

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

BAHEP to honor Dr. Bill Merrell with 2015 Quasar Award for Exceptional Leadership in Economic Development

By Pat Patton

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership will honor Dr. Bill Merrell with its prestigious 2015 Quasar Award for Exceptional Leadership in Eco-

conomic Development to be presented during the organization's 22nd annual Quasar Award Banquet on Friday, Jan. 16, 2015, at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center in League City.

Dr. 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.

The Quasar Award is presented each year to an outstanding individual who has contributed greatly to the economic wealth and diversity of the Bay Area Houston region. The Quasar Award will be presented to honor Dr. Merrell in appreciation and acknowledgment of his tremendous work in storm surge protection and his development of the Ike Dike Concept for a storm surge protection system for the upper Texas Gulf Coast.

Dr. 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. Dr. Merrell has also served as chair of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science,

Economics and the Environment; vice chancellor for Strategic Programs of The Texas A&M University System; vice president for Research Policy of Texas A&M University; chair of the Ocean Studies Board; served on the Space Studies Board and the Board on Sustainability of the National Research Council; and has held presidential appointments with the National Science Foundation.

Among his awards are the Distinguished Achievement Medal from the Geosciences and Earth Resources Council, and he is the only person to have received the Distinguished Service Award of the National Science Foundation twice.

Following the massive devastation caused by Hurricane Ike in 2008, Dr. Merrell began work to study a system that would provide storm surge protection for the Upper Texas Gulf Coast, which he termed the Ike Dike Concept.



Dr. Bill Merrell

Dr. Merrell said, "I am personally honored and grateful to be chosen as the next Quasar Award winner. I also recognize that I'm a surrogate for a large number of people who have worked tirelessly to advance surge suppression, in particular the coastal barrier approach in their communities, state and even nationally. This special award reflects on their efforts, as well."

Recent recipients of BAHEP's Quasar Award include: U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, 1996, 2011; Dr. John Stobo, president, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, 2005; Houston Mayor Bill White, 2006; Dr. William A. Staples, president, University of Houston-Clear Lake, 2008; Mike Coats, director of NASA Johnson Space Center, 2009; U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, 2012; Fred B. Griffin, owner and co-chairman, Griffin Partners, 2013; and Dr. Renu Khator, chancellor, University of Houston System, and president, University of Houston, 2014.



KPRC Channel 2 Houston interviews Dr. Bill Merrell, Texas A&M University at Galveston, following a storm surge media event held at Sylvan Beach Pavilion in La Porte, Texas. Dr. Merrell's scientific work has included studies of regional and large-scale ocean physics as well as coastal processes and hurricane impacts.

BAHEP welcomes Faust Distributing, Texan Bank, Nestlé Waters North America as 2014 draws to close

Faust Distributing Company, Inc.

Faust Distributing Company, Inc., is one of the largest family-owned wholesale beer distributors in Texas and one of the largest independent distributors of Miller Brewing Company and Coors Brewing Company products in the United States as well as a vast portfolio of imported and craft beers. The company has recently joined the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell stated, "I've been on a headquarters tour of Faust Distributing, and I was extremely impressed with this huge, state-of-the-art facility. I am not at all surprised that Faust Distributing is recognized as one of the best in the

business, and we are very pleased that we will be working with them on behalf of community development."

Faust Distributing Company was founded by Don Faust in 1957 and has grown to provide service to 3,500 customers. Faust's management team and many of its 220 employees have been with the company for decades. This includes Jack Law, vice president of Brand Development, who joined the



FAUST
DISTRIBUTING

company in 1981. He will represent Faust Distributing within BAHEP and commented, "Faust has a long history of giving back to the community, and we look at our membership in BAHEP as an important part of our community outreach efforts."

Faust Distributing Company is located at 10040 East Freeway in Houston, Texas. The 216,000 sq. ft. corporate campus features an open-air atrium, office complex and conference room and the 162,000 sq. ft. warehouse facility. Housed on 40 acres adjacent to I-10 and 610, the facility is just nine miles from downtown. The facility includes ample acreage to double the size of the company's warehouse operations. Completed in June 2002, the complex is designed in the Santa Fe style stucco with authentic vigas and wooden ceiling joists.

