

# Hope



Treasures of Texas Gala

Spirit of Hope Awards

Thursday, May 13, 2010 • Hotel ZaZa

# Honorary Gala Committee

Ian Aitken

Joan and Stanford Alexander

Susan and James A. Baker, III

Peggy and Bill Barnett

Alice and Philip Burguières

The Honorable George H.W. Bush and Mrs. Barbara Bush

Eliza and Johnny Duncan

The Honorable and Mrs. Robert Eckels

Judge Ed and Gwen Emmett

Maureen and Jim Hackett

Carolyn and Tom Hamilton

Jeanne and Peter Kinnear

Elizabeth Winston Jones and Sam Jones

Jo Ann and Gary Levering

Kathy and Jeff Love

Flo and William K. McGee, Jr.

Mrs. Kathrine McGovern

Linda and Jim McIngvale

Maconda B. O'Connor, Ph.D.

Dr. John Oldham

Regina Rogers

Nancy and Clive Runnells

Dr. Jair Soares

Ann Trammell

Dr. James T. Willerson

Drs. Beth and Stuart Yudofsky

# Treasures of Texas Gala

Dear Friends and Advocates,

Thank you for joining us at the Treasures of Texas Gala. We are excited that you have chosen to join us on this very special night to celebrate the “Spirit of Hope” which leads us and many others to do more towards improving the lives and wellbeing of people living with behavioral health and mental health disorders—people who are our leaders, friends, family, co-workers, neighbors and members of our community.

The spirit of hope resonates in everyone, yet it is expressed differently. Researchers have found that people facing chronic or life-threatening diseases do much better when they have substantial levels of hope—they have shorter hospital stays, live longer, and enjoy a higher quality of life.

The spirit of hope is also a motivator that comes from each life saved and each life changed. It helps us and many other advocates to stand firm and press onward to change and improve the way mental health is perceived and issues are addressed.

Tonight, we are honored to share with you some of the significant contributions of eight distinguished individuals as we recognize them with the 2010 Spirit of Hope Award. Whether it is through their professions or their volunteerism, these honorees are creating a legacy of health and hope in the areas of Housing for Adults with Mental Illness, Veterans Behavioral Health, Legislative Advocacy, and Women’s Mental Health.

Since its inaugural presentation in 2004, the Spirit of Hope Award is a tribute that has only been given to two individuals, Joan Alexander (2004) and Cheryl Burguières (posthumously in 2005).

We hope that as you experience the spirit of the evening, you will also gain an awareness and brief insight on several key issues that make a difference in the mental health and wellness of all Houstonians.

Sincerely,

William L. McClain  
MHA Board Chair

Diana Untermeyer  
2010 Gala Co-Chair

Chase Untermeyer  
2010 Gala Co-Chair

# *Treasures of Texas Gala Program*

## *Welcome*

Melanie Lawson, Emcee

KTRK-TV Channel 13

## *Chairs Report*

Diana and Chase Untermeyer

2010 Gala Co-Chairs

## *Invocation*

The Reverend James C. McGill

Christ Church Cathedral & MHA Board of Directors

## *Dinner and Musical Entertainment*

The David Caceras Trio and Kamil

## *Spirit of Hope Video*

Emily Burguières Dalicandro

MHA Board of Directors

# *Treasures of Texas Gala Program*

## *Spirit of Hope Awards Presentation*

William L. McClain  
Current MHA Board Chair

### **Housing for Adults with Mental Illness**

Brad Raffle, MHA Board Chair

(6/2000 – 5/2003)

### **Legislative Advocacy**

Judson Robinson, III, MHA Board Chair

(6/1999 – 5/2000)

### **Veterans Behavioral Health**

Robert R. Ivany, MHA Board Chair

(6/2007 – 5/2008)

### **Womens Mental Health**

Maureen Hackett, MHA Board Chair

(6/2003 – 5/2007)

## *Musical Finale*



SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD

# Housing for Adults with Mental Illness

**Tom Forrester Lord**



For more than 3 decades, Tom Forrester Lord's passion to create housing and a greater awareness of housing issues has changed the landscape of Houston.

