

DOTHAN



Business Hall *of* Fame

*Banquet & Induction Ceremony
August 24, 2017
Calvary Baptist Church*



Dothan Business Hall of Fame

The Beginning & Continuing Forward

If you were to look in the history book for the Dothan and Houston County area, you would be sure to find a vast manuscript filled with the names of individuals who have made a significant impact in the development of this area.

This list of names would incorporate those who have made such an impact by promoting the free enterprise system of entrepreneurship. Those who have spent a lifetime demonstrating civic leadership, philanthropy and humanitarianism toward their fellow citizens.

Recognizing the importance of these individuals, the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and the Dothan Area Young Professionals proudly established the Dothan Business Hall of Fame in 2011. The Hall of Fame's mission is to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of our area's outstanding business leaders, to perpetuate and inspire values of entrepreneurial spirit, personal integrity and community leadership in all generations. This mission is achieved by honoring past and present business leaders and by inspiring the leaders of the future.

Publicly recognizing extraordinary business leaders and establishing a record of their achievement is important on so many levels. These individuals and their contributions remind us of the constant need for renewal and change and the opportunity for economic success. The inductees each year serve as role models for our students, those persons just beginning their careers and for new entrepreneurs.

Once the Hall of Fame was established, governing guidelines were written, a Board of Advisors was created and soon thereafter, nominations for the 2011 inaugural year were accepted. It didn't take long before 17 phenomenal nominations for the Hall of Fame's inaugural year had been received.

Now in May and June of each year, the Hall of Fame's Board of Advisors solicit for laureate nominations through the Dothan Area Chamber's monthly newsletter and website. Once nominations are closed, the Board of Advisors go through a hard and long staking process to select the laureates.

The Dothan Business Hall of Fame is located at the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce in a prominent area so those honored may be seen by Chamber members, prospective members, industrial prospects, visitors and the general public.

The Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce
and
The Dothan Area Young Professionals

are proud to present

The Dothan Business Hall of Fame

2017 Honorees

S. Earl Dove

W. Earl Durden

R. Hayne Hollis, III

Alan C. Livingston



Program

6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Reception

6:30 p.m.

Welcome

Scott Applefield, Chairman

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Invocation

Father Patrick Gallagher

St. Columba Catholic Church

6:40 p.m.

Dinner

7:30 p.m.

Past Laureate Recognition

Scott Applefield

Opening Comments

Scott Applefield

Daniel Tew, Chairman

Dothan Area Young Professionals

7:45 p.m.

Induction Ceremony

Scott Applefield

Daniel Tew

8:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Scott Applefield



S. Earl Dove

AAA Cooper Transportation

Trucking has been in Earl Dove's blood since his birth in 1932 to Sybil and John Hal "Red" Dove in Los Angeles, California. Sybil and Red migrated from Mississippi to California during the Great Depression looking for work. Red found work helping build the Boulder Dam and later with the Ford Motor Co. Before long, the Depression moved west and Red and Sybil longed to return to the South with their baby, Earl. Red spent \$50 on a Star pick-up and the family began their cross-country trek to Dothan.

Earl's first memories as a youngster are of his father driving a 1930's flat-bed truck filled with flour and meal headed to Florida and Georgia. Charging 10 cents per 100 pounds, he would return with onions, potatoes, watermelons and even cotton. Red Dove and a foreman built the flat-bed trailers in the backyard of the family home, so Earl learned from an early age the hard work and determination necessary to build a company. By the age of 16, he was old enough to drive the 1940's model trucks and was certain he was on the ground floor of his future career. While he enjoyed driving, he also knew he wanted to be a businessman so he worked part time on the truck dock and was the only male in his high school typing and shorthand class. He felt those were things he needed to know if he was going to make a living in trucking.

Following graduation from Dothan High School in 1950, Earl entered the University of Tennessee. After a year and a half of school, he temporarily left Tennessee to join the Air Force. In 1954, he returned to graduate from UT.

By 1955, Earl's father had purchased P.C. White Truck Lines, changing its name to AAA Motor Lines. By 1962, both Earl and his younger brother, Mack, were working full time with the family business. In the early years, he traveled extensively making sales for the growing company. At that time, Dothan did not have an airport with instrument approach for flying, so with his pilot license in hand and a company airplane, Earl moved his family to Montgomery to make use of their airport. He did what was needed to keep the business up and running. If someone was sick, he would type the freight bills and deliver the freight. He knew the value of hard work. His job was to grow the company and he excelled in sales. Through hard work, AAA Motor Lines brought in \$700,000 in gross sales and from that point, they began growing the business through internal sales and acquisitions. In 1969, they purchased Cooper Transportation, changing the company name to AAA Cooper Transportation and increased the gross revenue to \$1.5 million. By 1973, Earl and Mack recognized the beginning of deregulation in the transportation industry and prepared the company for growth through improved cost management systems. By the end of the 1970's, sales exceeded \$43 million. By this time, Earl and his wife, Bobbie, were delighted to return to their Dothan roots.

