

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of the *Houston Chronicle* through this monthly supplement.

November 2016

BAHEP to honor Sen. Larry Taylor with 2017 Quasar Award at annual banquet

Since 1994, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has begun each year by throwing a really big party for 600-700 of its closest friends. They arrive at the event dressed in their finest attire looking forward to an evening of camaraderie, great food and entertainment. However, this is by no means just any old party. It's BAHEP's annual Quasar Award Banquet, one of the most anticipated events of the year in Bay Area Houston.

The Quasar Award honors an outstanding elected official or business leader who, through his or her actions and leadership, has demonstrated a strong and continual effort to support the business foundations of the greater Bay Area Houston communities. The recipient's actions must have gone above and beyond to promote the economic development of the region and the fulfillment of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's objectives to recruit, retain and expand primary jobs in the region.

Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, stated, "We are

very pleased to announce that Texas State Senator Larry Taylor will be the recipient of the 2017 Quasar Award. For many years, Sen. Taylor has been heavily invested in issues that safeguard our homes and businesses and add immeasurably to our quality of life. Historically, these become huge economic drivers by creating stability and attracting companies and jobs to the region."

Taylor a native Texan

A native Texan, Sen. Taylor attended Baylor University where he received his BBA in 1982. He and his wife, Kerri, are the proud parents of three adult children and a granddaughter, Lila. Sen. Taylor owns Truman Taylor Insurance Agency in Friendswood, Texas, an independent agency started by his father more than 50 years ago.

Sen. Taylor serves as the chairman of the Senate Public Education Committee and as a member of the Senate Finance, Business and Commerce and Intergovernmental Relations Committees. Before his election to the Texas Sen-

ate in 2012, he served five terms in the Texas House of Representatives. The senator represents Texas Senate District 11, comprised of portions of Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris counties.

Upon learning of Sen. Taylor's selection as the 2017 Quasar Award honoree, Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick commented, "I congratulate Sen. Larry Taylor for receiving the 2017 Quasar Award for his commitment and support of the greater Bay Area Houston business communities. He is a dedicated legislator who puts his community and his constituents first. When I appointed Sen. Taylor as Senate Education chair, I knew he had the determination to fight to make sure Texas school children have every opportunity to succeed. Senator Taylor is a great public servant and the Bay Area is lucky to have him."

William A. Staples, Ph.D., president of the University of Houston - Clear Lake, added to the accolades stating, "Sen. Larry Taylor is most deserving of the 2017 Quasar

Award due to his exceptional leadership and service to Bay Area Houston. As a 10-year member of the Texas House of Representatives and his four years in the Texas Senate, Sen. Taylor has been in key leadership roles including serving as chair of the Senate Education Committee as well as serving on the Senate Finance, Business and Commerce, and Intergovernmental Relations Committees. He has also been directly involved in critical issues for Bay Area Houston by serving on committees focused on a coastal barrier system, Texas ports, and windstorm insurance. As a businessman/legislator, Sen. Taylor understands the need for business, education and government to work together to advance the economic development and quality of life of Bay Area Houston. He understands and supports the mission of BAHEP."

Quasar Award honorees

The 2017 Quasar Award Banquet will be held on Feb. 3rd at South Shore

Harbour Resort and Conference Center. Previous recipients of the coveted award are: Texas Gov. Ann Richards, 1994; U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, 1995; U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, 1996; U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson, 1997; NASA Johnson Space Center Director George W.S. Abbey, 1998; Harris County Judge Robert Eckels and Galveston County Judge Jim Yarbrough, 1999; Robert L. Moody, Sr., 2000; Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown, 2001; Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Jim Fonteno, 2002; House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, 2003; Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia, 2004; Dr. John Stobo, president of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 2005; Houston Mayor Bill White, 2006; NASA Administrator Dr. Michael Griffin, 2007; Dr. William A. Staples, president of the University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2008; Mike Coats, director of NASA



Senator Larry Taylor

Johnson Space Center, 2009; Texas State Rep. Craig Eiland, 2010; U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, 2011; U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, 2012; Fred B. Griffin, owner and co-chairman, Griffin Partners, 2013; Dr. Renu Khator, chancellor, University of Houston System, and president, University of Houston, 2014; Dr. Bill Merrell, the George P. Mitchell '40 chair in Marine Sciences at Texas A&M University at Galveston and president of Merrell Historic Properties, Inc., 2015; and Dr. Greg Smith, superintendent, Clear Creek Independent School District, 2016.

Congressman Brian Babin speaks on "The Reality of Deep Space Exploration" during meeting of BAHEP membership

Congressman Brian Babin, D.D.S. (TX-36) spoke on "The Reality of Deep Space Exploration - Leadership, Policy, Planning, Resources and Partnerships" at the Oct. 26th general membership meeting of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership held at Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook, Texas.

