

DOTHAN



Business Hall *of* Fame

*Banquet & Induction Ceremony
August 23, 2012
Wiregrass 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 solicits 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

2012 Honorees

Eustace E. Bishop, Sr.

William Jesse Forrester

John H. Glanton, Jr.

Harry P. Hall

John Holman Watson



Program

6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Reception

6:30 p.m.

Welcome

Jeff Coleman

Master of Ceremonies

Invocation

Dr. Jim Sanders, Senior Pastor

First United Methodist Church

6:40 p.m.

Dinner

7:30 p.m.

Special Tribute

Jeff Coleman

Opening Comments

Trip Wheelless, Chairman

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce

Jarrod Barfield, Chairman

Dothan Area Young Professionals

7:45 p.m.

Induction Ceremony

Jeff Coleman

Trip Wheelless

Jarrod Barfield

8:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Jeff Coleman



Eustace E. Bishop, Sr.

Bishop Laundry and Cleaners

Eustace Bishop was born in 1912 in Ashburn, Ga. After two years at the University of Georgia he graduated from Georgia Tech in 1933 as president of the student body. Early in his 14 years with a major insurance agency in Atlanta, he met and married Mary Alice Newton of Dothan, who graduated from Agnes Scott. They were married for 67 years and had three children: Carole B. Lee, E. E. (Top) Bishop, Jr. and Julie Bishop.

In 1946 following his World War II service as a Navy Lieutenant, Mr. Bishop founded Bishop Laundry and Cleaners in Dothan which soon expanded into three states. He was President of Alabama's Institute of Laundry and Dry Cleaning and was a frequent speaker at his industry's national conventions.

In 1948 as a Board Steward, Mr. Bishop co-chaired the committee to build First Methodist Church, and later was Trustees Chairman when the education wing was added. He was Chairman of the 1950 National Peanut Festival, Chairman of the Red Cross, Director of the Arts and Humanities Council and was on the founding board of the Boys Club. He was President of the Rotary Club and was a Paul Harris Fellow. Mr. Bishop led the committee to bring Wesley Manor to Dothan, and he initiated the concept of payroll deducted pledges for the United Fund.

Mr. Bishop served as President of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and spearheaded the first committee to establish positive race relations. As Chairman of the Industrial Committee, he made many personally funded industry recruiting trips which resulted in several diversified industries locating in Dothan.

Mr. Bishop was the founding President of the Tri-Rivers Development Association and served many terms both there and as Chairman of the Houston County Port Authority. He was appointed by the Governor to serve on Alabama's Ameriport Authority, charged with creating a deep water seaport in Mobile, Ala.

Mr. Bishop led the group that persuaded the Alabama Legislature to pass an act to form the Dothan-Houston County Airport Authority, one of the first such authorities in the nation. His 16 year chairmanship of the Authority led to the construction of the Dothan Airport without the use of federal, state or local tax dollars. The airport terminal was named the Bishop-Stephens Terminal as a tribute for those visionary efforts.

Since 1965, Mr. Bishop has been the sole recipient of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Service Award. He also received the Landmark's Heritage Award, the Exchange Club Book of Golden Deeds Award and the Industrial Development Association of Alabama Award for his service to the state of Alabama.

Mr. Bishop continued to actively raise funds for the establishment and benefit of Dothan Landmarks and the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens until his death at age 93 in 2005.

William Jesse Forrester

Sanitary Dairy



Jesse Forrester was born October 26, 1899, to Lawrence Laphate and Nancy Atkins Forrester in the community of Dundee in Geneva County, Ala. He attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) for three years before returning home to begin establishment of Sanitary Dairy at the age of 28. He was also co-owner of Forrester Farms.

Mr. Forrester was President of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce in 1942. Following his selection, the *Dothan Eagle* editorial stated, "Mr. Forrester's ability as a business man and his zeal for civic betterment has long been recognized. He has gained a wealth of experience as a business man, and his knowledge of farming should be invaluable to the Chamber inasmuch as that organization is dedicated to the development of that industry. Many men are practical farmers, but few are scientific farmers. Mr. Forrester is both, and is thus eminently qualified to counsel and lead the Chamber to build the Wiregrass into the most diversified farm section in the Southeast."

While serving as Chamber President, Mr. Forrester offered the Dothan Area Chamber facilities to various boards and bureau's necessary for handling the problems peculiar to that year. Foreseeing a critical labor shortage for harvesting of crops, the Chamber organized the Farm Workers for Victory group where farmers could pick up cotton pickers and peanut hands. Crops were harvested in an orderly manner and the plan received national recognition and was used by other areas of the nation.

After serving as President, Mr. Forrester continued to serve on the Chamber's Board of Directors and chaired the Agriculture Committee for over 25 years. He was a leader in the development of Napier Field as a World War II Army Corps training installation, led in the organization of the Houston County Tuberculosis Association and was a founding board member of Southeast Alabama General Hospital, which is now Southeast Alabama Medical Center.