Having served as President of the Alabama Trucking Association, Earl became active in the American Trucking Associations. He began to attend National Executive Committee meetings accepting committee placements and assignments. In 1983, committees were formed nationally to study the structure of the American Trucking Associations, recommending changes on a national level. Earl was chairman of one of the four committees formed to take on that charge. Their work resulted in sweeping changes and a major restructuring of the trucking industry.

The 1980's brought rapid expansion to ACT and by 1984, Earl was on the go between Dothan and Washington, D.C. working as Chairman of the Board of AAA Cooper Transportation and serving as Vice-Chairman of the American Trucking Associations. In his Vice-Chairman role, he lobbied Congress on behalf of American truckers working to enhance safety and profitability. At home in Dothan, AAA Cooper was growing to serve customers all over the Southeast and Midwest.

In 1985, at the annual meeting of its Board of Directors, Earl was elected unanimously as Chairman of the American Trucking Associations, representing more than 37,000 members. In that role, he traveled to every state in the U.S. while working in Washington on collective rate making, equity in taxation, safety and the image of the trucking industry. He also traveled to Japan to discuss deregulation before their Congress and trucking industry leaders.

In 1989, Earl sold his 50 percent ownership in the company to his brother, Mack, and began sharing his time and resources with his church, community and family. Earl and his wife have been married 63 years and have four adult children, 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Earl's love of Dothan is evident from the work he has accomplished in our community through charitable work and public service.

W. Earl Durden

Durden Outdoor Displays Inc.



You won't find this guy on any boards or executive boards ... that's just not his style. Matter of fact if Earl Durden did have a style, it would be one of a passionate project volunteer.

Earl grew up from humble beginnings in the small farming town of Cottonwood, Alabama. One of his favorite pictures was taken at the age of 5 years old with an Alabama Power employee who was surveying his dirt road to run electricity to his grandma and grandpa's house. Durden had many blockades thrown in his path at a young age. Both his parents died in the same year when he was 2 years old. After these tragedies, he was raised by his grandparents Bertie and A.J. Cameron. It was on their small three-acre farm where he would learn about hard work, family, the bare essentials of life and that he didn't want to pick cotton for the rest of his life.

In 1959 at the ripe age of 16, Grandma Cameron took Earl into Dothan to have a meeting with her nephew, Foy Ready who had acquired and started many Dothan businesses including the Heart of Dothan and Parkway motels. She told Foy she had done all she could do with Willie Earl and that he needed a change of scenery. Foy gave him that change of scenery and before long he had learned how to run the laundry, work the front desk, plumbing, etc. Back in the early 60's, motels lived and died by billboards, of which many were neon. During the time Earl was working at the motel, Cousin Foy acquired yet another business that would later carve the way for Earl's future, Dothan Neon. Foy would schedule Earl to work three days a week at the motels and two days at the sign company working on on-premise signs and his motel's neon billboards.

Years later, Earl worked for Dothan icons Wallace & W.D. Williams who purchased Dothan Neon. He would always credit W.D. for giving him his master's degree in negotiation and leasing strategy as they were later competitors in the billboard business. In 1968 at the age of 25, Earl took a leap of faith and started his own business, Earl Durden Signs. He would unplug the only high voltage appliance in the house, his grandmother's stove, for power to use his welding machine.

In 1969, with a move to Reeves Street in Dothan, he purchased his first crane. In 1972, Earl saw the need to expand and moved the business to its present location on U.S. Highway 431 just outside Dothan, known today as the "Spanish Acres" development. Owning only 35 to 40 billboards at that time, Earl opted to sell the company. By 1973 he was back on his feet with a new logo and name change to "Durden Signs." Business was good and it was time once again to grow his media business changing the name to "Durden Outdoor Displays Inc." In 1978, he wanted to build the largest billboard in the state south of Birmingham. The "unipole" structure alone would weigh 18 tons and require a 36-inch pole. This jump-started the young entrepreneur's vision into the billboard business once again. In 1986, Durden purchased his competition, Gulf Outdoor and doubled the size of his company.

