

# ST. CLAIR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark A. Kern

## ADC Community Leadership Award

- In 2011 Mark spearheaded the County's enactment of the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Ordinance in cooperation with the communities surrounding Scott AFB (Lebanon, Shiloh, Mascoutah, and O'Fallon). The County/Airport owns approx. 6,000 acres surrounding Scott AFB on three sides. The #1 criteria cited in previous BRAC (base closure) rounds is encroachment and our land ownership plus the JLUS help to avoid encroachment. Mark and his County Director of Zoning Anne Markezich take the lead on this.
- In 2014 Mark created the new County position of Director of Military Affairs and he hired retired BG John Hughes for that position.
- In 2015 Mark created and sponsored the St. Clair County Armed Forces Ball which raised \$40,000 in the first three years with those funds being donated to various MWR activities on Base. The Ball is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Ball is May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Starting originally in 2015 Mark supported our workforce development staff led by Rick Stubblefield from the County Grants Department being present every other Friday at the Airman and Family Readiness Center (AFRC) at Scott AFB where we meet with exiting Airmen going through the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). Mark's goal is to retain that talent in our area.
- In 2016 Mark renegotiated a new Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force that benefits both Scott and MidAmerica Airport. We view the JUA as an original "community partnership".
- His longtime Belle-Scott Committee involvement, especially during his 7 years as Mayor of Belleville.
- The County spent \$5.75 million on engineering and design for the I-64/Rieder Road (Exit 21) interchange and Mark has positioned the County land as a site(s) for possible future MILCON activities and other compatible defense or distribution uses, if needed.
- Ongoing work to continue his predecessors' efforts that included County funds that paid for, in whole or in part, razing the old Wherry Housing and building 1,000 new housing units at Patriot's Landing, building the new Scott School, building a new BX gas station, extending the military runway under the original JUA, building a new air traffic control tower, building a new MWR Center, among other activities.