



Rotary Club of Harlingen

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ROTARY CLUB OF HARLINGEN ANNOUNCES FIVE NEW INDUCTIONS TO THE WALK OF FAME

The Walk of Fame is a celebration of the citizens of Harlingen, their life achievements, significant civic contributions and their impact on our community. The Harlingen Walk of Fame was unveiled April 15, 2010 as part of the Harlingen Centennial Celebration and is permanently displayed at the Harlingen Municipal Auditorium in Fair Park.

The Rotary Club of Harlingen is proud to announce five new inductions to the Walk of Fame:

2012 INDUCTEES

GORDON E. GATHRIGHT



Gordon E. Gathright can be best described as a quiet man who faithfully served God, family and his community. Gordon was born in Nashville Arkansas and spent his professional life in Harlingen. Gordon taught school for 37 years and was a principal in the Harlingen CISD. During his teaching years he decided to pursue his master's degree and in doing so he had to travel to the University of Houston on weekends to earn his degree. Gordon held many state offices within the Teachers Professional Associations and mentored young teachers along the way. Gordon impacted many children and teachers of Harlingen. Besides raising his own children and grandchildren, he touched the lives of thousands of children through his 37 years of service in education. scouting, youth baseball, and Sunday School. He lived and taught good moral character, respect for each other, and always treated students and peers with the utmost of fairness and respect.

PATTY CRANDALL GORGES



Patty Crandall Gorges was born in Omaha Nebraska. Her family moved to Harlingen when Patty was 12 years old. Patty has a degree from Hermann Hospital School of Nursing, is married to Matt Gorges and they are proud parents of five children. Patty strongly supported youth activities while her children were growing up. She was a volunteer at St. Anthony School and Harlingen Public School, serving PTAs and always a room mother. Patty has served on many community boards including Harlingen Public Library, Maggie's House, Junior League, Gladys Porter Zoo, and P.E.O. Chapter T. Patty was the major organizer for local fundraising of the American Cancer Society. Patty has been instrumental in numerous charitable donations to our community. Her concern and devotion to family and community is an inspiration to all who know her.

LILLIAN McINNIS LAMON



Lillian McInnis Lamon was born in Costa Rica and moved to Harlingen as a child and holds a Bachelors degree from University of Pan American and a masters degree from Texas A & I University. Lillian taught for the HCISD specializing in tutoring children with learning disabilities. After a career in education, Lillian joined Texas State Bank and served as a Senior Vice President and Branch Manager. Lillian served on many boards that include Valley International Airport Board, Harlingen Industrial Authority, Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce, Cameron County Heart Assoc., Texas Heart Assoc., Junior League of Harlingen, The Algodon Club, and many more. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, loyal friend, and well-respected business woman and a valued volunteer.

ROBERT (BOB) W. SHEPARD



Robert (Bob) W. Shepard was born and raised in Harlingen and holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin. Bob is the President of

Shepard Walton King Insurance and has 40 years experience in the insurance industry and is the current President of the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas. He was appointed by Governor George Bush to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 1996 and reappointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2004 and served as Chairman from 2005-2008. Bob is also a past member of Pan American University Board of Regents where he served as Chairman of the Board. Bob is married to Anne and they have five children between them and six grandchildren. He has paved the way for many from Harlingen to serve on state agencies and fully realize their potential.

DARLENE LIGHTSEY TOPP



Darlene Lightsey Topp moved to Harlingen from Dallas in 1976 with her husband John and their 4 year old daughter, Jennifer, who was born with Down syndrome. Darlene has been a longtime advocate for persons with disabilities at the state and national level. Her primary goal has always been to serve the needs of the residents of Harlingen and the RGV, where she lives and works. Darlene formed the Special Education PTA so that parents and teachers could communicate on neutral ground about their hopes and desires for their children and students. Darlene has served on the National Committee of Planning for Developmental Disabilities in Washington, D.C. In addition to her advocacy Darlene still finds time to work for her community and church, Junior League of Harlingen, RioFest, First United Methodist Church, and Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Palm Valley.

Applications for the Walk of Fame are accepted year round. The selection committee is comprised of Rotarians and members of the community at-large. For a complete list of the Walk of Fame or for a nomination form, please visit www.rotaryharlingen.org.

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If you'd like more information about this topic or The Rotary Club of Harlingen please call Ricky Leal at (956) 364-7007 or email Ricky at rleal@fcbtx.com.