As an educator, Lord

has taught housing management courses at Texas Southern University, housing law at the University of Houston. He has been a lecturer at Rice University's College of Architecture and former Program Director of the Institute for Urban Studies at the University of Houston where he served as consultant to the Texas Urban Development Commission and authored a bill to create a State Housing Finance Agency.

As the principal of Tom Forrester Lord, Real Estate, a commercial brokerage enterprise specializing in conventional apartments, Lord has personally purchased, managed, and sold several apartment complexes in Houston.

As founder and president of The Housing Corporation of Greater Houston, a non-profit organization focused on improving housing conditions and conserving neighborhoods, he positioned the organization to serve as a catalyst between the private and public sectors in order to stimulate the improvement of housing in the Houston area.

Since its establishment in 1968, the organization has also taken a leadership role in the community to increase awareness of housing needs and to promote housing programs and projects. From its inception, The Housing Corporation has directly assisted in the construction and rehabilitation of over 8,000 homes for lower and moderate income families, and through its affiliate, the Houston Housing Management Corporation, manages over 1,300 apartments in the Houston area.

The Housing Corporation of Greater Houston, in partnership with Mental Health America of Greater Houston, has also developed and implemented Jackson Hinds Gardens, a low income, permanent housing project that includes a full array of supportive services for formerly homeless persons—many of which are adults with mental illnesses. The integration of supportive services at this site accounts for the more than 75% retention rate at this development.



## SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD

# Housing for Adults with Mental Illness

## Charles J. O'Connell



Volunteerism and community involvement have been important to Charles "Charlie" J. O'Connell throughout his career and in retirement.

He has served as a board member for not-for-profit organizations with human service, arts, economic development, and philanthropic missions. O'Connell currently serves on the board of the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County where he recently completed a two year term as Board Chair.

O'Connell's experience with the Coalition for the Homeless has given him an understanding of the importance of retaining and acquiring stable housing for people with serious mental illnesses. As a strategy development organization committed to preventing and ending Houston area homelessness, the Coalition collaborates with homeless service providers and other stakeholders to enhance Houston's ability to achieve and sustain stable housing and critical services for people and families in need. Unfortunately, people with severe mental illnesses account for a disproportionately large percentage of the Houston area homeless population, and an even larger percentage of those considered "chronically homeless" due to the

duration and frequency of their homeless episodes. O'Connell observes that "when people with serious mental illnesses are living on the streets and in emergency shelters, their daily priorities are food, shelter and security, leaving little time to focus on needed mental health, housing and other services that can stabilize their lives.

Historically, mental health agencies' lack of expertise or funding to adequately address their clients' housing needs, and housing providers' inability to effectively address mental health service needs, has led to a gap in our homeless system that has resulted in chronic homelessness for too many people. However, solutions are beginning to emerge as the permanent supportive housing model has proven effective in stably housing people with intensive mental health service needs in a highly cost effective manner.

Houston area mental health and homeless organizations are now making stable housing a priority and are collaborating to develop badly needed permanent supportive housing units. I am delighted that MHA has taken a leadership role in advancing this strategy with its innovative Center for Supportive Housing, as has my fellow honoree, Tom Lord, a pioneer in Houston area permanent supportive housing development."



## SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD

# *L*egislative *A*dvocacy

## The Honorable Garnet F. Coleman



Garnet F. Coleman has served the people of District 147 in the Texas House of Representatives continuously since 1991. Throughout his years of service, Representative Coleman has earned a

reputation as a diligent leader in the areas of health care, economic development and education. He is currently the Senior ranking member of the Public Health Committee as well as the Chairman of the County Affairs Committee. Representative Coleman also serves as a member of the Select Committee on Federal Economic Stabilization Funding, which is charged with ensuring that the state maximize its share of funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

For many years Representative Coleman has been deeply committed to expanding access to health care for all Texans. To further this goal he serves as a member of President Obama's State Legislators for Health Reform, which is a working group of 32 state legislators dedicated to advancing the need for health reform in their communities.

Some of his most significant legislative accomplishments include joint authoring legislation that simplified access to children's Medicaid for more

than 600,000 children in Texas who were eligible for the program but were not enrolled because of bureaucratic barriers. He also helped secure an increase of \$161.5 million for at-risk child care services and joint authored legislation that created the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Texas, which makes low-cost health insurance available to more than 400,000 children from working families.

