

DOTHAN



Business Hall *of* Fame

*Banquet & Induction Ceremony
August 23, 2018
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

2018 Honorees

Velma J. Tribue

C. Charles Nailen, Jr.

Reafield Vester

Sam Wainwright



Program

6:30 p.m.

Welcome

Beau Benton, Chairman

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Invocation

Dr. W. Charles Lewis

Dothan Community Church

6:40 p.m.

Dinner

7:30 p.m.

Past Laureate Recognition

Beau Benton

Opening Comments

Beau Benton

Michelle Enfinger, Chair

Dothan Area Young Professionals

7:45 p.m.

Induction Ceremony

Beau Benton

Michelle Enfinger

8:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Beau Benton



Velma J. Tribue

Velma Tribue State Farm Insurance

As she herself puts it, Velma J. Tribue is “a living example of what can happen when you don’t look at where you are but look instead at what you can become.”

An Alabama Black Belt native, born in Myrtlewood and raised “poor as dirt” in Mobile, Velma received a scholarship to attend Alabama State University, where she earned her undergraduate degree, and then graduated with her master’s degree from The Ohio State University in 1974. In August that same year, one day after she married Donald (Trib) Tribue, the newlyweds arrived in Dothan with everything they owned in a gold Le Mans so that he could begin his new job as a teacher/coach at Carver Junior High that Monday.

Three weeks later, Velma was hired as a social worker in Children’s Protective Services by the Houston County Department of Pensions and Security, where three years later, in 1977, she was promoted to supervisor. In 1983, she was again promoted to supervisor of the supervisors for Protective Services for Children and Adults. Several years later, feeling burned out by long hours of frustration dealing with sad cases of child abuse and neglect, she longed for another career path. Following a period of fervent prayer, Velma recalls that, “One day, out of the blue, Al Searcy, an agency manager with State Farm Insurance called offering me a career opportunity.” She became State Farm’s first African-American agent in the Wiregrass and opened her own agency Jan. 1, 1988, in a one-room office downtown.

With no clients, but working solo during 12-hour days, with her strong faith, determination, as well as encouragement and support from Mr. Searcy and his wife, by the end of 1988, Velma had qualified for membership in State Farm’s Ambassador Club (Millionaire Travel), which recognizes outstanding agents. On the first of many Ambassador Club trips she has earned since, she and Trib went to Hawaii. She says, “I will always be grateful to Al Searcy for selecting me to represent State Farm.”

During her 30 years in the insurance business, Velma also has received State Farm’s Legion of Honor, Bronze Tablet, Silver Scroll, and Golden Triangle awards, for meeting the company’s goals and objectives, all while providing her customers with remarkable service.

Velma believes that “God has used Dothan to bless our lives, and when you have been blessed, you have to give back.” So, she augmented her business success with active participation in community service.

She is a graduate of Leadership Alabama, and in 2008, became the first minority woman to serve as chair of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and Dothan by Design. Her proudest achievement in those Chamber roles was helping to launch the partnership between the Wiregrass Foundation and Dothan City Schools to create an education initiative at Faine and Grandview Elementary schools, in order to improve overall student performance.

She has served on state, regional and local boards, including the Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees, and earlier this year, was elected as secretary to the Alabama Humanities Foundation Board. In 2017, Velma was among AAMU’s Women in History honorees, and also was honored among Dothan’s top women entrepreneurs at the SWELL (Sawy Women, Entrepreneurs, Luminous, & Limitless) awards.

For over 20 years, Velma was an Adult Sunday School teacher and Children’s Vacation Bible School teacher at First Missionary Baptist Church, where she is still a member.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking healthy meals and exercising with Trib.

Velma credits her mother for giving her and her brothers the attitude of “You can do anything and be anybody you want to be.” Her mother also said, “Put God first, work hard and everything else will fall into place.” Velma has obviously taken those words to heart.

C. Charles Nailen, Jr.
BBG Specialty Foods Inc. - Taco
Bell Corp.



C. Charles Nailen, Jr. was born Jan. 22, 1949, in Birmingham, Alabama, the only son of Clarence and Dorothy Nailen. A 1966 graduate of Shades Valley High School, he attended Samford University, graduated in 1969 and began his career with the Birmingham accounting firm Ernst & Ernst. He obtained his CPA certificate and then met the lovely Kay Gentle. They married Dec. 8, 1973. In 1976, they moved to Jasper, Alabama, when Charles took a job with Bankhead Mining Co.

