

# DBU REPORT

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## 2009 Russell H. Perry Dinner Honors Mayor Tom Leppert

(From left to right) Joel Allison, Honorary Co-Chair of the Russell Perry Dinner Committee; Ebby Halliday Acers, Honorary Co-Chair of the Dinner Committee; Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, 2009 Award Honoree; and Dr. Jim Denison, Chair of the Dinner Committee.



2009 Russell Perry Award Recipient Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, along with his wife, Laura, and their son, Ryan, who is a current DBU student. The Lepperts also have two other children, Christian and Catherine.

## 2009 DINNER COMMITTEE

Ebby Halliday Acers  
Joel Allison  
*honorary co-chairs*

Jim Denison  
*chair*

Mike D. Arnold	Kathryn Horner
Miles Arnold	Phil King
C.T. "Sparkey" Beckham	Margaret Nichols
George Billingsley	Ann Quest
David Branch	W. Scott Robinson
Oswin Chrisman	Abraham Sarker
John Clem	Pete Sessions
Gary Cook	Reneé Sexton
Millie Cooper	Forrest Smith
David Dean	Byron Stuckey
Barry Fanning	Betty Turner
Brian Fant	Julie Turner
Michael Griffin	David Watson
Donald Hodges	J. L. Sonny Williams

22nd Annual

# RUSSELL H. PERRY AWARD DINNER HONORS MAYOR TOM LEPPERT

Dallas Baptist University named Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert as recipient of the 2009 Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award during the annual award dinner held on November 23 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel.

Ebby Halliday Acers, founder and chairman of the board of Ebby Halliday Realtors, and Joel Allison, CEO of Baylor Health Care System, served as the honorary co-chairs of the dinner, which saw over 1,100 in attendance. Dr. Jim Denison, founding president of the Center for Informed Faith and theologian-in-residence of the Baptist General

Convention of Texas, was this year's dinner chair and master of ceremonies.

The annual gala event marked its 22nd anniversary as it continues to honor Texas leaders whose lives are testimonies of achievement in free enterprise and service to the community. The event is named in memory of Dallas leader and philanthropist Russell H. Perry, whose life of service to Dallas impacted many lives. Mrs. Russell H. (Phoebe) Perry continues to be a friend of the city of Dallas and especially DBU. She and Mr. Perry began their support of the in-



Over 1,100 individuals attended the gala event held at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in downtown Dallas on Monday, November 23.



stitution in the 1960s.

Over the past 22 years, the dinner has honored many North Texas leaders, and in doing so, has raised over \$3.3 million in scholarship funds for over 1,450 DBU students.

Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, welcomed those gathered and thanked them for their support of this special fundraising dinner over the years. He also introduced a video taken from a CBS 11 newscast concerning a mission trip undertaken by the DBU Patriot Basketball team.

The team, along with the cheerleaders, headed to Korea over fall break as a part of the University's "Global Sports Ministry Initiative."

Over the past three years, DBU athletic teams have traveled to Peru and Guatemala. The trip to Korea saw the Patriots taking on two Korean university teams, as well as a group of United States soldiers stationed at OSAN Airforce Base. The team also held basketball clinics and spent time in ministry and worship along with Korean Baptist churches.

This year's award recipient, Tom Leppert, was elected mayor of Dallas in June 2007. Since taking office, Mayor Leppert and the City Council have pursued

policies that have dramatically improved the quality of life in Dallas. The crime rate has been reduced by double digits, major firms like AT&T and Tenet Healthcare have moved to Downtown Dallas, and construction is underway on the Convention Center Hotel, Main Street Garden, the Woodall Rogers Deck Park, and the Calatrava-designed Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge over the Trinity River.

In addition, the city is celebrating the opening of the AT&T Performing Arts Center, more college football games have found a home at the Cotton Bowl in Fair Park, and new manufacturing plants in Southern Dallas and at the Inland Port have created hundreds of new jobs. And with his successful initiative

to create green commercial and residential building codes, Mayor Leppert has also helped move Dallas closer to being one of the top sustainable cities in the country.

Additionally, the Mayor has pursued a strong trade agenda, leading delegations to China, Taiwan, Mexico, and Canada. In November, Mayor Leppert will be the first Dallas mayor to lead a trade delegation to Korea, one of the region's largest trading partners.

He has also pursued a strong education agenda.



*The DBU Grand Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Stephen Holcomb, DBU director of choral studies and professor of music, performed a medley of songs highlighting the enduring American spirit.*

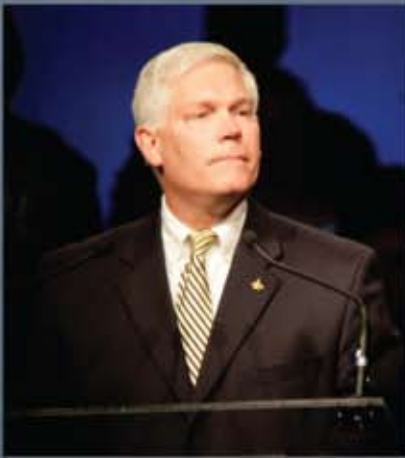


*Sheila Cook, wife of DBU President Dr. Gary Cook, along with Janet Denison, wife of dinner chair Dr. Jim Denison.*



*DBU President Dr. Gary Cook welcomed those in attendance and highlighted some of the ongoing ministries of Dallas Baptist University.*





U. S. Congressman Pete Sessions, representing the 32nd District of Texas, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Dr. Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, provided the invocation for the dinner. The Lepperts are members of First Baptist Church of Dallas.