Representative Coleman's legislative efforts have been recognized in numerous ways. On two occasions he was named to the prestigious Texas Monthly Ten Best Legislators List, and received the 2005 Eli Lilly Reintegration Award for his efforts to increase services and decrease the stigma associated with mental illness. Most recently, he was awarded the Texas Academy of Family Physicians' 2009 Patient Advocacy Award.

Outside his legislative work, Representative Coleman remains active and involved in the Houston community. He serves on the boards of the Mid-Town Redevelopment Authority, the National Mental Health Association, and the Ensemble Theater, and serves as president and CEO of Apartments for America, Inc., a non-profit affordable housing corporation.



SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD

*L*egislative *A*dvocacy

**The Honorable John E. Davis**



In November 1998, John E. Davis was elected to the Texas Legislature to represent House District 129. Representative Davis currently serves as a member of the House Committee on Public Health and as a

member of the House Committee on County Affairs.

His previous committee appointments include: Chair for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, Chairman of Budget and Oversight for the House Human Services Committee, membership on the Medicaid Reform Legislative Oversight Committee, and Vice Chair of the House Select Committee on Hurricane Ike Devastation.

A native of Houston and a fifth generation Texan, Representative Davis graduated from Baylor University in 1982 and from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 1987. He is the past President of Oates Industries, an industrial roofing company; he now serves as an independent manufacturer representative for RPM, a roof and wall restoration company.

An active member of the community, Representative Davis belongs to the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Space Center Rotary Club, University Baptist Church in Clear Lake, and the Pasadena Salvation Army Advisory Board. His legislative efforts include working with NASA Johnson Space Center on the Texas Aerospace Scholars' Program along with the Technology Outreach Program.

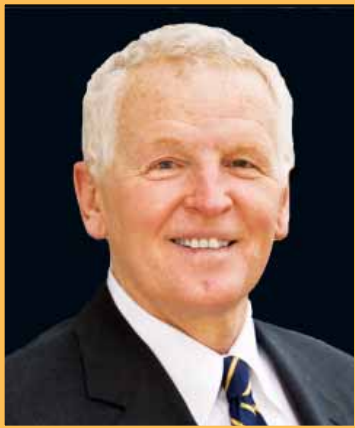
As a result of past and present work with various advocacy groups, during the 81st Legislative Session Representative Davis was awarded the Texas Visionary Award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Friend of Medicine from the Texas Medical Association in 2010.



SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD

# Veterans Behavioral Health

## The Honorable S. Ward Casscells, MD



The Honorable S. Ward Casscells, MD is the John E. Tyson Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Public Health, and Vice President for External Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Texas Health

Science Center at Houston, and Senior Scholar at the Texas Heart Institute. His team contributes original data (including the regular Zogby/Casscells surveys) and insights on healthcare reform, pandemic readiness, and health diplomacy.

From April 2007 through April 2009 he served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) where he was credited with turning around a struggling \$45bn health and education system with 137,000 employees, 10 million patients in 900 clinics and hospitals in 100 countries. The system is now #1 in most surveys of patient satisfaction. For this work Dr. Casscells received the highest civilian award, the Distinguished Public Service Medal from the Department of Defense, the Surgeon General's Medallion from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Army's Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, and the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Government Executive magazine said of him, "Many Defense leaders say they pay attention to the troops and don't. Casscells does...he is a leader who

walks the walk...making rounds at military hospitals.. (continuing his policy) would serve the troops well."

Dr. Casscells graduated Yale College and Harvard Medical School (magna cum laude). He trained in medicine and cardiology at Beth Israel, Brigham and Women's, and Massachusetts General Hospitals, the Harvard School of Public Health, National Institutes of Health, and Scripps.

His publications have been in the areas of prevention of heart attack and stroke, information technology, medical ethics, influenza, disaster preparedness, nanotechnology, and healthcare management. He also speaks publicly about living with cancer.

An inventor, and founder of several companies, including Volcano Corporation, he has served on numerous civic, corporate, and professional boards. He has been elected to a number of honorary societies. His work in mobile telemedicine and disaster response earned him the General Maxwell Thurman Award, HHS' Best Public Health Practice Award, and Memorial Hermann Health System's Hero Award. His recent book, "When It Mattered Most", a tribute to medics killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, was termed by Newsweek's Evan Thomas, "a noble work".