Elected to Congress in 2014, Rep. Babin has been appointed the chairman of the House Space Subcommittee, which has legislative jurisdiction and congressional oversight authority over all matters relating to U.S. national space policy, including NASA and space commercialization.

Congressman Babin covered a lot of ground in his insightful, informative speech. In part he stated, "Politics always plays a

role in space policy. Protecting NASA human spaceflight budgets and exploration budgets are my top priorities. NASA needs to stick to its primary purpose of human spaceflight and exploration, or it will continue to suffer unnecessary setbacks.

"There has been a serious lack of direction and bold vision for the next steps in our human spaceflight program. Putting an American on Mars is a very complex and challenging goal worthy of our national commitment. Any path to Mars should entail utilizing the moon. It's the ultimate testing



ground."

He spoke of the ongoing testing of the Orion crew module and the SLS launch system saying, "These are truly exciting

times for us, which is why it is critical that NASA's human spaceflight programs be THE funding priority within NASA. And, just to clear up any

confusion, the commercial crew and cargo programs are an integral part of our human spaceflight programs. I strongly support full funding of the NASA commercial programs."

The congressman also supports keeping the International Space Station, ISS, flying for as long as possible saying, "It's important for Congress to fully fund this program. It's an enabler, a test bed, for our deep space human exploration missions. We still have much to learn

about the long-term impacts to astronaut health. Collectively, we need to ensure that we're doing the absolute necessary science on the ISS to prepare us for deep space missions."

Rep. Babin also spoke of the Texas Space Congressional Caucus, which he established and co-chairs along with Rep. John Culberson. The caucus's principal aim is to bring focus to the Johnson Space Center programs that are essential to the center. He said, "I believe that a strong JSC leads to a stronger human spaceflight program and a more robust overall space industry."

BAHEP featured on weekly Economic Spotlight segment at MyBayArea Radio —KGBC 1540 AM

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has broadened its outreach by becoming a community partner with BAHEP member MyBayArea Radio in its Economic Spotlight segment.

Each Tuesday at noon a BAHEP staff member will have a chat with Station Manager Nate Stockard about regional economic development and the organization's diverse roles in recruiting, retaining and expanding primary jobs and ensuring a continued high quality of life for the region's residents.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell kicked-off the series on Nov. 1st and spoke about BAHEP's initiatives and exciting developments underway.

Kim Morris, director of the Bay Area Houston Advanced Technology Consortium, or BayTech, followed on Nov. 8th.

He spoke of BayTech's



BAHEP President Bob Mitchell kicked-off the Economic Spotlight series on Nov. 1st.

role in facilitating usage of NASA Johnson Space Center's nationally accredited institution and test facility through a Space Act Agreement. The RITF provides testing, evaluation services, and training to

industry. He also talked about Bay-Tech's work in cybersecurity through training and workshops.

Aerospace Marketing Manager Jimmy Spence filled the Nov. 15th slot with information about SpaceCom to be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center. From Nov. 15-17, 2016, SpaceCom, the Space Commerce Conference and Exposition, will explore business opportunities from, and between, space and terrestrial industries, with an emphasis on common technology chal-

lenges across industries. It will also explore ways to create and capitalize on new business opportunities.

On Nov. 22nd, Bob Payne, program director of the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program, SATOP, shared success stories of inventors who have been helped with technical challenges by free assistance from SATOP's Alliance Partners, scientists or engineers who are involved in the nation's space program.

Upcoming segments will feature Specialty Chemical Marketing Manager C.A. Shields who will talk about the extensive developments on the east side of Houston, as well as information on the Career Action Platform developed by the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) in partnership with JP Morgan Chase and the Council for Adult and

Experiential Learning.

Their work resulted in a Houston-specific version of an interactive website built to help students and job seekers identify opportunities available to them.

Barbara Cutsinger, BAHEP's marketing manager for Real Estate and Facilities, will provide useful updates on what's taking place in these ever-changing industry segments.

Finally, Dan Seal, director of Special Initiatives, will have much to share over the coming months about the organization's work in many important areas including storm surge protection, recruiting new business to the region and the Houston Spaceport.

Tune in to all of this amazing information at www.mybayarearadio.com, live stream from the My-BayArea Radio app available on Google Play and the App Store, or go to KGBC 1540 on your AM dial.

BUSINESS
to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with the Houston Chronicle. BAHEP is a member-driven organization in southeastern Texas that includes more than 265 business partners encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and the Port of Houston Authority. For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Lukee at 832.536.3250. Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership 18045 Saturn Lane Houston, TX 77058 832.536.3255 "Like" us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaHoustonEcon): BayAreaHoustonEcon Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BAHEP): @BAHEP