

# DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY REPORT



*26th Annual*  
**RUSSELL H. PERRY**  
**FREE ENTERPRISE AWARD DINNER**  
*honors* **BOB BUFORD**

*From left to right: Charlie Frazier (dinner chair), Bob Buford (honoree), Boone Powell (honorary dinner chair), and Ron Harris (dinner emcee).*



# RUSSELL H. PERRY

## Free Enterprise Award Dinner

**D**allas Baptist University honored Bob Buford as the recipient of the 2013 Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award during the annual award dinner held on Monday, November 25, at the Anatole Hotel in Dallas. More than 1,200 individuals filled the Chantilly Ballroom for the gala dinner, which raised scholarship funds for DBU students.

Buford, known nation-wide for his book, *Halftime*, has impacted thousands of individuals and business leaders who seek to make their lives count for lasting Kingdom causes.

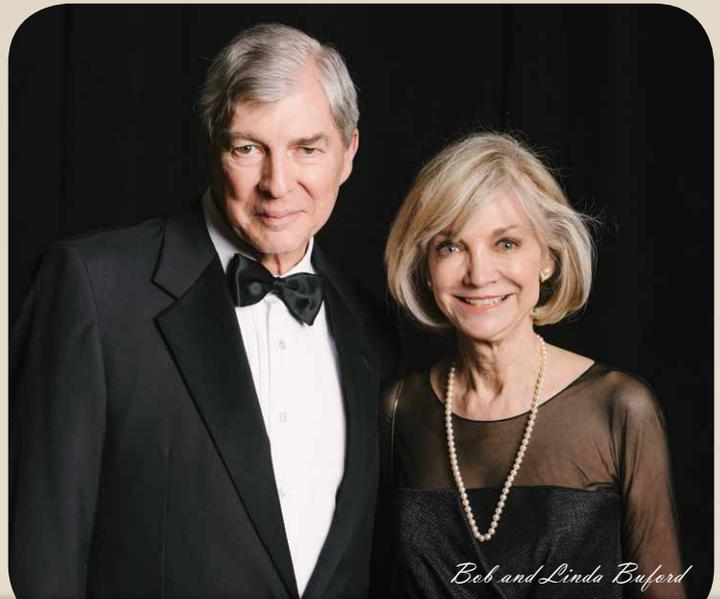
Until the sale of his company in July 1999, he served as chairman of the board and CEO of Buford Television, Inc., a family-owned business that started with a single ABC affiliate in Tyler, Texas, and grew to a network of cable systems across the country. In 1984, he began the Leadership Network to serve as a resource broker that supplies information to and connects leaders of innovative churches.

Several years later, in 1995, he wrote *Halftime*, a book that came from his heart and mind on how to find meaning and fulfillment in the second half of life. After the success of his book, Buford began the Halftime ministry, an organization dedicated to helping individuals enter the second half of their lives focused on joy, impact, and balance by converting their faith into action and effective results.

During the ceremony, retired US Navy Rear Admiral Ed Allen, a longtime friend of Bob Buford, made a presentation to Buford of a mounted catapult mechanism that is used to catapult fighter jets from aircraft carriers into the sky. The presentation represented Buford's contribution to propelling others into God's work, as Allen explained that Buford served as "a catapult for the Kingdom resulting in lives well lived."

Having flown in countless missions and experienced more than 1,200 catapult launches off 10 different aircraft carriers, Admiral Allen explained, "The one catapult that I have been given from Bob Buford is more significant than all of the other catapults put together. Bob, I salute you, and I thank you, sir."

Among the many tributes to Buford's life, Steve Stroope, lead pastor at Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall, described his unique leadership ability, saying, "Bob looks out into the distance to see what can be, but more than even being a visionary, he also has the tenacity and he has the skill and ability to make that vision become a reality."