In 1986, Charles and Kay decided to see what other options were available outside of Jasper. Knowing they wanted to remain in Alabama, they began looking for opportunities. After touring various cities in the state and looking at different franchise choices, they learned of the construction of Wiregrass Commons Mall in Dothan. It was there that Taco Bell Corp. was looking for someone to purchase the franchise. Charles and Kay took a leap of faith and headed to southeast Alabama. The first Taco Bell in the Wiregrass opened in August 1986 as part of Wiregrass Commons Mall food court followed in 1989 by the Taco Bell on Ross Clark Circle. Over the next several years, business grew and expanded to other cities in the Wiregrass including Daleville and Enterprise. Charles has worked hard not only building a successful business but inspiring future business leaders. He can often be heard speaking to the leadership classes at Troy University encouraging them through lessons he's learned in life including while running a marathon.

Fitness and overall health have always been an integral part of Charles's life starting at an early age when he took up running. Having fought and beaten cancer not once but twice, he tries to stay in good health so he can keep up with his two grandsons, Henry and George. He is a 20-year member of Team Taco, the race team for the Army 10-Miler held annually in Washington, D.C. He took up crossfit at age 63 and he may be the oldest member of Crossfit Embrace, but his contagious enthusiasm and determination surprise even the fittest of athletes. He will finish strong no matter the odds and greet his fellow athletes with a boisterous fist bump. This type of mindset carries over into his business and community activities as well.

Charles recently had the honor of serving as the executive team leader for the Wiregrass Area Will Graham Celebration. His eagerness to get this project off and running was inspiring to all involved. Faith has always played an important role in his life. He is a 30-year member of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity. He leads a weekly men's Bible study through Crossfit Embrace and is also a small group leader with Wiregrass Church. Because faith is such an essential part of his life, Charles felt their company should reflect the appreciation he has for all the ways his life has been blessed by God. The BBG in BBG Specialty Foods Inc. stands for "Blessed by God" and at all the Taco Bell restaurants, there is a plaque near the counter that dedicates each store to the glory of God.

Charles' involvement in the community is no surprise. He serves on various boards and committees, as well as working to help serve others. He often says he does not want to be remembered for all the "stuff" he has done. He wants to simply be remembered as a child of God.

Charles and Kay have two children, Meredith (David) Egan and Charles III (Iriabel) and two grandsons, Henry Charles and George David Egan.



Reafield Vester *Alabama Cooperation Extension System (Ret.)*

Born Dec. 25, 1944, Reafield Vester is the sixth of 15 children born to David Sr. and Bertha L. Vester. Reafield grew up in Boligee, Alabama. He is a 1962 graduate of Greene County Training School and later received a bachelor's degree in agronomy and soils with a double minor in chemistry and mathematics from Alabama A&M University. He received his master's degree in agriculture with a minor in plant physiology from the University of Florida in 1974. He later completed his post master's work in 1979 at Auburn University.

Reafield's business career started as an assistant county agent in Houston County in 1966 under the leadership of Mr. Allen M. Matthews. He worked with area 4-H Clubs and row crop responsibilities for minorities. He was later assigned to row crops and swine production for all of Houston County. In addition to those assignments, he later assumed the responsibility of home horticulture.

In 1986, Reafield became the first African American coordinator for the Houston County Extension System following Mr. Matthew's retirement. Through weekly news articles and television appearances, he became widely known throughout the tri-state area addressing issues homeowners and farmers were facing. He was a frequent guest contributing farming information on the Gene Ragan Noon Farm Report and on the Betty Gault and Ann Varnum Morning Shows on the CBS Affiliate WTVY.

He retired from the Auburn University Cooperative Extension System in 2001 and worked with the City of Dothan Horticultural Department for two years. He presently serves as a horticultural consultant for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Houston County and continues to make home visits to identify problems consumers are experiencing at their homes. He still makes television appearances on WTVY News This Morning and Live at Lunch and serves as coordinator of the Master Gardener's Class which is a 12-week course taught yearly to homeowners to correctly care for their grounds. He also keeps busy as the owner of Vester Landscaping here in Dothan.

Reafield, has always played an active role in the community, and was instrumental in establishing the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens and the Master Gardener's Program in Houston County. His community service spans more than three decades serving as a "first" on numerous boards and organizations such as the African American chairman of March of Dimes Board of Directors, African American coordinator for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Houston County, and the first African American to serve as president of the National Peanut Festival. He is a coordinator of the Master Gardener's Class, former president of the Hawk Houston Boys and Girls Club, and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Employee's Organization, Dothan Rotary Club Executive Committee, former president of the Dothan Renaissance Club, board member of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, former trustee for Ashford Elementary School, former president of Ashford Elementary PTO, and Ashford Band Boosters. He was chairperson of the committee responsible for erecting the statue of Dr. George Washington Carver on the grounds of the National Peanut Festival and is currently serving his 50th year volunteering with the National Peanut Festival.

