

DOTHAN



Business Hall of Fame

*Banquet & Induction Ceremony
April 18, 2023
Calvary Baptist Church*

Dothan Business Hall of Fame

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.

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

2023 Honorees

Dutch Holland

Harley-Davidson of Dothan

Ronald S. Owen

Southeast Alabama Medical Center

James W. Rane

Great Southern Wood Preserving

John Summerford

Summerford Pallet Company

Summerford Truck Line Inc.



6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Michelle Lewis, Chair

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Invocation

Pastor Paul Thompson

Calvary Baptist Church

6:10 p.m.

Dinner

6:30 p.m.

Past Laureate Recognition

Michelle Lewis

Opening Comments

Michelle Lewis

Brook Meadows, Chairman

Dothan Area Young Professionals

6:40 p.m.

Induction Ceremony

Michelle Lewis

Brook Meadows

7:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Michelle Lewis



Dutch Holland

Harley-Davidson of Dothan

Dutch Holland was born July 30, 1932 in Slocomb, Alabama, in his family home. He is the middle child of three. He graduated from Slocomb High School in 1951 and went straight into the Army to get out of the cotton patch. He served one tour in the Army and then came back to the Dothan area.

Dutch soon found a job driving a truck for Loftin's Transfer & Storage Co. where he met his wife, Sara, through her older sister, who also worked at Loftin's. Sara and Dutch got married April 1, 1956 (Easter Sunday). Later that year, Dutch left Loftin's for the opportunity to serve as the unit administrator for a newly formed National Guard Post in Slocomb. He spent 20 years as a unit administrator, a civil service job, and was an active member of the Army and the Alabama National Guard for a total of 36 years. Sara worked full-time for civil service at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and they had two sons, Bill and Bob.

Dutch grew up always wanting a motorcycle, and around 1968 he realized there was not a Harley-Davidson dealer in the Dothan area. He wrote a letter to Harley-Davidson corporate headquarters and applied for a dealership franchise. They wrote him back and stated they were not interested in a dealer in Dothan at that time.

Three years later, Dutch received a letter from Harley-Davidson letting him know that Harley was considering Dothan as a potential site for a dealership. The company wanted to know if he was still interested. Dutch and Sara did not have much money, but in the 70s Harley Davidson was looking for enthusiasts that wanted an opportunity to become a Harley-Davidson dealer. After the interview process, Harley Davidson offered Dutch the franchise at the age of 40 and Harley-Davidson of Dothan opened its doors on Ross Clark Circle in 1972. They have grown from the original 4,000 square foot building to over 40,000 square feet, including adding an additional business, Holland Motorsports, selling products from Can-am and Seadoo. In September 2016, they received the first shipment of on-water and off-road units.

The early days were not easy. There were lean times where Dutch and Sara both worked full-time jobs to pay the bills while others staffed the storefront. They sold one motorcycle in three months. Things have certainly changed since those first days. Determination, fortitude, a good business sense, along with much prayer and guidance from the good Lord above have brought them to where they are today. Dutch does not hesitate to share that if it were not for the good Lord above, he would not be where he is today. Dutch's conversion to Christianity came in 1981. He had made up his mind to turn his life over to the Lord and join his family as one of the few family-owned Christian businesses in today's market. Business started to improve, and Dutch gives all the credit to the Lord above.

Over the years, Dutch has received many prestigious positions and awards including serving on the Harley-Davidson Dealer Advisory Council for 12 years and being awarded the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Small Business Person of the Year.



Ronald S. Owen

Southeast Alabama Medical Center

Ronald S. Owen was born July 28, 1945, in Greenville, Alabama. He graduated from Greenville High School in 1963 and began attending the University of Alabama. In 1967, Ron graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biology. During his time at the University of Alabama, he was involved in the ROTC program and upon graduation was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. In April 1969, he entered the United States Army to fulfill his ROTC obligation.

