



★ TEXAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

Q3 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear TBHF Network,

As we near the finish line for our 41st Annual Induction Dinner, I am deeply grateful to the many in our network who have contributed their time and resources to make this another record-breaking year. As we continue to touch more future business leaders and engage more of the state's most influential ones, I am reminded of our tremendous potential to leverage the spirit and vision of business leaders to improve our state.

A recent article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy reported that donations to charities across the United States are increasingly dependent on a smaller number of individuals, with just 0.4 percent responsible for most individual giving. This highlights the remarkable impact that a small group of committed leaders can have when they work together. At the Texas Business Hall of Fame, we believe that by inspiring our state's top business leaders to give more strategically, we can drive exponential change and help shape tomorrow's leaders.

Our network serves as a powerful example of how successful individuals give back with purpose, investing in people who will carry forward the torch of leadership. This spirit shines brightest at our Annual Induction Dinner, where the state's top business leaders gather to celebrate success, generosity, and impact.

I encourage you to join us on November 13, whether by attending the dinner or making a donation to support our mission. Together, we can continue this legacy of generosity and inspire future business leaders to reach new heights.

Warm regards,



Meredith Walker
Executive Director

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2024 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD HONORING HARRIET HELMLE

On September 12th, TBHF had the great pleasure of honoring Harriet Marmon Helmle, longtime Director and dedicated servant leader, for her decades of service to the San Antonio Community and beyond. Harriet received the TBHF Distinguished Service Award, an award reserved for a community leader who has significantly impacted his or her entrepreneurial community and the direction and progress of our own organization.

Thank you to the family, friends, and colleagues of Harriet's who attended to celebrate Harriet. This event would not have been possible without the generous support of Harvey E. Najim, Silver Eagle Beverages, and SWBC.

📷: Sarah E Cooper Design & Photography



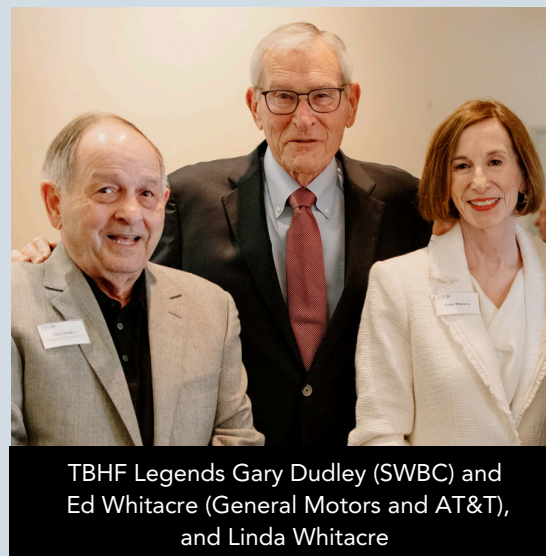
Harriet accepting her Distinguished Service Award



San Antonio Legend Harvey E. Najim



San Antonio Legend Charlie Amato (SWBC), Harriet, and TBHF Director John Keeton (CAPTRUST)



TBHF Legends Gary Dudley (SWBC) and Ed Whitacre (General Motors and AT&T), and Linda Whitacre



TBHF Director Laura Martinez Ilgun (Vannie E. Cook Jr. Cancer Center) with Harriet



Dirk Elmendorf (Rackspace Technologies and The Witte Museum) and TBHF Directors Peggy Walker (Bank of America) and Clay Jett (Amegy Bank)



Austin and Harriet Helmlé



Harriet with Helen Garrison and TBHF Director Brian Garrison



TBHF Legend Rosemary Kowalski (The RK Group) with John Keeton and Harriet



TBHF Junior Director Daniel Peavy (United Glocal Group) and Harriet



Harriet with TBHF Director Katie Reynolds (Silver Eagle Beverages)



TBHF Alums Antonio Cano-Estrada (Heebe), Jeremy Lowell (KYO Group), Greg Tobias (Hadron Insurance), and Luke Simianer (Clusiv)



TBHF Alum Blake Bunger (Coefficient Energy) and 2024 Texas State University Awardee Mason Espedal (Espedal Creative)

AUSTIN NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR

Thank you to our Austin area Directors, Alumni, and 2024 Awardees who made it to our Fall Networking Happy Hour on September 24th. It was great to connect with so many members in our network!

