Outgoing president honors key contributors

BY CURT KIPP

At the convention, outgoing OAN President Patrick Newton (**Powell's Nursery**, Gaston, Oregon) presented the traditional President's Five Star Performance Awards for key contributions to his year as president. They went to his parents, **Mike and JoEllen Newton**; his brother, **Brian Newton**; his wife, **Jamie Newton;** OAN Director of Marketing and Member Services **Beth Farmer**; and OAN Executive Director **Jeff Stone**.

The outgoing president thanked Mike and JoEllen Newton for inspiring Newton and setting an example has followed in life. His father passed away several years ago, but his mother was present for the banquet along with several family members. "[My parents] mean the world to me," he said. "I wouldn't be here and wouldn't have gotten through this year without them. I talk to my dad every week."

He thanked Farmer for making his goal of visiting 50 nurseries during his year as president a reality, scheduling and coordinating all of the visits. "I could never have pulled that off without you," he said.

He thanked his brother, Brian, for helping him write his presidential columns in *Digger* magazine. He mentioned that "I said I'll give you a bottle of whiskey a month if you help me write 12 columns," and still owes him a few of the bottles.

He thanked Stone for introducing him to everyone in the room individually the first time he came to an Oregon Association of Nurseries meeting, then later helping him get involved with OAN advocacy efforts, which he has found immensely rewarding. "The advocacy thing is so cool," he said. "It's the best thing that's ever happened to me."

He thanked his wife, Jaime, for providing the love, encouragement and support throughout his year as president and allowing him to contribute extra time without raising any objections. "I love you," he said.

The association recognized and thanked Newton for his year of service.

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