In October 1969, Ron married Suzanne Solomon in Dothan, Alabama, and, on the way back from their honeymoon, was informed that he had orders to go to Vietnam. After one year in Vietnam, he returned as a 1st Lieutenant and was assigned to Valley Forge General Hospital in Pennsylvania. While serving at the hospital, Ron was promoted to Captain. He completed his military obligation in April 1972.

Upon fulfilling his military obligation, Ron and Suzanne returned to Alabama where he received his Master of Science degree in hospital and health administration from UAB in 1974. During the Master's program, he was an administrative resident with the Huntsville Hospital System. From that position, he grew in his scope of experience, serving in many administrative roles. During his work with the Huntsville Hospital System, Ron was involved in the development of the Family Practice Residency Program and with coordinating clinical site rotations for medical students from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After 24 years, he culminated his career with the Huntsville Hospital System in September 1997, serving as chief operating officer and senior vice president.

Ron then came to Dothan in September 1997 as the CEO of Southeast Alabama Medical Center where he oversaw a \$62 million facility expansion program which began in 2000, replacing and expanding core services to include cardiology, surgery, the Women's Center, critical care and the expansion of the emergency facilities. One of the visions he and others had for the Wiregrass area was a school of osteopathic medicine. After years of discussions and much planning, on August 5, 2013, classes began at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine. ACOM is now one of 36 colleges of osteopathic medicine in the U.S. and the first osteopathic medical school in the state of Alabama. Today it admits more students each year than any other medical school in Alabama.

Ron's other accomplishments include serving in the Alabama National Guard and retiring in 2001 at the rank of Colonel. While in the Guard, he was deployed during Desert Storm. He was part of building a 400-bed hospital on the Iraqi border.

Professionally, Ron was a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, past chairman of the Alabama Hospital Association and Southeast Alabama Hospital Council. Civically, he served on the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Rotary International. Ron also received the American College of Healthcare Executives Senior Level Healthcare Executives Regent's Award for significant contributions toward the advancement of health care management excellence and the achievement of the goals of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Ron Owen retired in April 2016. He and Suzanne have two children, Kristen and Brian.



James W. Rane

Great Southern Wood Preserving

James W. Rane is chairman, president and CEO of Great Southern Wood Holdings Inc., a holding company that owns or is affiliated with a diverse portfolio of companies operating in both domestic and international markets in the areas of building products production, manufacturing and distribution, sawmill operations, and transportation and logistics through trucking operations. The holding company is further diversified through the ownership of a restaurant company.

Perhaps best known among the family of companies is Great Southern Wood Preserving, Incorporated, producers of YellaWood brand pressure treated pine products. Jimmy formed GSWP in 1970 after acquiring a single facility with a few pieces of equipment in his hometown of Abbeville, Alabama, where he continues to live. Today, GSWP and its subsidiaries operate 38 distribution locations with a coverage area that stretches from the Florida Keys to Texas to Canada, an area that includes all or parts of 28 states and the District of Columbia, as well as much of the Caribbean and Latin America, and part of the European Union, Mediterranean region and China. These facilities service Do-It-Yourself retail home centers, pro dealers and other retail building-related and industrial segments.

Born in 1946, Jimmy graduated high school from Marion Military Institute. He then received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Auburn University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. He also successfully completed the Owner/President Management Program, the Sustainable Marketing Leadership Program and the Families in Business: From Generation to Generation Program at the Harvard Business School. In addition, Troy University awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Jimmy is actively involved in many civic and educational organizations. He serves on the Auburn University Board of Trustees, Abbeville United Methodist Church Board of Trustees and Henry County Historical Group Board of Directors. A member of both the Alabama Bar Association and the American Bar Association, he served as a Henry County Judge from 1973-1977. He has been named by Marion Military Institute as its Alumnus of the Year and is an inductee into the Alabama Independent School Hall of Fame. Jimmy has also been named by the Alabama Broadcasters Association as its Citizen of the Year and has been recognized three times by Yellowhammer News as one of Alabama's Power & Influence 50. In 2016, he received the Power of Service Award from the same organization. The Dothan Landmarks Foundation named him as a recipient of its Heritage Award, and he has been recognized by the Boy Scouts of America Greater Alabama Council as a Heart of the Eagle honoree. He also serves on the Alabama Heritage Foundation Board of Directors and is a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

Jimmy is an inductee into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and is also a recipient of their Distinguished American Sportsman Award. He received the Johnny Stallings Award recognizing his work on behalf of those with special needs.

