTION IS NOT PROVIDED, THE NOMINATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.