By SAM HATCHER

Members of the local bar association are honoring Lebanon attorney Comer L. Donnell today as part of an ongoing series to recognize senior members of the legal profession.

Mr. Donnell, who has served as public defender for the 15th Judicial District since 1989, the year the position was created, is most deserving of this recognition.

He is a credit to the legal profession and, as important, he is a credit to our community.

He is active in his church, supportive of charitable causes, and committed to making his home community a better place to live.

Physically a very large man, Mr. Donnell walks through the courthouses in the five counties comprising the 15th Judicial District like a gentle giant.

His job is not an easy one.

He oversees an office that is assigned to represent those who cannot financially afford to represent themselves in criminal cases.

Many times the clientele he and the attorneys in his office represent are not of the highest caliber. They are charged with crimes ranging from drug possession to murder. Some are guilty as charged and others are innocent.

But nonetheless Mr. Donnell insists that all are due their day in court.

That all are innocent until proven guilty.

And that all will be treated fairly and given the same class of defense regardless of their personal appearance, past record or current situation in life.

For some 23 years he has served as public defender.

And for this entire period he has been a credit to this office and to his profession.

Congratulations Comer Donnell on this well-deserved honor.