



Famous from 417



IMAGINE—YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS. CELEBRITY MEGA-WATTAGE.

Media spotlights everywhere. You and I may not be famous, but plenty of people from our region definitely are. Some are superstars and household names, big figures in the worlds of Hollywood or national politics. Others are well-known people of influence who may surprise you. In the course of interviewing them for this feature, our writers discovered that they almost all share a great fondness for 417-land, their home. Though many have pursued dazzling careers in American power centers like New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., they remain close to their Ozarks backgrounds, not forgetting the people, the places and everything pristine about 417-land. Some have even set up their second or third homes here, reconnecting with their families and their roots. Fame may seduce people to leave this area for glory and grandeur—but once from 417-land, always from 417-land.

—Reported by Randy Berger, Chris DeRosier, Carolyn Elder and Gregory Holman