Dr. Wright Lassiter, chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District, provided the benediction.

The Mayor's Intern Fellows program just completed its second year placing high school students from challenged schools in corporate offices for the summer. Operation Front Door has transformed the curb appeal for several campuses. The Ready to Read pre-literacy program has reached thousands of children, and the Mayor's Chesapeake Energy Scholarships continue to provide financial support for students. Demonstrating his personal commitment to education, Mayor Leppert donates all of his mayoral salary to scholarships.

Mayor Leppert is on the Executive Committee for the U. S. Conference of Mayors and recently served on the White House Fellows Commission. *D CEO Magazine* named Mayor Leppert the CEO of the year.

Prior to becoming mayor, Leppert led major corporations in the areas of construction, financial services, and real estate. As CEO of Turner Construction, he moved the Fortune 500 firm's headquarters to Dallas. He also chaired the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce and still serves on its Executive Committee.

A lifelong community volunteer, Mayor Leppert has served numerous community groups and charitable organizations on both the local and national levels. He has also served as a White House Fellow in both the Treasury Department and in the White House.

Mayor Leppert holds an M.B.A. with Distinction from Harvard Business School and graduated *cum laude* from Claremont McKenna College.

He and his wife, Laura, live in Dallas. Their son,



Former Russell H. Perry Award recipients Dr. Kenneth Cooper (center) and Forrest Smith (right), along with Forrest Smith's daughter, Candy Smith.



Long-time friends and supporters of DBU Ann Quest (left), along with her husband, Bill Quest, and LaNeil Wright Spivy. Ann has been an active member of the DBU Women's Auxiliary Board and received the Ruth Award in 2002.





*Dr. David Hasan (left), DBU alumnus who currently serves as a neurosurgeon in Iowa, along with Mark Cook, son of Gary and Sheila Cook.*



*C. T. "Sparkey" Beckham provided personal reflections about Mayor Leppert.*

## PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

- 2008-Drayton McLane, Jr.
- 2007-Andy and Joan Horner
- 2006-David 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, J.L. Sonny Williams
- 1993-Boone Powell, Sr., Boone Powell, Jr.
- 1992-Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper
- 1991-Tom Landry
- 1990-Maurice and Ebby Halliday Acers
- 1989-Trammell Crow
- 1988-John Stemmons, Sr.

Christian, and twins, Catherine and Ryan, are all in college. They are members of First Baptist Church of Dallas. Ryan is a current student at DBU.

During the dinner, C. T. "Sparkey" Beckham, gave a brief testimony of the character and service of Mayor Leppert. Mr. Beckham's daughter, Sara, who passed away in January of this year, had been a supporter of Leppert during the mayoral election. In the midst of the campaign, she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. However, the disease only spurred her on to work for the campaign. After months of treatment and a diagnosis of remission, Sara received a troubling result from a blood test. The cancer had returned, and immediate treatment was needed. But Sara delayed for one night, opting to spend a quiet evening with her

husband, watching a movie, and making sure to vote Tom Leppert for Mayor the following morning.

According to Beckham, "That is the kind of determination that Tom Leppert inspires and deserves—his ability to inspire others to be their best, to lead by example. He is committed to work tirelessly in the face of difficult circumstances and honors God in everything he does."

Following the presentation of the award to Mayor Leppert, the DBU Grand Chorus sang the song, "God of this City," as a testimony to the work of what God has done and will continue to do in Dallas, as well as a challenge for those present to join in service to the community, taking care of the sick, lost, and afflicted in this city.



*Former award recipients J.L. Sonny Williams (center left) and Gretchen Minyard Williams (center right), along with their daughter, Claire, and Sonny Williams' sister Mary Barber and her husband, Perry Barber.*



*Dr. Bob Dean (left), DBU trustee and executive director of the Dallas Baptist Association, and wife Ellen, along with Dr. Bill Pinson, executive director emeritus of the BGCT, and wife Bobbie, a former DBU trustee.*



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Andy and Joan Horner

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Steve Blow, columnist for The Dallas Morning News, introduces the award video. The Dallas Morning News served as a co-sponsor for the dinner.

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2007 Russell H. Perry Award recipients Andy and Joan Horner. The Horners have been strong supporters of DBU and served as the underwriters for this year's Russell Perry Dinner. Joan Horner currently serves as a member of the DBU Board of Trustees.

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