



AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY *HALL* **FAME**

WEST VIRGINIA | 2025

Jim grew up in St. Albans and went to WVU, but the Vietnam War cut his studies short. He served in the U.S. Army, receiving a National Defense Service Medal and a Vietnam Service Medal with four

JAMES R. HAYS
UPSHUR COUNTY

Bronze Stars. After his service, he finished his degree and began working for the WV Division of Forestry (WVDF) as a Forestry Aide, Service Forester, State Lands Management Forester, and District 3 Forester. Jim retired from the WVDF in 2005 and began working as a private consultant for Sentinal Forestry Service. His colleagues say his work ethic and dedication to sustainable forest management are second to none.