



313 E. 12th St., Ste. 210, Austin, TX 78701 ■ (800) 252-3625 ■ (512) 476-6346 ■ www.TexasBuilders.org

IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Debbie Davis, Communications & Marketing Director
(512) 476-6346 | Debbie@TexasBuilders.org

November 21, 2018

Award Winners Announced & 2019 Senior Officers Installed

AUSTIN, Texas – The Texas Association of Builders (TAB) swore in its 2019 President, Robert Wood, inducted Patsy Smith and George Lewis into the Texas Housing Hall of Honor and handed out six “Of the Year” awards at the prestigious 2018 Excellence in Leadership Dinner on November 15. The 2019 Board of Directors and TAB’s Senior Officers were installed at the Board of Directors meeting the following day.

The office of President of the Texas Association of Builders is one that carries the highest honor, as well as the greatest responsibility. The President’s duties require commitment, energy, enthusiasm, and a willingness to expand one’s leadership abilities. The senior officers are the core leaders of TAB. They are charged with upholding the bylaws and policies of the association.

The Board of Directors are responsible for the member programs, representations, and education of the association. The role of the directors is to develop relationships for the betterment of the homebuilding industry, be an active participant and to set the pace for the rest of the membership.

The “Of the Year” awards are given annually to recognize exemplary service and leadership contributions to the homebuilding industry by its members.

2019 TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS SENIOR OFFICERS:

President: Robert Wood, Custom Homes by Robert Wood — Lubbock, Texas

First Vice President: Randy Bowling, Tropicana Homes— El Paso, Texas

Vice President/Secretary: Michael Biggerstaff, Biggerstaff Homes, Inc. – San Angelo, Texas

Treasurer: Brett Martin, Tilson Home Corp. — Houston, Texas

Immediate Past President: Justin MacDonald, MacDonald Companies — Kerrville, Texas

2018 “OF THE YEAR” AWARD RECIPIENTS

J.B. Sandlin Builder of the Year: Erin Wright, Wright-Built, LLC – Hawkins, Texas

Developer of the Year: Gene Lantrip, Lantrip's Custom Homes – Abilene, Texas

Associate of the Year: Bob Burton, Winstead PC – Austin, Texas

Philanthropist of the Year: Greater Houston Builders Association

313 E. 12th St., Ste. 210, Austin, TX 78701 ■ (800) 252-3625 ■ (512) 476-6346 ■ www.TexasBuilders.org

Ted Schlossman Lifetime Achievement Award: Ron Rohrbacher, Perry Homes – Houston, Texas

Association Accomplishment of the Year: Big Country Home Builders Association – Abilene, Texas

2018 TAB SENIOR OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Robert Wood, Custom Homes by Robert Wood – Lubbock, Texas

In 2002, Robert began fulfilling a life-long dream of being a home builder as he opened the doors to Custom Homes by Robert Wood. Prior to starting his own business, he worked as a supplier to home builders for more than 20 years. This partnership between supplier and builder allowed him to see the importance of being engaged at the local and state levels of the home builders associations. Robert served as the 2011 President of the West Texas Home Builders Association and became active in the Texas Association of Builders. For the past seven years, he has served on TAB's Executive Committee and is a State Director. Since 2010, he's been a member of TAB's Government Relations Committee, HOMEPAAC Trustees and Membership Committee. Robert also served as 2016 Sunbelt Committee Co-Chair. All of Robert's professional engagements rank second to his commitment to his community. His hands-on approach has allowed him to work directly with the Lubbock Make-A-Wish Foundation, March of Dimes, Highpoint Village and Lubbock Homes for Heroes. The Albuquerque, N.M. native considers Lubbock his hometown and is proud that he raised his family there and gets to watch his grandchildren grow up there as well.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Randy Bowling, Tropicana Homes— El Paso, Texas

