

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

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BAHEP announces 2015 board



Victor Pierson John Elbon Richard Jackson Jennifer Bowers

For more than 38 years, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has grown increasingly in stature to become known not only as a regional economic development organization but one recognized nationally, as well. BAHEP is pleased to announce its leadership team for 2015, which will guide the organization's initiatives to promote growth and a high quality of life in the region.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS

Chair: Victor Pierson, President, Moody National Bank
Vice Chair: John Elbon, Vice President/General Manager, Space Exploration, The Boeing Company
Secretary: Richard Jackson, Director, NASA Programs, Lockheed Martin IS&GS Civil
Treasurer: Jennifer Bowers, Partner, Bowers & Sadler, LLP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Richard E. Allen, Jr., President/CEO, Space Center Houston
Gale E. Burkett, President/CEO, GB Tech, Inc.
John Elbon, VP/General Manager, Space Exploration, The Boeing Company
Dick H. Gregg, Jr., Attorney-at-Law/President, Gregg & Gregg, P.C.
Fred B. Griffin, Owner & Chairman, Griffin Partners, Inc.
Richard (Rich) Jackson, Director, NASA Programs, Lockheed Martin IS&GS Civil
Stephen K. Jones, Jr., CEO, Clear Lake Regional Medical Center
Ron W. Masters, President, MaximGroup
Dennis W. Petersen, President, Lockwood, Andrews, & Newnam, Inc.
Victor Pierson, President, Moody National Bank
Jayant Ramakrishnan, Ph.D., COO, Bastion Technologies, Inc.
William A. Staples, Ph.D., President, University of Houston-Clear Lake
John Wilkins, CEO, CLC Properties

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HONORARY CHAIRMAN

Frans Gillebaard (1939 - 2013)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Jennifer Bowers, Partner, Bowers & Sadler, LLP
Scott Hartwig, President/CEO, United Space Alliance
Brenda Hellyer, Ed.D., Chancellor, San Jacinto College District
Lon F. Miller, Senior Vice President/General Manager, Jacobs
Bernard A. Milstein, M.D., President, The Eye Clinic of Texas
Ellen Ochoa, Ph.D., Director, NASA Johnson Space Center

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard E. Allen, Jr., President/CEO, Space Center Houston
Mike Bloomfield, Vice President & General Manager, Oceaneering Space Systems, Inc.
Genie Bopp, Vice President, Human Performance & Engineering Division, Wyle STE Group
Gale E. Burkett, President/CEO, GB Tech, Inc.
Don Burrows, Jr., Senior Vice President, Burrows, Auttonberry & Agol Investment Group of Southwest Securities, Inc.
Brent Cockerham, Market President, Branch Banking & Trust Company (BB&T)
Michael L. Cornett, President, Texas Citizens Bank, NA
Darren Crowell, President, Cimarron
Brian Duffy, Vice President and JSC Program Manager for Exploration Systems, ATK Launch Systems—Houston
John Elbon, VP/General Manager, Space Exploration, The Boeing Company
Michael Flanagan, Director, External Affairs, AT&T
Marcy Fryday, Marketing Director, Lakewood Yacht Club
Mike Furin, Vice President, My FlooringAMERICA
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Dick H. Gregg, Jr., Attorney-at-Law/President, Gregg & Gregg, P.C.
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Gwen D. Griffin, President/CEO, Griffin Communications Group
Richard (Rich) Jackson, Director, NASA Programs, Lockheed Martin IS&GS Civil
Bobbie Jessie, President/CEO, JES Tech
Stephen K. Jones, Jr., CEO, Clear Lake Regional Medical Center
Don Kelly, Ph.D., President, Encore Business Consulting
John Kennedy, Commissioner, Port of Houston Authority
Tim Kropp, Executive Vice President, MRI Technologies
Katrina Lambrecht, Vice President and Chief of Staff, UTMB Health
Walter Lawson, Director of Academics, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Houston
Beth Lewis, Ed.D., President, College of the Mainland
John Martinec, President, AeroSys, LLC
Ron W. Masters, President, MaximGroup
Robert McAfoos, Director/Program Manager, Barrios Technology
Joan McKinney, General Manager, Norman Frede Chevrolet
Lon F. Miller, Senior Vice President/General Manager, Jacobs
Bernard A. Milstein, M.D., President, The Eye Clinic of Texas
Sergio (Checo) Muniz, President, CYFOR Technologies, LLC
Stephanie Murphy, Deputy CEO, MEI Technologies, Inc.
Dennis W. Petersen, President, Lockwood, Andrews, & Newnam, Inc.
Victor Pierson, President, Moody National Bank
Jayant Ramakrishnan, Ph.D., COO, Bastion Technologies, Inc.
John Russo, Director, Program Operations and Integration, UTC Aerospace Systems
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John Wilkins, CEO, CLC Properties