And for those in the Dallas and Houston areas, don't miss our upcoming networking happy hours happening later this month:

Dallas - October 24th at Bar Louie

Houston - October 29th at Kirby Ice House (Upper Kirby)

If you haven't already, please check your inbox for "Greenvelope" to find the invitation and submit your RSVP. If you need help registering, contact [Patrice Bartlett](mailto:pbartlett@texasbusiness.org) at pbartlett@texasbusiness.org



TBHF Alum Kevin Long (Outmore Living) and Director Gavin Villareal (Baker Botts)



TBHF Alums Antonio Cano-Estrada, Kevin Long, and James Clarke (Longhorn Life Sciences)



Holly Thaggard (Supergoop!), TBHF Director Jason Signor (Big Sky Funds), and TBHF Legend Graham Weston (Rackspace Technologies, Weston Urban and Geekdom)

“Too often, we wait on making everything too perfect. And perfect is actually a place that you hide [...] You just go. You just do. You figure it out. [...] Trust your gut. Doing something is better than doing nothing.”

HOLLY THAGGARD

Founder of Supergoop!

ENTREPRENEURIAL X-FACTOR: HOLLY THAGGARD

On October 2nd, TBHF gathered Legends, Directors, Alumni, and 2024 Awardees in San Antonio for the final installment of our Entrepreneurial X-Factor speaker series.

Launched earlier this year, the series, moderated by Graham Weston, aimed to foster exchanges between influential Texas business leaders and explore the "x-factor" behind entrepreneurial success. The series began in Austin with John Paul DeJoria (Patrón, Paul Mitchell), then continued in Dallas with John Goff (Crescent Real Estate), followed by Beaver Aplin (Buc-ee's) in Houston. The final event in San Antonio featured Holly Thaggard (Supergoop!).

Holly Thaggard is the Founder of Supergoop!, the first and only lifestyle brand 100% dedicated to UV protection that is changing the skincare industry with breakthrough, first-to-market SPF innovations. In 2005, she launched Supergoop!, a collection of ingredient-conscious, efficacious formulas that deliver broadspectrum protection in unique, user-friendly, and feel-good ways. Holly is on a mission to stop the epidemic of skin cancer by changing the way the world thinks about sunscreen.

During their fireside chat, Holly and Graham talked about the evolution of the Supergoop! brand and the idea that success is a long, gradual process, often built on small, incremental victories, rather than a single turning point. Holly expressed that there is no perfect formula for starting a business; trusting your vision and being adaptable, without waiting for everything to be perfect, is key to navigating the entrepreneurial journey.

We'd like to extend a special thank you to TBHF Legend Kit Goldsburry for hosting us at his restaurant Carriqui in the Historical Pearl District.

📷: Sarah E Cooper Design & Photography



TBHF Director and Alum Kevin Cumming (Juniper Capital and Sudor Sauna Studio) with guests



TBHF Director Henry Sauer (Headwaters HR Consulting) and TBHF Legend Charlie Amato (SWBC)



Graham Weston, Holly Thaggard, and Jason Signor



TBHF 2024 St. Mary's University Awardee Ben Hodge (EEVET, Inc.)



Holly Thaggard



TBHF Alum Patrick Gnehm and Bob Rivard



TBHF Alums Patrick Gnehm (TalentSync) and Brandon Karam (Pristine Sprays) with TBHF Director Clay Jett (Amegy Bank)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ISHAAN THAKUR

FOUNDER, FLIFER TECHNOLOGIES
OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL AWARD
RECIPIENT, 2021

Q: You founded FLIFER at age 14 with your sister Aanya. How did you become interested in cryptocurrency? How has your family supported your entrepreneurial aspirations?

A: My interest in cryptocurrency began during a bedtime story with my family. My father told me and my sister about Bitcoin. That day, I watched YouTube videos and became intrigued by Bitcoin. My sister and I noticed that cryptocurrency prices had recently increased exponentially, and we couldn't help but get involved.

We did not have enough money to buy Bitcoin, so we decided to learn how to mine it instead. At first, we just used my gaming computer, which made us \$3 on the first day. After realizing the true potential of cryptocurrency mining, my family helped me and my sister by buying graphics cards for us. Within 6 months, we had scaled to over 212 graphics cards and were generating over \$30,000 in monthly profits.

To read the full interview with Ishaan, please visit our [website](#).



“Receiving the 2021 High School Entrepreneur Award from TBHF was the catalyst that transformed FLIFER Technologies from a cryptocurrency mining business to a diversified technology corporation.”

ISHAAN THAKUR



With TBHF Legend Mark Cuban (Dallas Mavericks) at the 2021 Induction Dinner in Dallas



IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARY ROSE BROWN

It is with profound sadness that TBHF announces the passing of Mary Rose Brown, a longtime Director and staunch advocate for the engagement of business in the betterment of its local community.

