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## **TURKEY TIME BRINGS ROAST OF LOCAL BUSINESSMAN - 11/11/2003**

COLUMBIA, Mo. – At this time of year, smart turkeys may try to run, but they can't hide. Likewise, local REALTORS® in Columbia will roast their own "turkey" later this week.

The Columbia Board of REALTORS® hosts a roast of Ralph Gates, president of Mid America Mortgage, at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at the Blue Note.

An affiliate member of the CBOR, Gates founded Mid America Mortgage Services Inc. in 1984 in Columbia. Since then, the company has grown to seven offices in two states.

An avid outdoorsman, Gates is reputed to have a stuffed skunk and a suggestion box shaped like a hand grenade in his office. Fellow CBOR members say he is a good candidate to be mocked and ridiculed by other prominent local citizens, such as Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Kevin Crane.

"Ralph Gates has been around a long time and is well known in the community; he's a colorful guy who enjoys kidding around and giving people grief," said Brent Gardner, fellow CBOR member. "He is a good sport, who can take a joke, and we will have a good time making fun of him."

Tickets are \$15 and will be sold at the door, which will open about 6:30 p.m. Advance tickets can be obtained at the Columbia Board of REALTORS®. Proceeds from the event will go to RPAC, the National Association of REALTORS® Political Action Committee.

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