BOARD OF DIRECTORS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Chad Burke, President/CEO, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region
Mary Alys Cherry, Editor and Publisher, Bay Area Houston Magazine
Ruby Cubley, Individual Member
Cindy Harreld, President/CEO, Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
Bix Rathburn, President, Galveston County Economic Alliance
Mike Shields, Executive Director, Baytown/West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation
Jeff Sjostrom, President, Galveston Economic Development Partnership
Michael Sullivan, Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector



Shown from left to right: Vic Pierson, president, Moody National Bank and 2015 Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership board chair; Quasar Award honoree Dr. Bill Merrell, Texas A&M University at Galveston; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor, San Jacinto College District and 2014 BAHEP board chair; and Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president. (Photo by Brittany Havican)

Prestigious 2015 Quasar Award presented to TAMUG's Dr. Merrell

By Pat Patton

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership presented Dr. Bill Merrell its prestigious 2015 Quasar Award for Exceptional Leadership in Economic Development during its 22nd annual Quasar Award Banquet on Friday, Jan. 16, 2015, at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center.

Merrell is the George P. Mitchell '40 chair in Marine Sciences at Texas A&M University at Galveston and president of Merrell Historic Properties, Inc.

Following the massive devastation caused by Hurricane Ike in 2008, Merrell began work to study a system that would provide storm surge protection for the Upper Texas Gulf Coast. The Quasar Award was presented to honor

Merrell in appreciation and acknowledgment of his tremendous work in storm surge protection and his development of the Ike Dike concept, which, when completed, will be a major economic driver for the region.

Victor Pierson, president, Moody National Bank and BAHEP 2015 board chair, said, "When I compare the tremendous economic impact the Galveston Seawall had 100 years ago to the even greater benefits the Ike Dike concept promises for the entire Galveston Bay region, I can think of no one more worthy of the Quasar Award than Dr. Bill Merrell."

"He has spearheaded this movement from its infancy, and he richly deserves this high honor for his leadership, ingenuity and focus on our future."

Merrell holds a B.S. in physics and an M.A. in mathematics from Sam Houston State University, as well as a Ph.D. in oceanography from Texas A&M University. He is a past president of TAMUG.

Merrell has also held presidential appointments with the National Science Foundation and served as chair of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment among many other notable positions.

Maj. Gen. Bill McClain, special advisor to the CEO, Texas A&M University at Galveston, said, "Dr. Bill Merrell epitomizes the Aggie value for serving the greater good. His concept to suppress storm surge and his coordination and leadership to bring the very best research to the issue will result in averting social and economic tragedy."

BAHEP elects accomplished officers to lead Board of Directors in 2015

Victor Pierson Chairman

Victor Pierson is president of Moody National Bank, a former mayor of Jamaica Beach, Texas, a past chairman of the Texas Bankers Association, and a director of the Independent Bankers Association of Texas. He serves on the board of directors of Moody National Bank, Moody Bank Holding Company, Moody Bancshares, Inc., Texas Independent Bancshares-Dallas, and Gal-Tex Hotel Corporation. Pierson is a past chairman of the United Way of Galveston, a past chairman of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce, and vice chairman of the Galveston Central Appraisal District. He is also a member of the Texas A&M University at Galveston Board of Visitors and previously taught accounting at Galveston College for over 16 years.

John Elbon Vice Chairman

John Elbon is vice president and general manager, Space Exploration, a division of The Boeing Company's Defense, Space & Security. He is responsible for the strategic direction of Boeing's civil space programs and support of NASA programs such as the Space Launch System, International Space Station, and Commercial Crew Development Program. He assumed his pre-

sent position on Aug. 29, 2011. Elbon previously served as vice president and program manager for Boeing's Commercial Programs and as vice president of Systems Integration for the Army's Future Combat Systems. He holds a bachelor of Aerospace Engineering degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Richard D. Jackson Secretary

Richard D. (Rich) Jackson is director of NASA Programs for Lockheed Martin - Information Systems & Global Solutions - Civil. In this capacity, his responsibilities include the integration of 10 programs across four NASA centers and working with a team of approximately 2,000 employees to define growth opportunities in the NASA and adjacent markets.

Jackson began his career at NASA where he supported the Space Shuttle Program as a flight director for 15 space shuttle flights. Jackson graduated from Texas A&M University earning a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and is also a member of the Manned Space Flight Education Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors. He has attained certifications as a private pilot, Advanced SCUBA diver, D licensed skydiver, and jumpmaster.

Jennifer Bowers Treasurer

Jennifer Bowers is a partner with the law firm of Bowers & Sadler, LLP. The firm specializes in a variety of legal services aimed at assisting closely-held businesses and their owners with their tax planning, business organization matters, estate planning, and probate matters. Bowers is board certified in tax law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

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 southeast Texas that includes more than 265 business partners encompassing 14 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: BayAreaHoustonEcon Follow us on Twitter: @BAHEP