Since 2000, Jimmy has served as president of the Jimmy Rane Foundation and, through it, actively works to raise money to fund college scholarships for deserving students. Since its inception, the foundation has provided college scholarships to more than 560 deserving students.



John Summerford

Summerford Pallet Company

Summerford Truck Line Inc.

John Summerford was born October 16, 1950, in Mobile County Alabama, six months later he was adopted by Joe and Sarah Summerford, a mother and daddy that wanted him, chose him and loved him. This was the biggest blessing of his life because none of the other blessings he had would have happened.

John grew up in Ashford, Alabama, and attending Ashford School where he met and married the love of his life Pam Knight. They will celebrate their 55th anniversary this year. Their daughters Nealy (Brent), Julee (Chris) and Susy (Nathan) have blessed them with grandchildren J.J (Haley), Sarah, Sam (Zoie), John Luke, Summer, Georgia and Jake, and great grandchildren Jaxon and Judson. John's joy is his family, he loves them dearly.

John attended Troy University and in 1970 he returned to Ashford where he farmed the family land for six years. He loved farming and especially the cattle business.

In 1976, John joined his daddy in his business, Summerford Truck Line Inc. The business was formed in 1928 when Mr. Joe Summerford traded a bird dog for a truck. When John joined the business, it was a small regional carrier primarily hauling agricultural commodities in the Southeast. He worked together with his father up until his father's death in 1978. Upon his father's death, he and his sister, Penny became the owners of the company. John managed the company and in 1989 purchased Penny's interest in the company and became the sole owner. The company prospered and grew to serving all 48 states hauling general commodities with 250 team members.

In 1994, Summerford Pallet Company Inc. was started. They bought damaged pallets from grocery companies they were hauling groceries to in Florida, brought them back to Ashford, repaired them and sold them locally. They now buy and sell pallets in six southeastern states and have plants in Ashford, Alabama, and Poplarville Mississippi and have 100 team members.

In 1995, Summerford Cattle Co Inc. was started because of John's passion for raising cattle, love of the land and the enjoyment of working with the cattle. He loves to see a deep green pasture with pretty red cows grazing. Some of you understand.

In 2022 Summerford Logistics Inc. was formed to facilitate their customer's needs.

Blessed to grow up in a small town at a time where the entire community was John's backyard and the rule when he went out to play was to be back before the sun goes down. He is blessed to have been able to be a generous contributor to many community events. He has served his community by being a member of the Ashford Chamber of Commerce, Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, OHR Board, Houston County Cattleman president, regional vice president of Alabama Cattleman Association, Alabama Trucking Association Board and STIL Board member. He has also been a lifetime member of Ashford United Methodist Church.

John says as he thinks about his life blessings, he gives thanks to the Lord, his family, his many friends and his wonderful teammates.

If you got it, a truck brought it and it probably was on a pallet!

Dothan Business Hall of Fame

2022 Honorees

Mark S. Culver
Houston County Commission

David "Mit" Kirkland
*Scenic Cable Network &
Productions*

Dr. Press Thornton, Jr.
*Press Thornton Future
Masters Golf Tournament*

Samuel Mason Torrence
*Couch Construction
Company*

Hugh Ward Wheelless, Jr.
*Wheelless Development &
Realty*

2019 Honorees

A. B. Clark
DSI Security Services

Dr. Marnix E. Heersink
Eye Center South

Tom A. West
Tom West Company

2018 Honorees

Velma J. Tribue
*Velma Tribue State Farm
Insurance*

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

Reafield Vester
*Alabama Cooperative
Extension System*

Sam Wainwright
Wainwright Engineering

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*

Dothan Business Hall of Fame

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.

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.

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