In 2006, he introduced the first digital billboard to the Wiregrass. Today, Durden Outdoor Displays is a 60,000-square-foot facility housing a full-service creative, marketing and production company. The largest Digital Billboard Network in southeast Alabama, Durden owns and manages over 1,000 bulletin, rotary poster and digital faces across nine counties in southeast Alabama and northwest Florida. Durden Outdoor Displays is a direct reflection of Earl's hard work and determination. If you ask any of his 25 employees to describe him, most would say he is selfless with a genuine concern for his employees, family and community.

Earl has made the Wiregrass area home his entire life. He and Annette spend their time on the coast when possible. He is the proud father of two children, Jennifer Richardson (Kurt) and Bill Durden (Jodie), and three grandsons, Carter, Christian and Brooks.



R. Hayne Hollis, III

Hollis & Spann Contractors

A Dothan native, Robert "Hayne" Hollis, III was born May 4, 1951, to "Bobby" and Carolyn Spann Hollis.

In 1950, his father and grandfather founded Hollis & Spann, and it might seem that Hayne would make a smooth glide into his professional destiny, but he didn't follow that script. Upon graduation from Dothan High School, his parents told him they would pay all his college expenses, go and have fun. After two years of having more fun than studying at Auburn University, he flunked out. His dad then gave him a dose of reality: no more college expenses would be provided by his family. Hayne would have to earn the money himself.

He went to work on the survey crew for Sam Torrence and Quinn Flowers of Couch Construction, both of whom he credits with being instrumental to the development of his work ethic. After a year working for Couch, he had earned enough money to go back to college, but enough for only one year. When he ran out of money, he had to return to work. This time his father hired him as an assistant superintendent with Hollis & Spann on an apartment job where he immersed himself into finishing that project. He became so impassioned with the job, he told his dad he didn't want to go back to Auburn—didn't see a need to, said he could envision rising up the ladder in his profession, step-by-step, without a college degree. To which his dad replied, "Then the \$2.50 an hour you're making now will be all you'll ever make without a college education." This inspired Hayne to go back to college.

Hollis returned to Auburn where he says he treated school "like a job." He earned straight A's, and in 1974 - with just one quality point above a D due to early goof-off years - he earned a bachelor's degree in building science.

Back in Dothan, he worked in the family business as an estimator/project manager, working his way up to senior project manager, vice president and in 1987, president of Hollis & Spann.

In 1990, Mayor Alfred Saliba asked him to head up the Mayor's Task Force to locate a Dothan site for The Robert Trent Jones Golf Course and in 1991, the Robert Trent Golf Course was a reality. His community involvement began with the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and in 1992, he was selected to serve as chairman. He was also a co-founder and led the efforts for the Dothan Area Convention and Visitors Bureau to become a separate entity.

Hayne served as Dothan's District 6 City Commissioner from 1995-97. Along with others, he was an investor in Columbia Yeast in Headland. He is a partner with Larry Blumberg and Associates who built the Fairfield Inn in Dothan, the first of 50 Marriott and Hilton hotels in eight states, including six in Dothan. They have built 14 additional Dothan hotels with other developers, most recently the Towne Place Suites by Marriott.

Churches, apartments, jails, courthouses, a community center, a high school, banks and other Dothan businesses have been constructed by Hollis & Spann over the company's 67 years. Hayne is one of the investors that purchased Twitchell Corp. in 2011, so the company and 275 jobs could remain in Dothan. He was also a start-up investor in Dothan's Ag Fibers, which makes and markets products produced from peanut hulls.

He is secretary/treasurer of the Houston County Airport Authority, where he has been a member for over 20 years, and assisted in efforts to build the new Airport Terminal in 2001.

Between 2011 and 2013, Hayne served on the City of Dothan and Houston County Task Force that successfully recruited Commercial Jet Services. He has served as a director on the Regions Bank's and Flowers Hospital's boards. He is currently chairman of the Dothan Industrial Development Board, where he has served since 2012.

Hayne is married to Cindy Solomon of Headland, and has a son, Bob. He is a member of Evergreen Presbyterian Church where he has served on various church committees and as an Elder.

Alan C. Livingston
*Lee, Livingston, Lee, Nichols &
Barron, PC*



Alan Livingston grew up in Albertville, Alabama. His parents were John and Virginia Livingston. He is a 1966 graduate of Darlington School in Rome, Georgia, and of Birmingham-Southern College (1970), with an undergraduate degree in history and political science.

Following college, Alan attended the University of Alabama School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1973. After law school, Alan and his wife, the former Susan Haygood of Greenville, Alabama, moved to Dothan where he joined the law firm then known as Lee & McInish. He has practiced law in Dothan for 44 years representing many individuals and businesses in the Wiregrass area.