Faust Distributing Company's service area includes 12 counties and covers 9,300 square miles. The company's website at www.faustdistributing.com

details its interesting corporate philosophy, which has been its basis of success for almost 60 years, as well as additional details about its products and community involvement. For more information, call 713.673.5111.

Texan Bank

Headquartered in the Bay Area, Texan Bank is a locally-owned community bank, dedicated and built to serve the needs of business customers throughout the Houston-Galveston-Sugar Land MSA. The bank focuses on building long-term business relationships, and its knowledgeable bankers are trusted advisors, partners and friends to their clients. Texan Bank's board and leadership team have over 700 years of cumulative business, political, and community experience in the Bay Area, which transcends the bank as an economic driver for the region.

Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, commented, "Although a recently formed bank, Texan Bank has been recognized by the *Houston Business Journal* for its outstanding growth. This has to be attributable to its great leadership, and I look forward to working together to further build this region."

Texan Bank was founded in 2011 and cur-

rently has locations in Friendswood, Houston, Sugar Land and Webster. Kenny Koncaba serves as Texan Bank's CEO and will represent the bank within BAHEP. He noted,

"Just like BAHEP, Texan Bank's roots extend deep into the community. Our success is built upon relationships, and we are excited about deepening those relationships through our BAHEP membership." Texan Bank serves all clients in all industries, no matter their annual revenue. Currently, the bank has business relationships with, among others, CNC (computer numerical control) machine shops, medical professionals, general contractors, commercial and residential real estate developers, home builders, and restaurants in the Bay Area. The bank provides loans for commercial and residential real estate, Lines of Credit, construction and development, and equipment. Texan Bank is an SBA "Preferred Lender" and specializes in SBA 7a and 504 loans.

Call 281.276.1809 or visit www.texanbank.com to learn more.

Nestlé Waters North America

With 36 years of experience promoting healthy hydration, Nestlé Waters North America has 15 leading U.S. and Canadian bottled water brands. The company's commitment to environmental stewardship, especially in the areas of water use, packaging and energy, has led Nestlé Waters to achieve the number one bottled drinking water position in the

opportunity to tour Nestlé Waters' \$25 million plant in Pasadena, and I was really impressed with the entire operation. It occupies 312,000 square feet and uses cutting-edge technology. It's a great company, and I'm happy to welcome Nestlé Waters as a new member."

Justin Callaway is the factory manager at the Pasadena bottling facility and will represent Nestlé Waters within BAHEP. He commented, "Nestlé Waters has a long-time policy of partnering in the communities where it operates. BAHEP does so much for the region, and we're excited to be able to contribute to those efforts."

Nestlé Waters North America is a division of Paris-based Nestlé Waters, the world's largest bottled water company. Nestlé Waters serves customers in 130 countries, with 75 well-known bottled water brands and is, in turn, a subsidiary of the world's largest food company, Nestlé, S.A., based in Vevey, Switzerland.

The company's history started in 1976 with one bottled water brand that

launched a generation of bottled water drinkers, Perrier® Sparkling Natural Mineral Water. As bottled water became the beverage of choice for active, health-



minded individuals, Nestlé Waters sought to bring together quality regional bottlers to meet that demand. Today, the company's bottled water brands and tea portfolio are more than 15 brands strong: Acqua Panna®, Arrowhead®, Deer Park®, Ice Mountain®, Nestea®, Nestlé® Pure Life®, Ozarka®, Perrier®, Poland Spring®, resource®, S.Pellegrino®, Sweet Leaf, Tradewinds, Zephyrhills®.

In 36 years, Nestlé Waters has grown to include 7,500 employees and 29 bottled water facilities across the U.S. and Canada. The bottling facility located in Pasadena was established in 2011 and has 70 employees. To learn more visit www.nestle-waters.com.

BAHEP celebrates another successful year

It was a good year — in fact, a great year — for economic development in the region. The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership worked on no less than 35 projects throughout 2014 in addition to its initiatives involving aerospace/aviation, specialty chemicals, Ellington Airport, flood insurance reform, storm surge protection, emergency manage-

ment, cyber security, support for small businesses and more. BAHEP wants to thank its members for their expert assistance in helping to make this year successful on so many fronts. BAHEP could not accomplish nearly as much without their continued support. Many thanks to you all for making 2014 truly remarkable.

Bob Mitchell
President



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