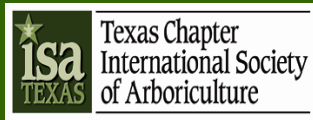


2009
Texas Tree Conference
Awards Luncheon

Round Rock, Texas
October 1, 2009



Award of Excellence

Lifetime Achievement Award

Ruthe Jackson

Grand Prairie, Texas





It is my honor this afternoon to present the lifetime achievement award to one of the finest women in Texas and therefore the world! A woman of distinction is putting it mildly. She is known not only throughout the thriving metropolis of Grand Prairie but throughout our great state and the nation.



Ruthe Jackson has served Grand Prairie and the metroplex in many capacities - city council member, business leader, PTA leader, historian, and active church member. Mrs. Jackson was elected to the Grand Prairie City Council and served from 1985 - 1991 and again from 1993 - present. She served on the Dallas County School Board for 18 years, 11 of which she was Vice President.



Mrs. Jackson has been a member of more than 30 philanthropic organizations and was the founding member of 16 of those organizations. Her awards cabinet is filled with more than 30 honors and awards from local, regional and national organizations, including having a Dallas County School educational facility and the Ruthe Jackson Center in Grand Prairie named in her honor. Mrs. Jackson's most coveted national honors include being the first Texas recipient of the Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Environmental Award from Keep America Beautiful and the 2001 National Award for Excellence in Community Service from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The State of Texas even named its youth award from Keep Texas Beautiful after Mrs. Jackson.



She has founded many scholarships in several organizations that are not only named but funded by she and Vernon – her husband of 64 years. I could go on with awards and accomplishments but we have a conference to hold and we would not finish until the Poker Game tonight.



One of her first forestry projects was to work with the Texas Forest Service to dig 254 Live Oaks from the LBJ Ranch and send one to each county court in the state to promote tree planting and heritage through out the state. This is just one example of her ingenuity in promotion and fundraising.



Let me share one story that will give you an idea of how ingenious she can be. When she was promoting the Tree City USA program in Grand Prairie she was in the Parks and Recreation Building and overheard someone say “who is that Civic Minded Busy Body?” Well, next week she showed up in her new t-shirt that said in large letters CIVIC MINDED BUSY BODY! A title I am sure that she is proud of even to this day.



It our pleasure to award the ISAT Gold Leaf Award for Lifetime Achievement to Ms. Ruthe Jackson, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem of Grand Prairie.

Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Jackson and saying THANK YOU for your service!