Randy Bowling is the President of Tropicana Homes in El Paso, Texas. Tropicana Homes and its affiliates have been building homes and apartments in El Paso since 1950, and have built over 10,000 residences since that time. After spending the last 23 years building residential properties, Randy has become an expert on land acquisition and development, residential construction in Texas and New Mexico, residential lending, and assisting his brother with navigating the ever-changing complexities of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. In addition, Randy has served his association as a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Association of Builders (TAB) since 2004, Chairman of TAB's Government Relations Committee, HOMEPAAC Trustees, Codes & Standards Committee, and is a member of TAB's Executive Committee. In 2016, Randy was named a Life Director of TAB. Among numerous awards and honors, Tropicana Homes has been recognized by the El Paso Association of Builders four times as the Builder of the Year, and by TAB as Developer of the Year and twice as Builder of the Year.

VICE PRESIDENT/SECRETARY: Michael Biggerstaff, Biggerstaff Homes, Inc.— San Angelo, Texas

Mike Biggerstaff is a third generation Texan, home builder and remodeler. He is extremely involved in his local community. Since 1995, he has sponsored hundreds of underprivileged young men through the local Youth Boxing Club, many of whom became National Junior Olympic and Silver Glove Champions. In 2002, Mike was named the most admired Citizen by CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. Additionally, he is a major supporter of Habitat for Humanity, Operation FINALLY HOME, and the Historical Society. He and a group of local builders made history in April 2015 when they broke ground on the first subdivision in the U.S. to mandate subsurface irrigation with graywater. He has volunteered hundreds of hours to his home builders associations and was named Builder of the Year by the San Angelo Home Builders Association in 2013. Mike was named the Texas Association of Builders Philanthropist of the Year in 2017 and Developer of the Year in 2015. He has chaired and served on numerous committees at both the local and state levels, and also serves as Chairman of the Texas Builders Foundation. Mike personally established the Foundation's first \$25,000 endowment and is responsible for the establishment of additional endowments totaling more than \$250,000.

TREASURER: Brett Martin, Tilson Home Corp. — Houston, Texas

Brett has been involved with the building industry for the last 19 years. The first 11 years were spent providing construction financing to builders and permanent financing to homeowners. The last eight years he has served as Vice President of Real Estate Operations for Tilson Homes. Brett has served on the Audit and Finance Committees for the Texas Association of Builders (TAB) the past six years. He has served as TAB’s Audit Committee Chairman and on TAB’s Executive Committee the past three years. Born in Pecos and raised in Lubbock and Houston, Brett graduated from Abilene Christian University with a BBA in Accounting and became a CPA. Brett started his accounting career as an auditor with Arthur Young & Co., specializing in finance, real estate and construction.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Justin MacDonald, MacDonald Companies – Kerrville, Texas

Justin MacDonald was born into the home building industry. His grandmother, Jean MacDonald, was inducted into the Texas Housing Hall of Honor in 2010, and his father, Granger, is one of the most well respected pro-housing voices and builders in the nation. MacDonald Companies is family-owned and specializes in developing, building, and managing multifamily neighborhoods across Texas. Justin, president and chief operating officer, is a third generation builder. He’s a NAHB director, committee chairman and state representative and has served as president of the Hill Country Builders Association twice. At the Texas Association of Builders (TAB), he has served on the Executive Committee and Finance Committees since 2009 and led the Government Relations Committee through one of TAB’s most successful legislative sessions in 2015. Justin has three degrees. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Journalism and Visual Communications from Angelo State University (2003), followed by a MBA in Finance from the University of Texas-San Antonio (2006) and a Managerial Leadership Certificate from UT’s Red McCombs School of Business (2015).