Mr. Forrester was also a charter member of the City of Dothan Planning Commission where in 1956 he was given a special duty in the zoning of the city limits with the responsibility of "seeing that the city grew in an orderly fashion."

Mr. Forrester joined the Dothan Rotary Club in 1947 where he served many years as Chairman of their Rural-Urban Committee. He was posthumously recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow in 1999, was the Soroptomist Club's selection as Man of the Year in 1956 and was Chairman of the board and a member of the George Houston Memorial Library for 22 years. Mr. Forrester was also the founding Chairman of Dothan's University of Alabama Center, served on the Board of Directors of First National/SouthTrust Bank and was a Trustee of Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Mr. Forrester and his wife Katharine had two children: Phillip L. Forrester and Faith Forrester Baker. Mr. Forrester passed away at the age of 75 on March 31, 1975.

A fellow Business Hall of Fame laureate Harry P. Hall once said, "Compassionate, kind, a visionary, a worker, a good husband and father, loyal, intensely devoted to his community, a man among men - Jesse Forrester was all of these."



John H. Glanton, Jr.

Glanton and Son Homebuilding and Real Estate

John Glanton, Jr., the son of Essie Mae Coley Glanton and John H. Glanton, Sr. was born November 29, 1923, in Newville, Ala. His early life on a family farm was significant to the kind of life he has lead throughout his succeeding years.

Mr. Glanton graduated from Tuskegee Institute High School. Following graduation, he began college at Tuskegee Institute. However, his education was halted due to a tour of duty with the Army in World War II. In 1946, Mr. Glanton returned to Tuskegee Institute where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in industrial education and in the early 1960's received his Master of Education Degree from Alabama A&M University.

In the late 1940's, Mr. Glanton's family moved to Dothan where his father sold insurance and started Glanton's Homebuilding and Construction. Twenty-three years later, after teaching and coaching in the Slocomb, Ashford and Dothan City schools, he began his own successful business career with Glanton and Son Homebuilding and Real Estate.

In 1972, Mr. Glanton's life changed when he became Dothan's first black City Commissioner. Although being black was significant in itself, his personal position was that he wanted to make a difference for all of the citizens of Dothan. He provided a bridge over the often-rolling waters of race relations, and served as a solid voice of reason on the City Commission for 30 years. His leadership reached well beyond the African-American community to make a positive impact on the quality of life in all areas of the community.

Mr. Glanton has served on the board of directors of many agencies including: The Human Resource and Development Corp., Southeast Alabama Medical Center, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hawk-Houston, Southeast Alabama Gas District, Wiregrass Rehabilitation Services, Inc., Alabama Executive Board of Municipalities, Salvation Army, George Washington Carver Interpretive Museum, Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees and George Wallace Community College Advisory Board.

Mr. Glanton, a celebrated political leader and humanitarian, is a member of the Dothan Rotary Club where he is a Paul Harris Fellow. In 2000, he was awarded the Distinguished Humanitarian Award by the Arthritis Foundation and in 2007, he was honored with a Lifetime Membership in the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Glanton, a 33rd degree Mason, is a member of Amy Washington Chapter Order of Eastern Star, Wiregrass Consistory, Dothan Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Wiregrass Elks Lodge. He supports many organizations through membership and active participation to include the Men's Civic Club and the Bi-Racial Study Group as one of its founders in April 1970.

Mr. Glanton was married to Josephine McGuires Glanton for 55 years. They had three children: John, Sharon and Phenis who all grew up experiencing a normal and positive family relationship where family, church and community was a major focus.

Today, Mr. Glanton is still a remarkable, busy and energetic man. He has touched many lives with his achievements and his spirit. He is a true humanitarian.

Harry P. Hall

Dothan Federal Savings and Loan



Harry Preston Hall was born May 1, 1907, in Pratt City, Ala. He moved to Dothan in 1911 where he resided, except for five years in Troy, Ala., until his death on January 28, 1994, at the age of 87.

Mr. Hall was employed by the *Dothan Eagle* from 1927 to 1945. In 1938, he was Executive Secretary of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in bringing the first industry to town that was not connected to agriculture - Dothan Hosiery Mill.

Mr. Hall managed Dothan's first two National Peanut Festivals in 1938 and 1939. In 1945, he helped to reorganize the Dothan Area Chamber and served as its Director for 15 years and its President in 1948. In 1947, he convinced Huntingburg Furniture to locate a factory at Napier Field after World War II hangers were abandoned. Mr. Hall headed the drive that obtained the George Wallace Vocational Trade School, now Wallace Community College, for Dothan in 1948.

In 1946 realizing the need for a savings and loan institution to provide a method of encouraging people to save money and promote home ownership, Mr. Hall "had a vision" which led to the establishment of Dothan Federal Savings and Loan which by 1978 grew to be the fifth largest in Alabama.