A colonel in the Army Reserve, Dr. Casscells served in Iraq in 2006, earning the Joint Commendation Medal and honorary membership in the Iraqi Medical Regiment. He and his wife and three children are Texans, living in exile in Washington, DC.



SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD

# Veterans Behavioral Health

## Thomas B. Horvath MD, FRACP



Thomas B. Horvath MD, FRACP is a Hungarian by birth, Australian by education, and American, and a Texan, by choice. He recently retired as the Chief of Staff of the tertiary care DeBaakey VA

Medical Center (VAMC) after a decade that saw the hospital honored twice with the Carey national quality award, and twice with a Nursing Magnet designation: the only VAMC so celebrated for service to veterans.

During his tenure the affiliation with Baylor College of Medicine and the relations with Texas Medical Center were strengthened, the residents rotating through the facility increased by 30% to the largest resident group at a VAMC in the country. He helped his research administration to establish a Research Commons and acquire a dedicated MRI, both focusing on Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injuries and Substance Use disorders.

Dr. Horvath came to Houston from VA Central Office where he was the Director of Mental Health Services for the Veterans Administration during the Clinton Administration. His most notable achievement there was the establishment of the ten member nationwide Mental Illness, Research, Education and Clinical

system, which has leveraged its initial core investment of \$ 20 million dollars by 4-6 fold from sources outside the VA, and has published hundreds of papers and created dozens of new clinical initiatives. He remained in a collateral position as Research and Educational Advisor to Veterans Administration Central Office until his retirement to shepherd the progress of the Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers.

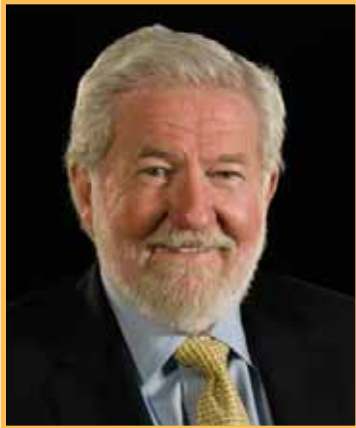
His service in the US Army Reserves, Medical Corps helped him to co-lead the Houston medical recovery from Tropical Storm Allison, and to serve as the Federal Liaison to the Mayor and the Judge during Hurricane Katrina. He now volunteers at the VAMC as coordinator of the Clinical Neuroscience Consortium, a group that was recently successful in attracting a million dollar a year, five year, renewable Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation Research Center. He also continues to treat veterans with PTSD, and advocates for their pensions and to work part time as a Professor in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry, where he teaches, consults, and helps to develop infrastructure for behavioral research.



## SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD

# Women's Mental Health

## George J. Parnham



George J. Parnham is a soft spoken attorney who once trained for the priesthood and was thrust into the national spotlight through representing such high-profile clients as Andrea Yates and Clara Harris. Parnham has practiced law for forty-one years in Houston,

Texas, specializing in criminal defense. Viewing law as a practical way to serve his fellow citizens, he has dedicated his life to the defense of the underdog. He has become an expert on the defense of individuals with mental illness and a passionate advocate for legal reform of their treatment in the criminal justice system. Parnham is called upon frequently by local and national news media to render an opinion on insanity plea cases and general defense issues in high profile cases, such as Robert Durst, Kobe Bryant, and Scott Peterson.

## Mary Parnham



Mary has always considered herself an advocate for children's and women's issues. In the late 1980's Mary became a member of the volunteer board of the Youth/Victim Witness Program of Interfaith Ministries, an advocacy program

for children finding themselves entangled in the criminal justice system. In 2001 Interfaith presented

her with the Nachtigall-Talley Award, which is presented to an individual "whose service to Interfaith Ministries demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment." She chaired that committee for several years and is still a part of this group which is now operating as Children's Court Services through the Houston Area Women's Center. Now, in addition to the children who are clients of Court Services, the committee also reaches out to those who come through the women's center for their variety of services offered, as well as the families who find themselves residents of the Women's Shelter.