Robert Wood



Randy Bowling



Michael Biggerstaff



Brett Martin



Justin MacDonald

2018 “OF THE YEAR” AWARD RECIPIENTS

J.B. Sandlin Builder of the Year: Erin Wright, Wright-Built, LLC – Hawkins, Texas

Developer of the Year: Gene Lantrip, Lantrip's Custom Homes – Abilene, Texas

Associate of the Year: Bob Burton, Winstead PC – Austin, Texas

Philanthropist of the Year: Greater Houston Builders Association

Ted Schlossman Lifetime Achievement Award: Ron Rohrbacher, Perry Homes – Houston, Texas

Association Accomplishment of the Year: Big Country Home Builders Association – Abilene, Texas

J.B. SANDLIN BUILDER OF THE YEAR

Erin Wright, Wright-Built, LLC – Hawkins, Texas

Erin is a one-of-a-kind builder that is known for distinct craftsmanship and producing quality-built homes in the Hawkins, Texas area. She holds certifications as an Aging in Place Specialist, Green Professional, Graduate Builder and Graduate Master Builder. Her work has received “The Best of Houzz” badge in Design and Service. She is equally dedicated to National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), Texas Association of Builders (TAB) and the Tyler Area BA. At NAHB, she is a member of the Young Professionals Council as well as the Professional Women in Building Council. Erin has served on TAB’s Executive, Membership, Sunbelt Builders Show™ and HOME PAC Committees plus the Young Professionals Council. In 2018, as president of the YP Council, she led an initiative to launch a new Sunbelt event, The Builders Bash. It was attended by over 400 people and proceeds from the concert raised \$35,000 for the Texas Builders Foundation. Erin served as president of the Tyler Area Builders Association in 2017 and also was chair of the Membership Committee and the Parade of Homes. Following Hurricane Harvey, she launched a drive to collect hurricane relief supplies for victims. As a result, two trailers of supplies were delivered to the HBA of Southeast Texas and the Crossroads BA. Additionally, monetary donations were made to the Coastal Bend HBA and the Greater Houston BA.

TED SCHLOSSMAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ron Rohrbacher, Perry Homes – Houston, Texas

Ron Rohrbacher has served his local, state and national associations for decades. He is a member of the Greater Houston BA’s Board of Directors and has served as TAB’s Codes & Standards Chairman for over 20 years. In that capacity, he worked with TAB and the Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to develop a stormwater training program that culminated in a signed proclamation by all three organizations. He was also instrumental in developing with OSHA Region 6, TAB’s OSHA Model Safety Plan. Both of these initiatives have saved our builder members potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines. At TAB and NAHB, he has served on numerous task forces and committees to ensure effective and reasonable enforcement and compliance with building codes and other construction standards. Ron makes himself available for TAB regulatory and legislative efforts, testifying at legislative hearings and meeting with state regulatory staff and leaders on a regular basis. For years, he has worked with community colleges in the greater Houston area on workforce development training. He is hard at work to bring construction trades programs into the Houston Community College System, the largest community college system in the state. These efforts include raising significant dollars to provide scholarships, equipment and materials to help get these programs started.

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

Greater Houston Builders Association

In August 2017, the gulf coast of Texas suffered the worst flooding on record from Hurricane Harvey. The Greater Houston Builders Association led their city and community through this difficult time with compassion, generosity and humanitarianism. GHBA was recognized for its membership education and advocacy efforts, including GHBA's support of Harris County's \$2.5 billion flood mitigation bond package, and charitable outreach, specifically, the creation of BuildAid in partnership with HomeAid Houston and the David Weekley Foundation. BuildAid has received \$5.5 million from the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund established by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Judge Ed Emmett and \$350,000 from the ReBuild Texas Fund. To date, within the BuildAid program, 15 homes have been completed; 55 homes have completed the application process and will soon begin construction; and 31 are in mid-construction. The goal is to complete a total of 250 homes in the next 18 to 24 months. GHBA also successfully advocated for the largest bond package for flood control in Harris County's history and kick-started one of the most responsive recovery-related charities in the region. GHBA's leadership in Harris Plus, Houston Stronger, Fight Flooding PAC fundraising and the association's efforts in educating members about the bond package, GHBA spearheaded advocacy efforts beginning in September 2017 that ultimately resulted in a \$2.5 billion infrastructure bond package passing with over 85 percent voter approval. The Flight Flooding PAC held two press conferences, produced 742 radio and TV ads, distributed 4,000 yard signs, and 5,000 push cards and completed robo calls. The PAC also disseminated door hangers and circulated social media posts resulting in over 175,000 digital views. The association was also heavily involved at the grassroots level, advocating for greater infrastructure investment. TAB's Philanthropist of the Year has traditionally been awarded to an individual, but the committee chose to recognize the entire GHBA for its rebuilding, advocacy, charitable and educational efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR

Gene Lantrip, Lantrip's Custom Homes – Abilene, Texas

For 35 years, Gene Lantrip has built homes and developed subdivisions in the Abilene community. Gene has numerous accolades to tout but most impressively is that he's a TAB Life Director and has served on the Executive Committee for the past five years. He's currently chairman of HOMEPAC, where he has already exceeded his goal of raising \$235,000. Gene has also chaired the Area Vice Presidents Committee and is a Capitol Club Donor to HOMEPAC. In addition, he's active on the Membership, Government Relations and Bylaws and Policy Review Committees. He has served as president of the Big Country Home Builders Association (BCHBA) and has earned a BCHBA Builder of the Year honor.

ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR

Bob Burton, Winstead PC – Austin, Texas

Bob Burton has become a very valuable asset to the Texas Association of Builders. Since getting involved with TAB, his expertise on a number of issues related to land development, homeowner associations (HOA), tort reform and construction law has been critical. Burton is regularly called upon as an expert witness and to offer professional insight into potential legislation and regulation. He has served for years on the TAB Attorney Council and HOA Task Force, contributing hundreds of hours to the association. His efforts as one of our lead legal and technical experts directly led to the successful passage of the Condo Tort Reform Bill in 2015. Following the success of this legislative advocacy effort, Burton was instrumental in furthering the formation of TAB's Developers Council and the recruitment of new developer members for the association. Through those efforts, TAB has extended its presence with developers across the state. Recently, Burton was appointed to chair the TAB Home Owners Association Issues Task Force for the upcoming Legislative Session.

ASSOCIATION ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE YEAR

Big Country Home Builders Association

The Big Country Home Builders Association (BCHBA) saw a lot of change in 2018. BCHBA thoroughly evaluated their organization and strategically developed a path to grow all aspects of their association. This past year, their membership grew by over 40 percent, revenue increased by 30 percent and they have exceeded their HOME PAC goal by an unbelievable 500 percent. BCHBA reinvested over \$25,000 back into their community through their local school districts, fire departments and Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, the Big Country HBA was able to secure a position on the Abilene Chamber of Commerce board. This appointment has proven to be very beneficial to stay current with city administration, build relationships with city officials, and foster relationships that were previously non-existent. These connections have led to several new workforce development programs.

About the Texas Association of Builders: The Texas Association of Builders (TAB) is a non-profit organization serving the needs of home builders, remodelers and land developers throughout Texas, as well as the companies that service them. Founded in 1946, the Texas Association of Builders is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and has 27 local home builders associations and almost 11,000 members across Texas. Representing over 511,295 jobs and more than \$36.2 billion annually in the Texas economy, the state and local associations play a crucial role in providing housing for Texans. For more information about the Texas Association of Builders, visit www.TexasBuilders.org.

###



J.B. Sandlin Builder of the Year
L-R: Erin Wright and Victor Drozd



Ted Schlossman Lifetime Achievement Award
Ron Rohrbacher



Developer of the Year
L-R: Gene Lantrip and Terry Weaver



Association Accomplishment of the Year
Big Country Home Builders Association



Associate of the Year
L-R: Jessica Goehring and Bob Burton



2018 Texas Association of Builders "Of the Year" Award Winners.
L-R: Terah Ward, Jon Loudermilk, Ron Rohrbacher, Gene Lantrip, Bob Burton, Erin Wright, Casey Morgan



Philanthropist of the Year
Greater Houston Builders Association

