

RUSSELL H. PERRY

Free Enterprise Award Dinner

HONORS VESTER HUGHES

2012 DINNER COMMITTEE

William M. Pinson, Jr.
Honorary Chair
 James Denison
Chair

Mike Arnold
 Miles Arnold
 C.T. "Sparkey" Beckham
 Oswin Chrisman
 Brent Christopher
 John Clem
 David Cook
 Gary Cook
 Millie Cooper
 David Dean
 Elmer Doty
 Barry Fanning
 Brian Fant
 Michael Griffin
 Ted Herbert
 Rusty Hill
 Donald Hodges
 Phil King
 Justin Lonon
 Ann Quest
 Henry Rogers
 Forrest Smith
 Betty Turner
 Julie Turner
 Sonny Williams

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

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.



Honoree Vester Hughes (right), along with longtime friend and president-elect of the Baptist Foundation of Texas, Jeff Smith.

Dallas Baptist University named Dallas attorney Vester Hughes as the recipient of the 2012 Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award during the annual dinner held on November 19, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. Dr. William "Bill" M. Pinson, Jr., executive director emeritus of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, served as the honorary chair for the dinner, and Dr. James "Jim" Denison, founder and president of the Denison Forum on Truth and Culture, served as the chair and dinner speaker.

Mr. Ron Harris, senior vice president for Strategic Partnerships for National Religious Broadcasters and former DBU assistant professor of communications, was the evening's emcee.

Established in 1988, the 25th 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



Ron Harris, senior vice president with National Religious Broadcasters, emceed the dinner.



DBU President Dr. Gary Cook (left) and Andy Horner (right), who received the 2007 Russell Perry Award with his late wife, Joan.

who are directly impacted by the scholarship funds raised through this event.

Mr. Brent Christopher, president and CEO of Communities Foundation of Texas, led the Pledge of Allegiance. It was followed by the DBU Grand Chorus (pictured below) leading the National Anthem with DBU student Mr. Aaron Jones as the featured soloist. The Grand Chorus was under the direction of Dr. Stephen Holcomb, director of choral activities and professor of music. Mr. Jeff Smith, president-elect of the Baptist Foundation of Texas, then offered the invocation. Dinner music was provided by Mrs. Sue Mitz, longtime DBU professor of music.

Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, shared a word of gratitude for those in attendance. He paid special tribute to Mr. John Clem, director of development, for his involvement in planning all 25 Russell Perry Dinners for the University. Dr. Cook then honored Mr. Hughes, noting

Top right: Pete Schenkel (left), 2005 Russell Perry Award recipient, along with Dallas Chief of Police and DBU alumnus David Brown (right); **Middle right:** Ebby Halliday Acers (right), Dallas real estate legend, pictured with Betty Turner, her long-time assistant. Ebby received the 1990 Russell Perry Award with her late husband, Maurice; **Bottom right:** Bobbie Pinson, DBU trustee and wife of Dr. Bill Pinson, along with Sheila Cook, wife of DBU President Dr. Gary Cook.

his involvement with the Dallas Baptist Association in the relocation of Decatur Baptist College to Dallas in the 1960s, thus establishing Dallas Baptist College on University Hill.

The DBU Grand Chorus performed a patriotic medley entitled "Freedom!" conducted by Dr. Holcomb.

Following the Grand Chorus, Mr. Harris introduced the dinner speaker, Dr. Denison.



RUSSELL H. PERRY

Free Enterprise Award Dinner



Current chair of the DBU board of trustees, Jim Nation (far right), and his wife, Sally, a former trustee, along with their son, Greg, and his wife, Karie.



Dr. Blair Blackburn, DBU executive vice president, along with his wife, Michelle.

A long-time friend of Mr. Hughes, Dr. Denison shared personal stories of the faith and influence that Mr. Hughes has had upon countless individuals. Dr. Denison served as Mr. Hughes' pastor at Park Cities Baptist Church for over ten years, and the two developed a strong friendship.

