

Award of Excellence

Lifetime Achievement Award

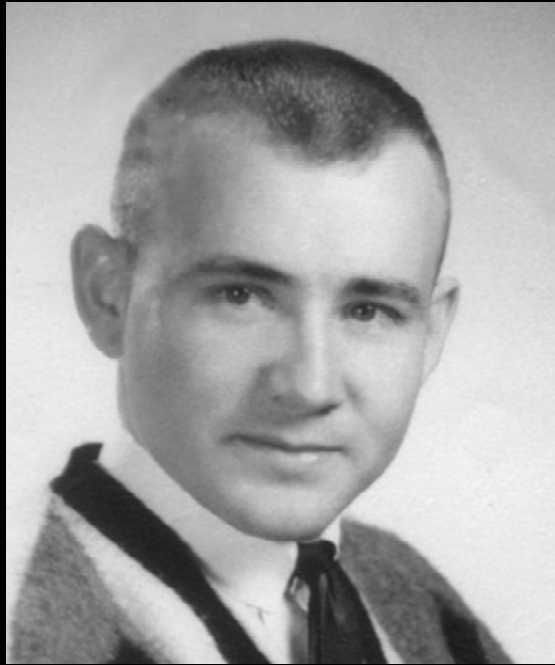
James (Jim) B. Hull

College Station, Texas

Our next award today is this years Award of Excellence for Lifetime Achievement. This year the Lifetime Achievement award goes to Jimmy Hull.



James B. Hull is director emeritus of the Texas Forest Service. He became state forester and director of the agency in 1996, a position he held until, after his 42 year career with TFS, Hull retired on May 31, 2008.



Young Jim Hull, 1965

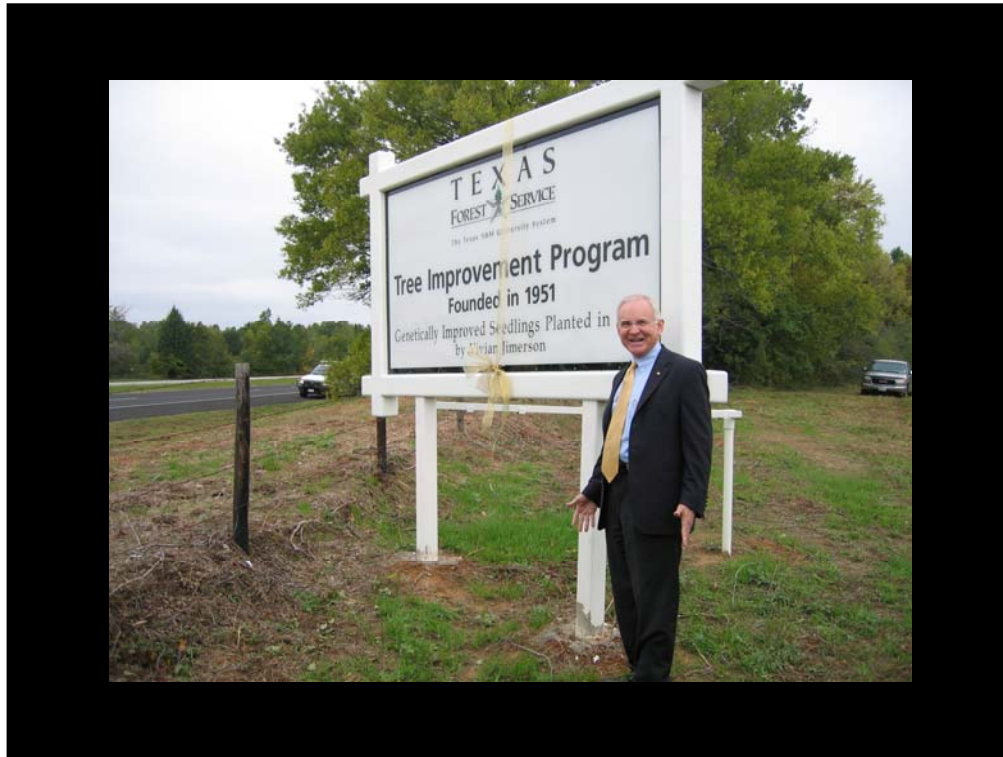
Prior to this appointment as director, Hull held Texas Forest Service district forester appointments in Kirbyville, Woodville and Linden until 1975, when he was named agency assistant director. In 1981, he was named associate director and relocated to the agency's headquarters in College Station.