## George and Mary Parnham

On the evening of June 21, 2001, a phone call changed the lives of George and Mary Parnham forever. The caller, a civil attorney, desperately needed legal representation for his client, Andrea Yates, charged with the drowning deaths of her five children. George accepted the challenge of Andrea's defense. This decision impacted the Parnhams personally and professionally.

In 2003, after the initial jury verdict in this case, they knew that this type of tragedy should never happen again and they began the search for a way to memorialize the lives of the Yates children—Noah, John, Paul, Luke and Mary.

Shortly after the verdict, the Parnhams in collaboration with Mental Health America of Greater Houston (MHA) established the Yates Children Memorial Fund, an educational unit of MHA's Women's Mental Health Program that primarily educates and trains mothers, families, healthcare professionals and others who encounter mothers and their babies on maternal mental illnesses, specifically postpartum depression. Mary is currently the chair of YCMF.



## *Honorary Board Members*

Joan Alexander  
Philip J. Burguières  
Maureen Hackett  
Jim McIngvale

## *Board of Directors*

### **Chairman**

William L. McClain

### **Vice Chairs**

Tim Horan  
Robert C. Wilson, III

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Connie Estopinal, CPA

### **Immediate Past Chairman**

Robert R. Ivany, Ph.D.

### **Board Members**

Efrain Bleiberg, M.D.  
Ira Colby, Ph.D.  
Julie Crosswell, MSW  
Emily Burguières Dalicandro  
Juanita Elizondo  
E. Henry Groppe  
Nancy Hargrove  
Michael Jhin  
Robert Kneppler, Jr.  
Odysseus M. Lanier  
Sally Lehr  
Reverend Jim McGill  
Lisa Mellencamp  
Curtis C. Mooney Ph.D.  
The Honorable Joe Nixon  
Don M. Woo

### **Ex-Officio**

Gary Skarke



## *About the Organization.*

Mental health is the foundation of healthy people, healthy communities and a healthy America. Since 1954, Mental Health America of Greater Houston has worked to enhance the mental health of all Houstonians and improve the lives of those with mental illness through collaborative education, outreach and advocacy. We work to build a community that understands that mental health is indistinguishable from and integral to overall health and wellness, and where all Houstonians have access to comprehensive, effective care. As an organization, we have long been recognized for our success in providing effective and cutting edge programs that address the critical mental health needs of the Greater Houston area. We are known for our role in acting as a convener and leader for ambitious systems change initiatives that have a profound and lasting impact on the state of mental health care. We collaborate with health care providers, social service agencies, faith-based organizations, government entities, and community organizations to maximize our effectiveness.

## *Advocacy and Public Policy*

Improving access to quality mental health care

Mental Health America of Greater Houston aims to increase access to mental health services, transform the public's understanding of mental health and mental illness, and improve mental health public policy. We lead and encourage community collaborations aimed at transforming local systems to improve the delivery of mental health services.

## *Education and Training*

Promoting mental health and eliminating stigma associated with mental illness

The Education and Training program educates caregivers, service providers, and key influencers on issues related to mental health and mental illness while providing information and direction to those in need. By providing information, we are spreading the word that there is hope for recovery and wellness and a community that is willing and able to help.

# Hope





# *The Story of Our Symbol* *The Mental Health Bell*

**Cast from shackles which bound them, this bell shall ring out hope  
for the mentally ill and victory over mental illness.**

—Inscription on Mental Health Bell

During the early days of mental health treatment, asylums often restrained people who had mental illnesses with iron chains and shackles around their ankles and wrists. With better understanding and treatments, this cruel practice eventually stopped.

In the early 1950s, Mental Health America issued a call to asylums across the country for their discarded chains and shackles. On April 13, 1956, at the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore, MD, Mental Health America melted down these inhumane bindings and recast them into a sign of hope: the Mental Health Bell. Now the symbol of Mental Health America, the 300-pound Bell serves as a powerful reminder that the invisible chains of misunderstanding and discrimination continue to bind people with mental illnesses.

Today, the Mental Health Bell rings out hope for improving mental health and achieving victory over mental illnesses. Over the years, national mental health leaders and other prominent individuals have rung the Bell to mark the continued progress in the fight for victory over mental illnesses.



For more information on Mental Health America of Greater Houston,  
visit the website at [www.mhahouston.org](http://www.mhahouston.org).