He is an active member and ordained deacon of First Missionary Baptist Church where he serves as finance chairman and Trustee Board member. He is also the trustee chairman and treasurer for the St. Mary District Baptist Association.

Reafield has been married 48 years to his wife Jacqueline Edith Byrd Vester and they have three adult sons, Byron, Nicholas and Shelton. His hobbies include watching sports and reading.

Sam Wainwright

Wainwright Engineering



Sam Wainwright was born an only child to Dr. Sam and Virginia Huss Wainwright in Birmingham, Alabama. In his early years, he attended Lakeview Grammar School before transitioning to Sewanee Military Academy.

In 1950, he entered Vanderbilt University with the mindset he would follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a degree in pre-med. A spark was ignited while home from college when Sam was working for US Pipe and Foundry as an estimator and he soon found himself interested in learning more about the creative world of engineering.

In 1955, Sam married Kathleen Monroe and they moved to the loveliest village of the plains. After his graduation from Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1957, he began his career as a highway location engineer developing plans for Interstate 20 from Tuscaloosa to Meridian, Alabama. In 1959 with two partners the firm of Cagle, Jones and Wainwright Inc. was formed. Hired by the city of Mobile, the company acquired Alabama's first FAA grant to build runways, taxiways and ramps for the Mobile Municipal Airport.

In 1960, Sam was asked by his friend O'Neal Ham to help him open an engineering and surveying office in Dothan. The new company was called Dixie Engineering. In 1961, the company became Lee, Wainwright and Ham Inc. During this early time, Dothan and Houston County began to consider moving the municipal airport to Napier Field. The Dothan Airport Authority hired the firm to put together necessary planning to facilitate the relocation. Sam began work on the project while simultaneously completing the work on the Mobile Airport. In 1963 after completing the Mobile project, the Wainwright family made its last move which was to Dothan. In 1965, Wainwright Engineering Co. Inc. was formed. Sam continued as the airport engineer and assisted in numerous infrastructure projects for the city of Dothan.

As the company grew, work developed in other states which required professional licensing. Sam is a registered Professional Engineer in twelve states and a registered Professional Land Surveyor in seven. He helped to establish Professional Surveyors Inc., Professional Planners, Inc. and Alatech Corp., all operating out of Dothan. Wainwright Engineering Co. (WENCO Inc.) at its peak, had 75 employees with branch offices in Montgomery and Birmingham. For three decades, Sam and staff were responsible for critical infrastructure projects, roads, drainage, water and wastewater projects in the Southeast and aviation projects across the country.

In 1989, Barge Design Solutions purchased Wainwright Engineering. Sam presently continues to serve as a senior consultant to Barge Design's Board of Directors. For 15 years beginning in 1973, he has also served on the Alabama Board of Registration for Engineers and Land Surveyors, repeatedly taking on the responsibilities of the board chairmanship and currently serves as an emeritus member of the registration board. Also in 1973, Sam became a member of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, an affiliation he has retained to this day. He was elected vice-president of the Southern Zone, and in 1984 became the national president of NCEES.

Sam is also a charter member of the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame Board of Directors and served as its first chairman.

In the community, Sam is a life-long member of the Presbyterian church, a 55-year member of the Dothan Rotary and since 1942, has been active in the Boy Scouts of America earning its National Court of Honor Distinguished Eagle award.

Sam and Kathleen have raised three sons who helped them acquire three wonderful daughters and six grandchildren.

Dothan Business Hall of Fame Board of Advisors

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee

Beau Benton, Chairman
Larry Blumberg and Associates
(LBA Hospitality)

Delvick J. McKay
City of Dothan

Mary Beth Reynolds
Personnel Resources

Cynthia Green
*Wiregrass Rehabilitation
Center Inc.*

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

Pamela Miles
*Exchange Center for Child
Abuse Prevention*

Bob Woodall
*Bob Woodall Air Care
Systems Inc.*

Brad Kimbro
Wiregrass Electric Cooperative

R. Cliff Mendheim
Prim & Mendheim, LLC

Dothan Area Young Professionals Advisory Board

Michelle Enfinger, Chair
Seay, Seay & Litchfield Inc.

Laura Burnett
Burnett Valuation Services, LLC

Scott Fain
CapSouth Partners

Justin April
Wiregrass Local

Bence Carter
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Daniel Tew
Jackson Thornton

Dothan Business Hall of Fame

2017 Honorees

S. Earl Dove
AAA Cooper Transportation

W. Earl Durden
*Durden Outdoor Displays
Inc.*

R. Hayne Hollis, III
Hollis & Spann Contractors

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

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*

*S*ervice

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

- Maya Angelou



