



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

9TH ANNUAL T.J. MARTELL FOUNDATION NASHVILLE HONORS  
GALA TO SALUTE OUTSTANDING LEADERS ON FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Honorees Include Janet Miller, Louis Messina, Rod Essig,  
Dr. Joseph Smith and Scott Hamilton

***One of Nashville's most prestigious events generates unprecedented cancer  
research funds led by a volunteer board of directors***

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (October 24, 2016) – The T.J. Martell Foundation for leukemia, cancer and AIDS research will honor the following community leaders at the 9th Annual T.J. Martell Foundation Nashville Honors Gala at the Omni Hotel on Monday, February 27, 2017.

Janet Miller – Spirit of Nashville Award

Louis Messina – Tony Martell Lifetime Entertainment Achievement Award

Rod Essig – Frances Preston Outstanding Music Industry Achievement Award

Dr. Joseph Smith – Medical Research Advancement Award

Scott Hamilton – Lifetime Humanitarian Award

The 9th Annual T.J. Martell Nashville Honors Gala is co-chaired by Ali Harnell and Danielle Bouharoun. The event has netted more than \$3 million since its inception in 2009.

Table sponsorships and tickets are available by contacting (615) 256-2002 or

emailing [tmoffat@tjmartell.org](mailto:tmoffat@tjmartell.org). Visit [www.tjmartell.org](http://www.tjmartell.org) for more information.

About the T.J. Martell Foundation:

The T.J. Martell Foundation is a national organization founded by the music industry, whose mission is to fund innovative leukemia, cancer and AIDS research at flagship hospitals in the United States including the Frances Williams Preston Laboratories at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. To learn more about the T.J. Martell Foundation please visit [www.tjmartell.org](http://www.tjmartell.org).

About the Honorees:

#### Janet Miller – Spirit of Nashville Award

**Janet Miller has been a key player in Nashville's development community for over 30** years. She joined Colliers Nashville as CEO and Market Leader in September of 2014, following 21 years of service as the Chief Economic Development Officer for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Miller led a team that was named a top ten economic development group in America for 4 of the last 5 years of her tenure and successfully worked with over 400 corporations on major job-creation projects including Asurion, HCA, Beretta, Mars Pet Care, Nissan, Bridgestone, Dell Inc., BNY Mellon, UBS and numerous others. At Colliers, Miller is responsible for talent development, business and brand development and all operations for the Colliers Nashville office.

Janet has been an extremely active member of the Nashville community. Outside of her extensive involvement with the International Economic Development Council and other industry groups, Janet is a proud supporter of the YWCA, Friends of Radnor **Lake and the Tennessee Women's Forum. Janet is also a highly sought-after** lecturer and has spoken on economic development in university classes around the country.

#### Louis Messina – Tony Martell Lifetime Entertainment Achievement Award

Louis Messina, CEO of Messina Touring Group, promotes the tours of heavy-hitters such as Kenny Chesney, Eric Church, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill (Soul2Soul), Shawn Mendes, Jake Owen, Ed Sheeran, George Strait, and Taylor Swift. Over his forty year career he has worked with a variety of acts in different music genres like the Dixie Chicks, Led Zeppelin, and Metallica. In 1975, Messina co-founded PACE Concerts in Houston. As the company evolved from PACE Concerts to SFX on to Clear Channel **Entertainment, Messina established himself as one of the country's preeminent** promoters. In 2001 he started his own company and began his partnership with AEG

Live.

He is known for special events such as Strait's final sellout show at ATT Stadium *The Cowboy Rides Away* with over 104,000 tickets sold and Swift's recent record-breaking sold out concerts at the Staples Center during her *1989 World Tour*. Messina has received numerous "Promoter of the Year" awards and has been listed as one of *Billboard Magazine's* Power 100 and *Billboard's* Nashville Top 50 Power Players.

Rod Essig – Frances Preston Outstanding Music Industry Achievement Award

Rod Essig is a Music Agent at Creative Artists Agency (CAA), the world's leading entertainment and sports agency. Essig co-heads the Nashville office and represents some of the world's top musicians, including Heart, Joan Jett and The Blackhearts, Martina McBride, Ashley Monroe, REO Speedwagon, Styx, and Tim McGraw, among others. He was also instrumental in building the Los Angeles-based operation into one of Music City's most formidable agencies.

In 2008, Essig served as Chairman of the Academy of Country Music, and currently serves on the board of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Lifting Lives, Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, MusiCares, Tennessee Film Commission, and Tennessee Performing Arts Center Board. He is a 1997 graduate of Leadership Music and a 2016 graduate of Leadership Nashville. Essig is actively involved with a number of philanthropic organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, PENCIL Foundation, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the T.J. Martell Foundation.

Dr. Joseph Smith – Medical Research Advancement Award

One of the top urologic surgeons in the world, Dr. Joseph Smith has grown Vanderbilt's Department of Urologic Surgery to include 36 faculty members with an international reputation for success. Jay's accomplishments as the leader of his department and steadfast commitment to patient care are legendary, and his numerous contributions advancing the treatment of prostate disease benefit patients worldwide.

Smith performed Vanderbilt's first robotic surgery in 2003 and has completed more than 5,000 prostatectomies since that time. With Smith, the Medical Center has established itself as a leader in robotic surgery and indications have extended in urology to radical cystectomy, partial nephrectomy and bladder suspension. Smith is editor of the most widely used urologic surgical text, an associate editor of the Journal of Urology, and has a major interest in global health, traveling to Africa several times a

year to help develop surgical training programs.

### Scott Hamilton – Lifetime Humanitarian Award

Scott is an Olympic gold medalist and internationally acknowledged authority on figure skating and is a figure skating analyst for NBC. He is also an actor, New York Times **bestselling author and popular guest on national news shows like NBC's Today**, and entertainment news programs such as Access Hollywood, Inside Edition, Extra!, E! Entertainment Television, the TV Guide Channel, and Entertainment Tonight.

After surviving his own battle with testicular cancer, Scott launched the Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation (Cancer Alliance for Research, Education and Survivorship) with a mission to improve cancer patient survivorship by supporting world class cancer research and the highest quality patient treatment and care. He also founded a patient mentoring program, The 4th Angel Mentoring Program, and he will soon break ground on the Scott Hamilton Proton Therapy Center outside of Nashville. Scott serves on the **Board of Directors for Special Olympics International, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt and Provision Center for Proton Therapy**. He founded the Scott Hamilton Skating Academy in partnership with the Nashville Predators and continues to coach figure skating and inspire his students with his passion for the sport and the Nashville community.

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