

### **Dr. Thomas R. (Ric) Best - 2011**



**Dr. Ric Best** has served instrumental music for 41 years with the Cocke County, TN schools, the Lenoir City Schools and the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. At Lenoir City his concert bands performed in Grade VI from 1973 until 1998 and the marching band enjoyed several undefeated contest seasons. At the University of Tennessee Chattanooga he was assistant director of bands under Professor Emeritus Anthony J. D'Andrea and taught a variety of wind band repertoire and methods courses and was director of

the Moc pep bands. He holds a doctorate in music education and curriculum and instruction from U.T. Knoxville where he studied conducting with Dr. W. J. Julian. He has been conductor of the ETCB since 2001 and under his direction the group has doubled its membership and received numerous awards of excellence including the Sudler Silver Scroll Award for adult bands. The ETCB has performed for the Lord Mayor's Court in London, England, in Carnegie Hall, New York City, the National Sousa Foundation Community Band Festival in Washington D.C., and performs approximately twelve concerts yearly at a variety of venues in East Tennessee. Dr. Best served 14 years on the Tennessee Music Educator's Association board of directors and was president of the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, the Tennessee Secondary Schools Band Director's Association and the Tennessee Eta chapter of the Phi Beta Mu honorary bandmaster's fraternity. Ric has served as an adjudicator and guest clinician in 23 states, and has published several articles on developing excellence with the high school wind band.

Dr. Best is also a Sudler Laureate as a member of the Sousa Foundation's Legion of Honor designated for significant contributions and dedication to bands and band music. He is a member of the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Hall of Fame, the Lenoir City High School Sports Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Bandmaster's Hall of Fame and was awarded the Tennessee Outstanding Achievement Award by Governor Lamar Alexander. He holds citations of excellence from the NBA and the MENC and has on three occasions been honored by proclamation from the Tennessee General Assembly. Dr. Best also serves as a representative for the National Assessment of Educational Progress and is a member of the Loudon County Board of Education.