Alan is a member of the American, Alabama and Houston County (1978 President) Bar Associations. He has served as a Bar Examiner for the Alabama State Bar, as board counsel to Southeast Alabama Medical Center since 1993, and board counsel to the Industrial Development Board of Dothan since 1992. He was involved in the creation of the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine and has served as its board counsel since inception. Alan has been recognized by the Alabama Bar as a Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation, a group limited to only 1 percent of the lawyers in Alabama. He has achieved AV-Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell, a national attorney rating authority. He has also been recognized as a Super Lawyer for the past 10 years.

In serving our community, Alan has been active in many organizations, including the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce (1990 Chairman), the National Peanut Festival (1980 President) and the Dothan Houston County Association for Retarded Citizens (1979 President). He has served on the Board of Directors of Birmingham-Southern College, and the Dothan Country Club (2005-06 President). He currently serves as a board member of the Dothan-Houston County Intellectual Disabilities Board (Vaughn-Blumberg Services).

Alan's service to our community includes his commitment to the First United Methodist Church of Dothan where he and Susan have been members since 1973. He has taught the Fellowship Sunday School Class for over 35 years. He has served as Chairman of the Conference Board of Trustees and as Conference Chancellor for the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church for over 25 years. Also, for over 20 years Alan was a board member and treasurer of the United Methodist Foundation, receiving the Harry P. Hall Leadership Award in 2005.

Alan and Susan have two children, Joanna Ward (Zach), of Tallahassee, Florida, and Jonathan Livingston (April), of Tampa, Florida. They also have three grandchildren, Fletcher Ward, Graham Ward and Mallory Livingston.

Dothan Business Hall of Fame Board of Advisors

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee

B. Scott Applefield, Chairman
Aero-One Aviation
Full Moon Bar-B-Que
Winco, LLC dba Bojangles'

Mary Beth Reynolds
Personnel Resources

R. Cliff Mendheim
Prim & Mendheim, LLC

Beau Benton
Larry Blumberg and Associates
(LBA Hospitality)

Delvick J. McKay
City of Dothan

Forrest Register
Register Realty Co. Inc.

Cynthia Green
Wiregrass Rehabilitation
Center Inc.

Mark Saliba
Alfred Saliba Corp.

Dewayne Williams
Individual Member

Bob Woodall
Bob Woodall Air Care
Systems Inc.

Dothan Area Young Professionals Advisory Board

Daniel Tew, Chairman
Jackson Thornton

Michelle Enfinger
Seay Seay & Litchfield Architects

Scott Fain
CapSouth Partners

Laura Newell
Burnett Valuation Services

Justin April
"The Local"

Chase Jordan
Armstrong & Jordan, PC

Dothan Business Hall of Fame

2016 Honorees

Dr. Linda Young
Wallace Community College

Thomas Allen "Tom" Shirley
*Home Oil Co. Inc. / Hobo
Pantry Food Stores*

2015 Honorees

James F. Coleman
Coleman Worldwide Moving

John E. Downs
Qualico Steel Co. Inc.

John H. Edge
Flowers Hospital

Michael D. Schmitz
*Mike Schmitz Automotive
Group*

2014 Honorees

Norma Saliba Hanson
Norma Hanson & Associates

Larry G. Blumberg
*Larry Blumberg & Associates
(LBA Hospitality)*

John A. Conti
Hedstrom Co.

Larry C. Register
Register Realty Co. Inc.

Dr. Jack L. Sasser
*Wiregrass Rehabilitation
Center Inc.*

2013 Honorees

John H. (Red) Dove
AAA Cooper Transportation

Morris M. Slingluff
Slingluff United Insurance

Ralph Smith
Lewis-Smith Supply Corp.

Dothan Business Hall of Fame

2012 Honorees

Eustace E. Bishop, Sr.
Bishop Laundry and Cleaners

William Jesse Forrester
Sanitary Dairy

John H. Glanton, Jr.
Glanton and Son
Homebuilding and Real
Estate

Harry P. Hall
Dothan Federal Savings and
Loan

John Holman Watson
Smith's Inc. of Dothan

2011 Honorees

Agnes D. Simpson
WOOF Radio

G. Mack Dove
AAA Cooper Transportation

Dr. Paul R. Flowers
Flowers Hospital

James W. Grant, III
James Grant Realty

Wallace D. Malone, Sr.
First National Bank

Richmond C. McClintock, Sr.
McClintock & Associates

Alfred J. Saliba
Alfred Saliba Corp.

*When we cast our bread upon the waters,
we can presume that someone downstream
whose face we will never know*

Service

*will benefit from our actions,
as we who are downstream from another
will profit from the grantor's gift.*

- Maya Angelou



