



Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce

Walk of Stars Committee

P.O. Box 20074 • Shreveport, LA 71120-0074
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WALK OF STARS SUPPORTERS



Walk of Stars Committee



Greater Shreveport's Walk of Stars:



The Walk of Stars award was created to recognize individuals from northwest Louisiana who are distinguished in their professional and/or civic endeavors or who have brought recognition and attention to the area, and who have been involved in those activities for at least five years.

The honorees may come from any profession or industry including, but not limited to, athletics, music, acting, business, politics, education and community service.

The Walk of Stars is located under the Texas Street Bridge, east of Commerce Street in the Red River District.

(See Map on back of book for Directions)



**KIX
BROOKS**
- 1997 Inductee

Born and raised in Shreveport, Kix Brooks was influenced by a variety of regional musical styles ranging from Cajun to blues to jazz to country. He was first inspired towards a musical career by his neighbor, legendary country recording artist Johnny Horton.

Brooks began performing at age 12 singing with Horton's daughter, then continued performing in clubs and at other venues throughout high school. He also began writing songs at that time. Eventually he landed in Nashville, where he joined Tree Publishing company. Shortly thereafter, artists like the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, John Conlee, and Highway 101 found success with Brooks' tunes.

In 1990 Brooks teamed with Ronnie Dunn. Their debut single "Brand New Man" shot to number one, as did their follow up "My Next Broken Heart." In 1992 they hit number one again with "Neon Moon," but it was the single's flip-side "Boot Scootin' Boogie" that gave them their biggest hit to date.

During breaks in his concert tours, Brooks returns home to Nashville to be with his wife, Barbara, and their 13-year-old daughter Molly. He is involved in horse breeding and showing horses when not working at his "day job."



**HAL
SUTTON**
- 1998 Inductee

Shreveport native and area resident Hal Sutton burst onto the professional golf scene in 1981 and was among golf's brightest stars in the early and mid 1980s with seven victories in his first five years on the PGA Tour. He finished atop the money list in 1983, with victories in the Tournament Players Championship and the PGA Championship.

After a professional "cold-spell," Sutton reestablished himself as one of the top players on the PGA Tour in 1994, receiving the Hilton Bounceback Award as a result. In 1998 he earned his ninth PGA Tour victory with a one-stroke win at the Westin Texas Open and then followed with a win in The Tour Championship.

Sutton's turn-around was complete after he and his teammates on the 1999 America's Ryder Cup team shocked the golf world with their stunning comeback victory over the Europeans, helped along by Sutton's team-high 3.5 points.

Sutton attended Centenary College and currently lives in Bossier City with his wife Ashley and his three daughters, Samantha Jean, Sara Rias, and Sadie Ann. His first signature golf course design, Olde Oaks Golf Club, recently opened in Bossier City.



**JAMES
BURTON**
- 1999 Inductee

Legendary lead guitarist James Burton's career began at the age of 14 when he played guitar in the house band for Shreveport's famed Louisiana Hayride. In 1955 he wrote the music for one of his biggest hits, Suzy Q, and recorded it with Dale Hawkins.

In 1957 Burton began a nine-year stint as guitarist for Ricky Nelson, including recording sessions, concert tours and weekly appearances on Nelson's popular television show, The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet.

Burton's skill on lead guitar has made him an artist much in demand by groups spanning nearly every musical genre. Artists he has recorded and performed with include Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Arlo Guthrie, The Byrds, John Denver, Elvis Costello, Linda Ronstadt and George Harrison.

Burton, who makes his home in Shreveport, continues to work with a wide variety of artists in the studio and on the road. He is recognized as one of the leading, most influential guitarists in the world.



**COACH
EDDIE
ROBINSON**
- 2000 Inductee

After serving more than fifty years as the head football coach of Grambling State University, Coach Eddie

G. Robinson retired from his position at the end of the 1997 season at the age of 78, closing the book on what can be described as the most illustrious college football coaching career ever.

With 408 wins, Robinson is considered the "winningest" coach in collegiate football history. In addition, his 56 years at Grambling comprise the longest coaching career at one college. He holds the record for the most games coached with 588, and he never missed a scheduled game.

Robinson received the National Football League Players' Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998 and has been inducted into seven sports halls of fame, including the College Football Hall of Fame in 1998 when the three-year retirement mandate was waived to allow his immediate induction.



**ELVIS
PRESLEY**
- Posthumously
Inducted 2001

On October 16, 1954, at the age of 19, Elvis appeared for the first time on the Louisiana Hayride, a

live, Saturday night country music radio show originating in Shreveport. It has been credited as being the vehicle largely responsible for giving Elvis his start. As his popularity grew and Hollywood beckoned, Elvis' performance schedule at the Hayride diminished. It was during his last performance on the program on Dec. 15, 1956, that the phrase "Elvis has left the building" was first uttered, and the rest, as it is said, "is history."



**WILLIAM
JOYCE**
- 2001 Inductee

William Joyce was born in Shreveport in 1957 and took up drawing at an early age. His talent was encouraged by his parents

and teachers, and he began to dream of one day writing and illustrating his own books.

One of his early works, *Dinosaur Bob and His Adventures with the Family Lazardo*, sold so well that he later expanded the story. He has since authored and illustrated many books, including *Rolie Polie Olie*, *Snowie Rolie*, *Dinosaur Bob*, *Santa Calls*, *The Leaf Men and the Brave Good Bugs*, and *George Shrinks*. *Rolie Polie Olie* won an Emmy, and *George Shrinks* has debuted on a PBS Television series. Joyce's artwork has shown up in major publications such as *Spy* and *Entertainment Weekly*, and *The New Yorker* has used his work on its covers.

Joyce has also branched out into film work. He helped bring movies such as *Toy Story* and *Bugs* to the big screen.