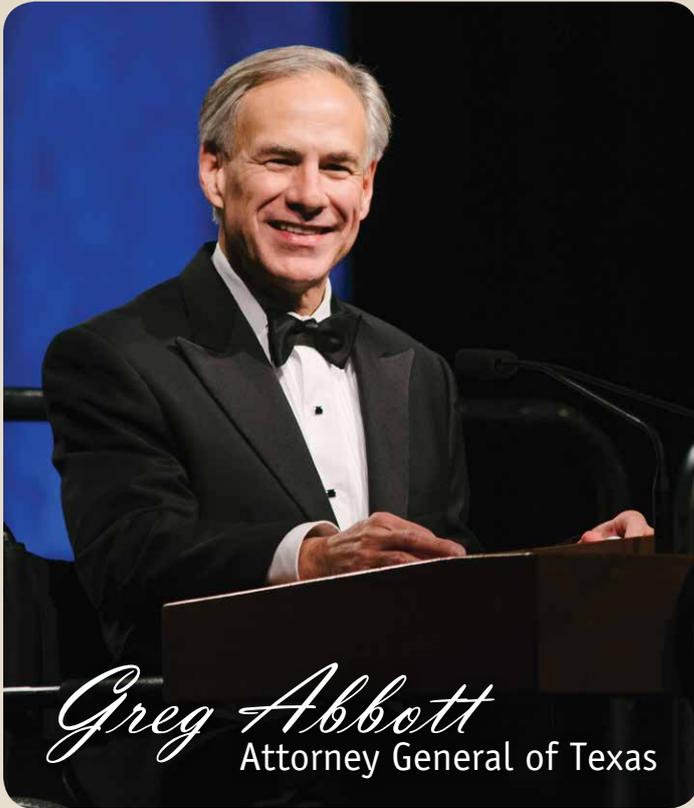


*Bob and Linda Buford*

## HONORS BOB BUFORD

In accepting the Russell Perry Award, Buford reminded the audience of the foundational verse for his Halftime ministry, Ephesians 2:10. Christians, he suggested, often focus on verses 8 and 9, which describe the basis of faith—the gift of God received by grace through faith—yet they forget the reason why they are saved: to do good works which God prepared in advance for those who believe. Through his work with Halftime and Leadership Network, he seeks to encourage church and business leaders to discover the good works which God has for them to do and then accomplish them for the glory of God.





*Greg Abbott*  
Attorney General of Texas

**T**exas Attorney General Greg Abbott was the keynote speaker for the Russell Perry Dinner. Abbott has served as the Attorney General for the State of Texas for three consecutive terms since his election in 2002. Prior to that, he was appointed to the Texas Supreme Court by then-Governor George W. Bush, and remained on the court until he became Attorney General. He also served as a State District Judge in Harris County.

A native of Duncanville, Attorney General Abbott literally grew up in the shadows of DBU and remarked how impressed he has been with the growth of the school and its reputation throughout the state of Texas.

Speaking about the leadership of Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president for 25 years, Abbott stated, "What I admire most about Dr. Cook is that he has inspired thousands of men and women to do more than just learn in the classroom, but to also be developed spiritually and to also follow his example of perseverance and prayer and overcoming life's challenges."

During his speech, Abbott reflected

on many of his personal heroes who have been involved with the Russell Perry Award through the years, including past recipients Bo Pilgrim, Ken Cooper, Ebby Halliday Acers, and Tom Landry. He also reflected on the courage that it takes for individuals to strive to follow God's call in our lives to make the world a better place for generations to come. Here are some excerpts from his speech:

*...God acts through all of us, whether it be through sports or business or healthcare or even in public life.*

*We all have those opportunities when we have that intersection of working in parallel with what God is calling us for.*

*This heritage traces to our country's very beginnings. In 1789, a Thanksgiving proclamation was issued by President George Washington, and as we celebrate this Thanksgiving 224 years later, his words still resonate profoundly. He wrote, "Americans must acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, obey His will, and be grateful for His benefits that include the tranquility, the union, and the plenty we have; the civil and religious liberty with which we have been blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing knowledge."*

*Since that time, no country in this world, and no state in this country, has been blessed as much as the United States of America or the great state of Texas, and no state has benefited as much from the free enterprise system as the state of Texas...*

*...As Americans and as Texans, we are truly blessed. But it is not the riches of our land, it is not the fertile soil beneath us, or even the oil and gas*

*beneath that soil that makes Texas great. Instead, it is our people—people who don't look for government to solve all of the problems in their lives, but instead, they look to themselves, to their families, to their communities, and to their faith.*

*As I have traveled Texas as your Attorney General, I've seen neighbors helping neighbors respond to tragedies like the explosion that happened in West, Texas; to things like what is going on in Dallas County right now where there are efforts underway to reclaim crime-ridden inner-city enclaves, and rebuilding families that are torn apart by pain. That is the spirit of America, and that is the spirit in this room tonight. In America, we serve each other. We celebrate community service and the fruits of the American free enterprise system.*

*The truth of the matter is each of us has our own gifts from God. Each person, regardless of the talent that has been given by God, has our own unique role to play using the benefits that God has given us. If you go back to earlier in the presentation tonight and you can recall the first film that we saw on the screen, it made reference to Jeremiah where it said, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "and then it goes on to say, "plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