Hull holds a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University. He is a certified forester, and in 1988 was elected as a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters. He has extensive experience in all areas of forestry, particularly forest management, policy, wildfire protection and administration.



Under Hull's leadership, Texas Forest Service gained national prominence in wildfire protection and prevention. Early successes in the Texas Wildfire Prevention Plan, the model for other state and federal organizations, resulted in the agency being awarded the prestigious Gold Smokey in 2003.



Texas Forest Service is now established as a state and national leader in all risk incident management as evidenced by its lead role in the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery effort and several hurricane recovery events. This expertise is the result of its continuous effective use in wildfire suppression activities.



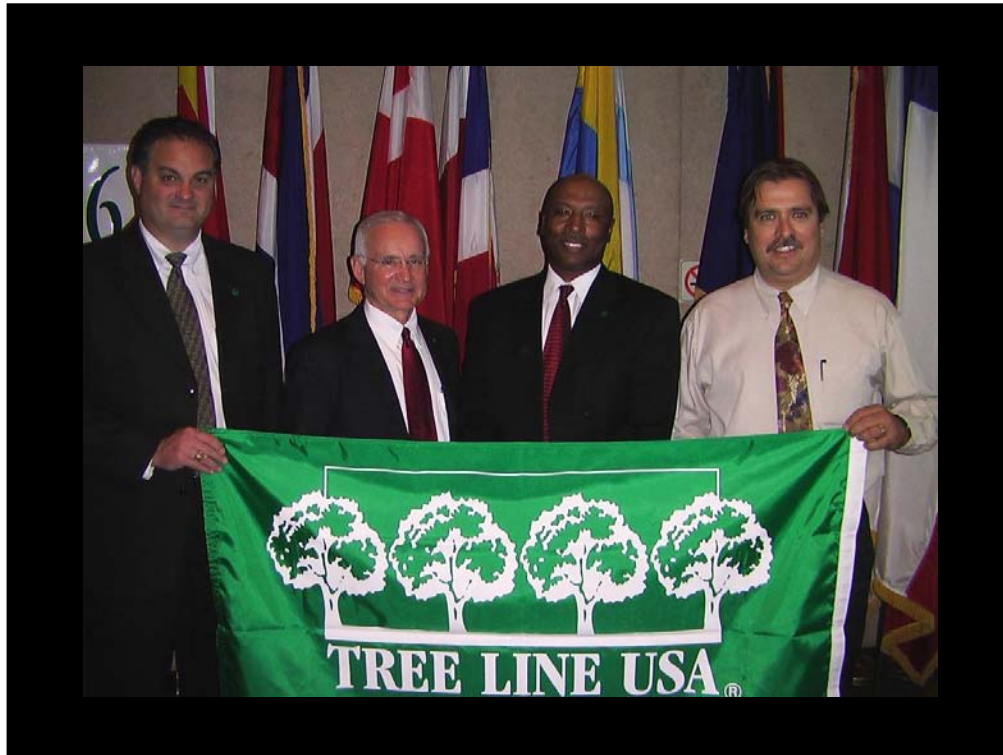
Hull has held numerous leadership positions on forestry boards and organizations at the state, regional and national levels. He recently completed four years as chair of the Fire Protection Committee of National Association of State Foresters and as the association's representative on the National Wildland Fire Leadership Council.



Hull recently served as co-chair of the National Blue Ribbon Commission on Aerial Firefighting, and in 2006 concluded his term as president of the National Association of State Foresters.



As Texas has grown from 11 million in 1974 to over 23 million today, Mr. Hull realized that urban forestry can help improve the economy and quality of life in Texas communities. Mr. Hull has been a long-time and fervent supporter of urban forestry. He served on several regional and national urban committees that helped to set national policies for urban forestry.



In Texas, he has encouraged and supported the Tree City and Tree Line USA programs and the statewide celebration of Arbor Day. And, luckily for Courtney, Mark, Peterson and Mark Duff and Eric and Oscar and Paul and all the urban forestry staff, he supports our time with Under his leadership, TFS has had an opportunity to support local communities with technical assistance and grants for arborist positions.



The urban and rural forest resources of our great state and nation have been well served by this humble, hard working and optimistic man. We appreciate his leadership, his commitment and 42 years of service to creating a better world. We hope that he and his wife Eugenia are enjoying his retirement and have lots of time to visit with their six grandsons.

Congratulations Jimmy and THANK YOU!