When not tirelessly advocating on behalf of countless causes, Mary Rose had a distinguished career at NuStar Energy, where she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer.

In addition to the Texas Business Hall of Fame, she was deeply committed to Haven for Hope, serving as Secretary of the Board and working closely with founder Bill Greehey to open the facility. In recognition of her contributions, the Haven's chapel was recently renamed the Mary Rose Brown Chapel of Hope.

Throughout her career, Mary Rose received numerous accolades, including the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's Executive Award for Large Business and induction into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame. As a member of the TBHF Board of Directors for over two decades, she was instrumental in establishing TBHF's presence in San Antonio, expanding its membership, and creating a named scholar awards program.

Mary Rose will be deeply missed for her kindness, leadership, and loyalty. She leaves an indelible mark on both the San Antonio community and our organization. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family and friends.

"Mary Rose was a remarkable mother, grandmother, sister, friend, leader, mentor, volunteer and philanthropist. No one was smarter, kinder or more generous than Mary Rose. She had the biggest heart as she truly cared about others more than she cared about herself. Out of all her achievements, she was most proud of all of you as you've grown into amazing adults who embody her caring spirit. Mary Rose was my best friend, and I loved her dearly. She will be missed by everyone who knew her and those who were touched by her incredible commitment to our community."

BILL GREEHEY

TBHF Legend
Founder, NuStar Energy



Dallas ELG with TBHF Legend Jack Martin (Public Strategies), TBHF Alum Jason McCann (Vari Desk), and TBHF Director and Chairman of the Board David Huntley (Retired, AT&T)

ELG: EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP GROUPS

In 2022, we announced an innovative new program, The TBHF Executive Leadership Groups. This program consists of three city-based networking groups who meet on a regular basis throughout the year. The program was designed to create a space where alumni can form direct connections with Directors and Legends within our organization, as well as develop their local entrepreneurial network. These meetings are an exchange of ideas and opportunity to discuss current business trends and topics with a like-minded group of individuals.

Now in its second year, the program is thriving and helping members and forming stronger connections within our community. Stay tuned in the coming months as we will roll out some exciting news and updates for 2025!

“The TBHF Executive Leadership Group has been an excellent investment of my time, having had the privilege of sitting at the table with fellow Scholar Alumni, TBHF Directors, and even Legends on a quarterly basis. These meetings have provided invaluable access to business and leadership wisdom, for which I am extremely grateful.”

MATT HINSON

TBHF Alum
Senior Product Manager - Generac Power Systems; Founder - SOGY



Houston ELG with TBHF Legend Paul W. Hobby (Genesis Park) and TBHF Director Amanda Brock (Aris Water)

SUPPORT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The objective of the Alumni Association is to connect TBHF scholars and Veterans to each other, as well as to Directors and Legends. Our goal is to continue inspiring alumni members long after they have received their Future Texas Business Legend Award and build a sense of community among our recipients. Joining the Alumni Association is a powerful way to pay forward the Hall of Fame's investment in your success, continue to benefit from the Hall of Fame network, and gain eligibility for exclusive mentoring and learning opportunities. As an Alumni Association member, you are part of a legacy of exceptional students, Veterans, and entrepreneurs.

There are many benefits to joining the Alumni Association, including exclusive programming and events, discounted Induction Dinner tickets, leadership opportunities, and peer mentoring program, and more.

Membership is \$100 a year, or \$60 a year if you received your TBHF Award in the last two years. We also offer a lifetime membership tier for a one-time payment of \$1,000.

For questions about the Alumni Association or if you need help signing up, please contact Patrice Bartlett, Director of Scholar & Veteran Programming, at pbartlett@texasbusiness.org.

GET SOCIAL WITH US

The best way to stay up-to-date on the latest TBHF news is to follow us on our social media platforms. We share exclusive content, sneak peeks, and interviews on a weekly basis. We love to connect with our members and stay in touch, so follow us today.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 24
Dallas
2024 Fall Dallas Networking
Happy Hour
Bar Louie

October 29
Houston
2024 Fall Houston
Networking Happy Hour
Kirby Ice House (Upper Kirby)

November 12
Dallas
Home of Catherine &
Sam L. Susser
Welcome Reception

November 13
Dallas
SMU
2024 Future Texas Business
Legend Awards Luncheon

November 13
Dallas
Omni Dallas Hotel
2024 Induction Dinner &
Ceremony