*By accepting this embrace from God, and by accepting the opportunity that is given to each of us in our daily lives, we are heeding God's call to make a difference in this world. You all are doing just that.*

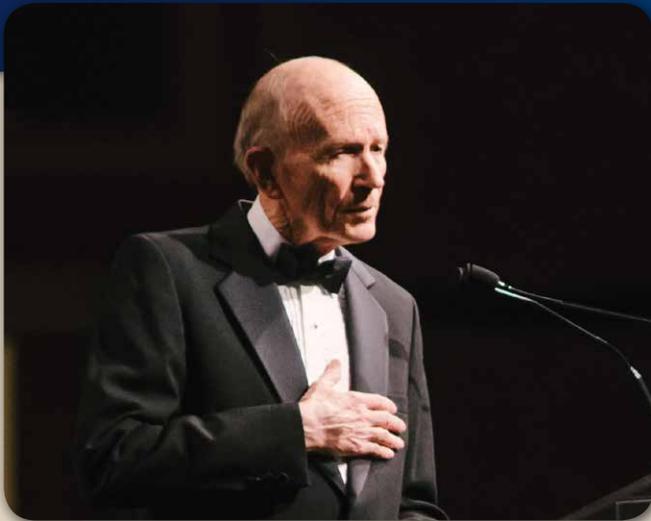
*So in this season of Thanksgiving, I pray that all of us are blessed with the wisdom to recognize the opportunities that we have to answer God's call and the courage to respond to those opportunities as faithful stewards of the gifts that God has granted.*

*May God bless you all this Thanksgiving, may God reside in your lives and be fruitful, and may God continue to bless the great state of Texas.*



# RUSSELL H. PERRY

## Free Enterprise Award Dinner



Former Russell Perry Award recipient Dr. Kenneth Cooper leads the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the dinner.



Dr. Robert Jeffress (center right), pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, along with his wife, Amy, and their daughter Julia and her husband Ryan Sadler, both DBU alumni.



Scott Turner, who serves as the Texas State Representative for District 33, provided the opening invocation for the dinner.



John Clem, DBU director of development, and his wife, Carole. Mr. Clem has planned and organized each of the past 26 Russell Perry Dinners.

Dallas Baptist University named Bob Buford as the recipient of the 2013 Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award during the annual dinner held on November 25 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. Boone Powell, retired president of Baylor Health Care System, served as the honorary chair for the dinner, and Charlie Frazier, DBU trustee and Partner, Alexander Dubose & Townsend LLP, served as the dinner chair. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott was the keynote speaker for the evening.

Ron Harris, senior vice president for Strategic Partnerships for National Religious Broadcasters, a DBU trustee, and a DBU adjunct professor of communication, was the evening's emcee.

Established in 1988, the 26th annual gala event strives to recognize and honor Texas leaders who use their God-given talents and abilities to make the most of opportunities created for them by the free enterprise system. The event is named in memory of Dallas leader and philanthropist Mr. Russell H. Perry, whose life of service to Dallas impacted

the lives of many. Mrs. Russell H. (Phoebe) Perry continues to remain a friend of Dallas Baptist University. She and her late husband began their support of DBU in the 1960s.

Since its inception, the dinner has raised more than \$4 million in scholarship funds for over 1,800 students. As emcee, Harris began the program by thanking those in attendance for their support of DBU, specifically on behalf of the students who are directly impacted by the scholarship funds raised through this event.

Dr. Kenneth Cooper, founder and chairman of Cooper Aerobics, led the Pledge of Allegiance. It was followed by the DBU Grand Chorus leading the National Anthem with DBU student Summer Coleman as the featured soloist. The Grand Chorus was under the direction of Dr. Stephen Holcomb, director of choral activities and professor of music, for the evening. Scott Turner, Texas State Representative for the 33rd District, then offered the invocation. Dinner music was provided by Sue Mitz, longtime DBU professor of