In 1957, the Chairman of the Dothan Area Chamber's Industrial Committee assigned Mr. Hall the task of convincing Hayes Aircraft that Dothan was the ideal location for a new facility. In late 1957, Hayes began hiring employees to overhaul aircraft as a result of his efforts.

Mr. Hall worked hard for the industrial development of the area. He was appointed to Dothan's Industrial Development Board when it was organized in 1950. He would be the first to declare that he alone was not responsible for the accomplishments that were made during his tenure; however, many can attest that he was at the forefront, instigating, planning and constantly urging others to "let's go, let's get the job done." He helped to locate Burlington Mills, Twitchell Corp., Budd Cigar, Hedstrom, Dixie Tube and Charles Manufacturing to Dothan. He also worked to establish Wesley Manor and The Haven in Dothan and in 1970, along with John H. Glanton, Jr. and Powell Brewton, founded the Bi-Racial Study Group.

Mr. Hall was a member of the Dothan Rotary Club where he served as President in 1934 and 1935 and continued to be a member throughout his life serving on their board many times. It was through his membership on the Rotary Foundation Board of Directors that he helped establish the Rotary Crippled Children's Clinic which we now know as the Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Mr. Hall and his wife, Edith Cottingham Hall, had three children: Robert B. Hall, James P. Hall and Mrs. L. Y. Diamond, Jr.

Perhaps no man has lived more in the "eye of a community" than Harry P. Hall who started making tracks across Dothan's business landscape at a time when most men, made timid by the rigors of the great depression, were afraid to crawl.



John Holman Watson *Smith's Inc. of Dothan*

John Holman Watson was born in 1938 in Dale County, Ala. He graduated from Newton High School in 1955, and worked his way through Auburn University as a co-op student, earning a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Having completed advanced ROTC at Auburn, he entered the Army as a Second Lieutenant and served active duty during the Berlin Crisis.

In 1962, Mr. Watson started to work for Smith's Inc. of Dothan, the largest mechanical contracting firm in the area. By 1970, he and two other employees had purchased the firm and he was the President of the company.

Mr. Watson's business accomplishments are widely recognized throughout the city, state and region. His career includes over 50 years of business ventures that have provided workforce benefits for thousands of area residents and economic development benefits to all who live and work in Dothan-Houston County.

Mr. Watson has owned/operated or partnered with multiple businesses in the Dothan region spanning a wide range of categories including engineering services, industrial design, manufacturing, financial services, warehousing, consulting and investing, construction, office supplies and more. Additional businesses include Aladan Corp., TriGlas Industries, USA Yeast, South Alabama Brick, Behavioral Health Systems, Southeastern Commercial Financial, LLC and Twitchell Technical Products, LLC.

Mr. Watson is also involved in the ownership and management of several well-known Dothan businesses including: Marty Robbins Roofing, Hudson Office Supply, Commercial Consulting Corp., Development and Engineering Associates, Concrete Inc. of Dothan, Wiregrass Gin, Coffee Gin, Warehouse Properties, Watson and Downs Investments, LLC and Dothan Warehouse. In 1966, Mr. Watson, along with three other investors, formed a group to build and operate Marriott brand motels in the Southeast which currently owns 21 properties.

Mr. Watson was Chairman of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce in 1988 and has continued to serve on Dothan by Design and economic development groups. He has been a Trustee and Elder in Evergreen Presbyterian Church, and has also served on the boards of Houston Academy, Dothan and the Hawk Houston Boys Clubs, Alabama Research Institute, Alabama Industrial Relations Board and Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind where he was named the 1996 President's Council Volunteer of the Year.

Mr. Watson is also a Community Service Award recipient from Troy University, a 2004 Alabama Business Hall of Fame Inductee and a member of the Dothan Rotary Club where he is a three-time Paul Harris Fellow recipient. He is a past Chairman of the Alabama Ethics Commission and in 2012 was honored by the Alabama State Legislature for outstanding service on that Commission.

Mr. Watson is married to Gail Pearson Watson and they have two children, Abby and Ron, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Watson embodies the insight of an experienced businessman, the strength of a community leader and the heart of a committed citizen. He has done much to improve the economic vitality of our region and the quality of life for all in Dothan, Houston County and the Wiregrass area.

Dothan Business Hall of Fame Board of Advisors

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee

Trip Wheelless, Chairman
Flowers Insurance Agency, LLC

Mark Saliba
Alfred Saliba Corp.

Jeff Coleman
Coleman World Group

Charles Buntin
Tom West Co.

Dr. Linda C. Young
Wallace Community College

Hope Johnson
Friend Bank

Peter Covert
Oncology Supply Co. Inc.

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Dothan Area Young Professionals Executive Committee

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Ben Wallace
Jackson Thornton & Co., PC

Aaron Craig
Five Star Credit Union

Kandy Groover
Slingluff United Insurance

Brittan Sanders
The Computer Doctor

Jansen Tidmore
Dothan Downtown Redevelopment Authority / Dothan Steel Fabricators

Dothan Business Hall of Fame

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



