The Award and Jesse Jones

Each year the World Affairs Council honors a Houstonian who—in the spirit of Jesse and Mary Gibbs Jones—has contributed to the international life of the city. Jesse H. Jones was visionary in his recognition that the city's future depended on reaching out internationally and was largely responsible for securing the funding for the Houston Ship Channel. He built Houston—including hotels, newspapers, banks, and office buildings—and accomplished even more in public service. He served as director general of the American Red Cross in World War I, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and Secretary of Commerce. Mrs. Jones joined him in concern for the education of our children.

World Affairs Council of Houston

The World Affairs Council is a leading forum for the discussion of international issues. With over 7,000 members, it is now one of the largest and most successful in the nation. At more than 100 programs each year, the Council presents information on historic and current global issues, furthers understanding of international relations and foreign policy, and contributes to national and international policy debates. The result is a better educated citizenry and the advancement of Houston as an international center.

Major Sponsors

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Forrest Hoglund
EOG Resources
Forrest Hoglund

Forrest Hoglund is our Jesse and Mary Gibb Jones International Citizen for 2008. An energy executive and philanthropist, Hoglund exemplifies the accomplishments and character of Jesse Jones.

Hoglund’s distinguished career in the natural gas industry has included service in top management with Exxon, Texas Oil and Gas, and EOG Resources. He now serves as chairman of the board of Forest Oil Company and SeaOne Maritime Corporation.

Since retiring from EOG in 1999, he has worked in support of many nonprofit organizations, serving on the Endowment Association of the University of Kansas, where he was named a distinguished alumnus, and as past chairman of the Board of Visitors of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He also chaired the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Currently, he is vice chairman of Reasoning Mind, a web-based mathematics program for middle-school students. Together, he and his wife Sally have chaired numerous capital campaigns, including raising over $650 million for the University of Kansas.

As they powered his business career, Forrest Hoglund’s values—hard work, integrity, initiative, and dedication—have also helped shape The Hoglund Foundation and expanded its impact on the communities it serves.

Robert Dole

Recognized as one of the most prominent political figures of our time, Bob Dole is known for his unconventional candor and prairie wit as well as a distinguished record of public service.

Wounded in Italy with the 10th Mountain Division, he recovered in a Michigan hospital with two other future senators—Daniel Inouye and Philip Hart.

In 1950, Dole was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives, serving a two-year term. Next, he became the County Attorney of Russell County, serving until 1960 when he was elected to Congress. After three terms, Dole moved to the Senate in 1968, where he served for 28 years, including nine as minority leader and four as majority leader.

In 1976, Dole was President Gerald Ford’s running mate. At the age of 73 years, he was the Republican nominee for president in 1996. Dole has written several books, including one on jokes told by the Presidents of the United States. In 1997, President William Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Senator Dole’s effectiveness as a consensus-builder and his commitment to deficit reduction and economic growth have earned him the admiration of Republicans, Independents and Democrats alike. On issue after issue, Senator Dole is a statesman who