## 2013 DINNER COMMITTEE

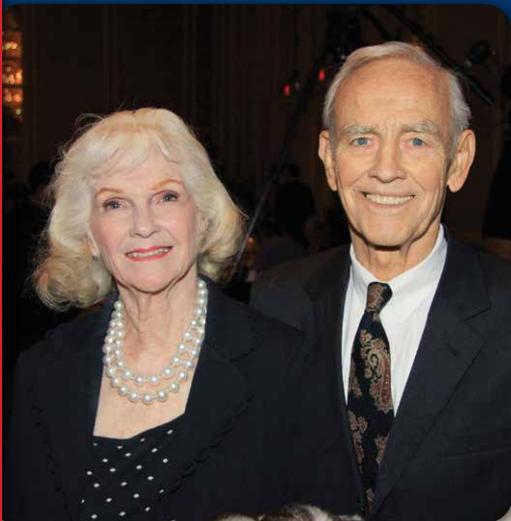
Boone Powell, Honorary Chair

Charlie Frazier, Chair

Mike Arnold  
 Miles Arnold  
 C.T. "Sparkey" Beckham  
 Oswin Chrisman  
 Brent Christopher  
 John Clem  
 David Cook  
 Gary Cook  
 Millie Cooper  
 David Dean  
 James Denison  
 Barry Fanning  
 Michael Griffin  
 Donald Hodges  
 Phil King  
 Justin Lonon  
 Ann Quest  
 George Shafer  
 Forrest Smith  
 Erik Thornton  
 Betty Turner  
 Julie Turner  
 David B. Walls

## PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2012 Vester Hughes  
 2011 Norm Miller  
 2010 Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.  
 2009 Tom Leppert  
 2008 Drayton McLane, Jr.  
 2007 Andy and Joan Horner  
 2006 David A. Dean  
 2005 Pete Schenkel  
 2004 Noble Hurley  
 (posthumously)  
 2003 The Weir Furniture Family  
 2002 George A. Shafer  
 2001 Mary C. Crowley  
 (posthumously)  
 2000 Erle Nye  
 1999 Ross Perot, Jr.  
 1998 Jim L. Turner  
 1997 Rodger Meier  
 1996 W. Forrest Smith  
 1995 Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim  
 1994 Bob Minyard, Liz Minyard,  
 Gretchen Minyard  
 Williams, Sonny Williams  
 1993 Boone Powell, Sr.; Boone  
 Powell, Jr.  
 1992 Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper  
 1991 Tom Landry  
 1990 Maurice & Ebby  
 Halliday Acers  
 1989 Trammell Crow  
 1988 John M. Stemmons, Sr.



Mrs. Alicia Landry, wife of the late Tom Landry, along with Betty Turner and DBU graduate student Stephen Phillips.



Former honoree Ebby Halliday Acers (center), along with Betty Turner and DBU graduate student Stephen Phillips.

music.

Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, shared a word of gratitude for those in attendance. He also thanked the night's honoree, Bob Buford, and explained how he and so many around the world have been touched and impacted by his ministry and his many books.

Following Dr. Cook's remarks, the DBU Grand Chorus performed a patriotic medley entitled "Freedom!" conducted by Dr. Holcomb.

After the keynote speaker, Cheryl Hall, a columnist for *The Dallas Morning News*, introduced a special video presentation about Bob Buford from friends and colleagues who offered their praise and congratulations to Mr. Buford for being honored. *The Dallas Morning News* continues to serve as a sponsoring partner of the dinner. Following the video, Boone Powell took the stage to introduce Rear Admiral Ed Allen, who made a special presentation to Bob Buford, and then Mr. Powell welcomed Mr. Buford to the stage to receive the Russell Perry Award.

The closing benediction was led by Dr. Robert Jeffress, senior pastor of First Baptist Church Dallas and father of DBU alumna Julia Jeffress Sadler.



DBU supporters Jack and Meredith Woodworth (right), along with their daughter Molly and her husband, Will Folsie, both DBU alumni.



Dr. Gary Cook (center right), president of DBU, along with his wife, Sheila, and their two sons, David (left) and Mark (right). Dr. Cook recently celebrated 25 years as president of DBU.



# We would like to thank all of the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award Dinner supporters for providing scholarships for DBU students.

## UNDERWRITER

Premier Designs, Inc.

## LEADERSHIP

*The Dallas Morning News*  
Interstate Batteries

## BENEFACTOR

James and Sally Nation Foundation  
Derrel and Dorothy Renfrow  
Meredith and Jack Woodworth

## FREEDOM COUNCIL

Lyda Hill  
Mr. Orville Rogers  
Patsy R. Smith

## ENTERPRISE COUNCIL

Baptist Church Loan Corporation  
Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Beckham  
Cinemark Theatres  
Cockrell Enovation  
Exelon Corporation  
FJW Construction  
John and Nita Ford Gittings  
Ebby Halliday, Realtors  
LK Concepts, LLC  
David C. Maddox  
Mrs. Russell H. Perry  
Bo and Patty Pilgrim  
Pilgrim Bancorporation  
Pat and Pete Schenkel  
Mr. Harold Simmons  
Daniel B. and Mary P. Stuart Family Fund  
Dottie and Jodie Thompson