Dr. Denison shared, "I have been preaching and speaking in public for over 36 years, and I have never been as honored as I am tonight. To be able to speak to you about a man I love, to a university I love, is an honor I will never forget."

Dr. Denison explained to those gathered the valuable lessons that he has learned through his friendship with Mr. Hughes and how Mr. Hughes has lived out the truth that "what matters

most in life is not what we possess, not the accolades that are given, but the people that we serve."

Afterwards, Mr. Steve Blow, a columnist for *The Dallas Morning News*, introduced a special video presentation about Mr. Hughes from friends and colleagues who offered their praise and congratulations to Hughes for being honored. *The Dallas Morning News* continues to serve as a sponsoring partner of the dinner.

Following the video, Dr. Pinson took the stage to present the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award to Mr. Hughes and reflected on their friendship through the years.

During his introduction, Dr. Pinson noted the three things that have made Mr. Hughes such a remarkable individ-

ual – family, faith, and friends. "Thank you for family, and letting us be part of that family," Dr. Pinson expressed. "Thank you for faith; it's contagious. And, thank you for friends; you have a host of them all over the world."

In closing, Dr. Pinson shared Philippians 1:3, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

Mr. Vester Hughes has been a partner in the Dallas law firm Hughes & Luce, which merged with K&L Gates in 2008, since 1973. Mr. Hughes has been a great supporter of Dallas Baptist University, serving as a trustee from 1968 to 1977. He has also been a faithful member of Park Cities Baptist Church for many years.

After receiving degrees with honors from Rice University and Harvard Law



Twenty-Five Years of Serving

Since the beginning of the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Dinner in 1988, John Clem, DBU director of development, has overseen the entirety of the program and ensured that everything has run as smoothly as possible. A true servant at heart, John is always careful to pay attention to every detail while doing his best to avoid any spotlight.

Mr. Clem began his service at DBU in 1981 in the Development Office, and through his hard work and kind spirit, the Lord has provided millions of dollars to help further the cause of Christian higher education here at DBU, including more than \$4 million through the Russell H. Perry Award Dinner.



1992 Russell Perry Award recipient Dr. Kenneth Cooper (left), his wife, Millie (right), a dinner committee member, and Dr. Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist, Dallas.



Forrest Smith, a dinner committee member and 1996 Russell Perry Award recipient, and his daughter, Candy.

School, Mr. Hughes was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1952. He has been a member of the academic honor fraternity Phi Beta Kappa since 1949 and has been practicing law in Dallas since 1955.

A well-known and highly respected tax attorney, Mr. Hughes has argued before the United States Supreme Court and has served as lead counsel in two additional cases before the High Court. He continues to participate in litigation at all levels of trial and appellate courts, including arguing cases in U. S. Courts of Appeals, U. S. Claims Court, Texas Supreme Court and other courts of administrative agencies as well as presenting cases to Federal District courts and the United States Tax Court.

On several occasions he has successfully lobbied Congress on behalf of clients to amend the federal tax laws, and he often is called on by staff members of the Treasury Department and the Congressional tax-writing committees for his views and opinions concerning current and proposed tax policies.

Mr. Hughes has faithfully been a part of the Dallas Baptist University family since its move from Decatur in the 1960s, serving as a trustee, benefactor, and friend. His continuing support has left a lasting impact on the University.

Mr. Hughes has served on numerous advisory groups and committees in various associations within the legal profession, including the American Law Institute, ABA Section of Taxation, ABA Section of Real Property and Probate, and the Texas State Bar, as well as others. He has also appeared before the United States Supreme Court on tax issues and before various other high courts in Texas and Arkansas.

Mr. Hughes maintains a longstanding relationship with many community service organizations, including Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc., Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, and Goodwill Industries.

The closing benediction was led by Dr. Ron Scates, senior pastor of Highland Park Presbyterian Church.



Brent Christopher, CEO of Communities Foundation of Texas, and Ruth Sharp Altshuler, active member of the CFT board of trustees.



Ken Pilgrim, former DBU board of trustees member, along with his wife, Donna. Ken's father, Bo Pilgrim, received the Russell Perry Award in 1995.