## CHAIRMAN'S BOARD

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Altshuler  
Austin Industries  
Bank of Texas  
Baylor Scott and White Health  
Jim and Diane Beckett  
Nancy and Randy Best

Kenneth and Marjorie Blanchard  
BMA Architects  
Meriam Calabria  
Cooper Aerobics  
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cooper  
Dallas Baptist Association  
Direct Development  
Frost Bank  
Jeannette Clift George  
Wayne and Kara Hamilton  
Hodges Capital Management  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Ku  
John and Ellen McStay  
Mining Consultants, LLC  
Alice and Erle Nye  
Vin and Caren Prothro Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sadler  
Shirley and George Shafer  
Sodexo  
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Solomon  
Williams Trew/Sotheby's International Realty  
Mr. and Mrs. J. McDonald Williams  
J.L. Sonny and Gretchen Williams

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Judy Abercrombie  
Academic HealthPlans, Inc.  
Fred E. and Mildred C. Allen Charitable Foundation  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Ammons  
Arnold Stone, Inc.  
Bank of America  
*Baptist Standard/Common Call/FaithVillage*  
Baylor Oral Health Foundation  
Mr. L. Wayne Betts  
BGCT/Executive Leadership  
Dr. and Mrs. J. Blair Blackburn  
Carpet Brokers, Inc.  
Jim and Robin Carreker  
Carter BloodCare  
Jacky Wong Chan  
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Christian  
John and Carole Clem  
Coca-Cola Refreshments

Evelyn Collier  
Communities Foundation of Texas  
Comstock Resources, Inc.  
Dr. Charlene Conner  
David and Nicole Cook  
Dr. and Mrs. Gary Cook  
Mr. Ryan Cook  
David and Jean Dean  
Denison Forum on Truth and Culture  
Denny and Candy Dowd  
Jeff Eubank Roofing Co. Inc.  
Excel Commercial  
Robert A. Fanning  
First Baptist Church, Dallas  
Charlie and Lisa Frazier  
GuideStone Financial Resources  
Wayne and Peggy Hassler  
Hegi Family  
Hilton Anatole Hotel  
Holmes Murphy & Associates, Inc.  
Vester T. Hughes  
Dr. and Mrs. Ozzie Ingram  
Mrs. Anita C. Jones  
Mrs. Donna Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Keathley  
The KINDNESS Journey  
Dr. and Mrs. Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.  
Dennis and Gail Linam  
Locke Lord, LLP  
Justin and Tonya Lonon  
Marketplace Ministries, Inc.  
Master Construction & Engineering, Inc.  
Methodist Health System  
MHBT Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Moulton, III  
Frank and Jane Neal/  
Daniel and Andrea Neal  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Norris  
Notable Notions  
Traci and Sean Owen  
PCBC Deacons  
Dr. and Mrs. Herb Pedersen  
Whitley Penn, LLP  
Stephen Phillips

Bill and Bobbie Pinson  
Boone and Peggy Powell  
Prestonwood Baptist Church  
Proforma A-Z Specialties  
Bill and Ann Quest  
Bill and Melanie Rogers  
Mrs. Joyce Sellars  
Crowley Shanahan Foundation/  
Ruth and Ralph Shanahan  
Dr. and Mrs. Dale B. Sims  
Mrs. Donna Spence Slette  
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Smith  
Mr. Jeff Smith  
May Beth Smith  
Wayne and Buena Stevenson



*Cheryl Hall, columnist for The Dallas Morning News, introduced the video tribute to Bob Buford.*

Dr. and Mrs. Byron Stuckey  
Superior Landscapes  
Texas Baptists Church Ministry Resources  
Tom Thumb  
The Jim Turner Family  
Charles and Barbara Vaughan  
Verity Group  
The Wallace Group, Inc.  
Malcolm Watson  
Weaver, L.L.P.  
Weir's Furniture Village  
Chart Westcott  
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Wicker III



*DBU Alumni Wayne and Kara Hamilton. Wayne Hamilton is the former head of the Texas Republican Party and current campaign manager for Greg Abbott's gubernatorial run.*



*Past Russell Perry Awardees, Gretchen Minyard Williams and J.L. Sonny Williams. Sonny Williams is a DBU alumnus and has served as a past member of the DBU board of trustees.*



*DBU alumnus Seth Roberts and his wife, Amy. Seth is a member of the DBU board of trustees and was recently named a partner with Locke Lord, and Amy is a partner with Jackson Walker.*