Joyce lives in Shreveport with his wife and two kids. His vivid imagination is still turning out new ideas that his fans are sure to enjoy.



**JOE
FERGUSON**
- 2002 Inductee

Former NFL quarterback Joe Ferguson, a native of Shreveport, was inducted into the Walk of Stars in May 2002. His stellar football career began at Shreveport's Woodlawn High School, where he set national prep passing records during his senior year. He also had great success in college, setting a school record for passing yardage at the University of Arkansas that stood for 26 years.

Ferguson spent 18 years in the National Football League. Twelve of those years were spent with the Buffalo Bills. He also played for Detroit, Tampa Bay and Indianapolis. Upon his retirement from pro football, he was ranked ninth in all-time pass attempts, eleventh in completions, twelfth in yardage, and eighteenth in touchdown passes.

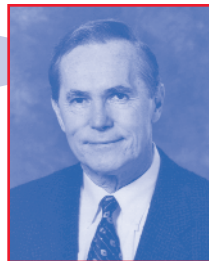
After his playing days ended, Ferguson put his NFL experience to work coaching college quarterbacks at Louisiana Tech and the University of Arkansas. He then returned to be the head coach at Captain Shreve High School but has since moved back to Arkansas. He is a member of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame, the Buffalo Bills Wall of Fame, the Arkansas Hall of Fame, and the Razorback Sports Hall of Honor.



**JIMMIE
DAVIS**
- Posthumously
Inducted 2002

Jimmie Davis was born near Quitman, Louisiana in 1899 and lived in the state until his death in 2000. The son of a sharecropper, Davis rose to the highest levels of Louisiana politics. He worked as clerk of Shreveport's Criminal Court and as Shreveport's Commissioner of Public Safety before serving two terms as governor - from 1944-48 and 1960-64. During his time as governor, he passed the Forestry Act, restoring the state's depleted timber lands, and oversaw the integration of the state's public schools.

Davis was also a prolific songwriter, recording more than 50 albums and authoring more than 400 country and gospel songs. His signature song, "You Are My Sunshine," has been recorded by more than 350 artists and is second only to "Happy Birthday" as the most recognized song in the world. He is a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Hall of Fame.



**TOM
JARRIEL**
- 2002 Inductee

ABC News correspondent Tom Jarriel came to Shreveport with his family in 1948. He spent his teenage years here, learning lessons that would help carry him to the top of his profession. He attended Byrd High School where he played baseball and tennis. After graduating in 1952, he attended the University of Houston on a tennis scholarship and received his degree in radio and television.

It was in Houston that Jarriel launched what has become a stellar career. His first foray into broadcast journalism was as a copy boy at KPRC in Houston. He learned the ropes and was eventually named news editor at the television station. In 1965 he joined ABC News as a correspondent for the network's Atlanta bureau and quickly distinguished himself through his coverage of the civil rights movement. He was the only network news correspondent covering Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis on the night he was assassinated.

Jarriel has received countless honors for his reporting and anchoring, including ten Emmy Awards. His most recent Emmy in 1991 for his work on ABC's 20/20. He has also been honored by his former high school and the city he once called home with inductions into the Byrd Hall of Fame and the Northwest Louisiana Hall of Fame.

Jarriel currently resides in Maryland with his wife Joan. They are the parents of three sons.



JOHNNIE COCHRAN

- 2003 Inductee

Born in Shreveport on October 2, 1937, Johnnie Cochran has become one of the best-known attorneys in the country. He attended West Elementary School and

was a member of Little Union Baptist Church before moving to California and establishing his career.

Cochran has given of his time and money to help local organizations such as the Caddo Community Action Agency, which offers support for low-income families. He has given the agency money for its Headstart Program and land for future use and has served as a speaker at the agency's annual Paul Lynch Awards Banquet at no cost.

Cochran is the only attorney to receive both civil and criminal Trial Lawyer of the Year awards from the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association and the Criminal Courts Bar Association.



TILLMAN FRANKS

- 2003 Inductee

Tillman Franks came to live in Shreveport with his family at age two. His career travels included stints living in Little Rock, Nashville and Houston. In

1954 he and his wife moved back to Shreveport and continue to call the city home. He says he has been lucky to have lived within what he calls the magic circle, an area he describes as a 50 mile radius from downtown Shreveport.

Franks has a long and varied history as a manager, songwriter and musician. He took part in the opening night of the Louisiana Hayride in 1948 as a bass fiddle player. He helped performers such as Elvis Presley, Johnny Horton and Hank Williams Sr. early in their careers by finding venues for them to play. Under Franks' guidance, Horton produced a string of number one hits such as "The Battle of New Orleans". Franks also served as a guitar instructor to the likes of Merle Kilgore, Jerry Kennedy and Tommy Sands. And Franks is still active in the music business. He and friend Claude King have released a song entitled "Cowboy in the White House" that urges support for the president.

Franks' importance to music history in Shreveport and the state has been recognized by media such as KWKH Radio, which sponsored Tillman Franks Day in Shreveport in 1996, and by others outside of Louisiana such as the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame.



DAVID TOMS

- 2003 Inductee

Shreveport resident David Toms has established himself as a major force on the PGA Tour. This former Airline High School and LSU star turned professional in

1989 and has scored an impressive number of victories, including his win at the 2001 PGA Championship. His ace on the par-three 15th hole provided one of the tournament's most memorable moments. In 2002 Toms made his first appearance as a member of the Ryder Cup Team and led the U.S. squad with a 3-1-1 record, which included a win over Sergio Garcia. His career earnings have surpassed \$14 million.

Born in Monroe, Louisiana, Toms took up golf at an early age. Both his parents played, so he says he followed in their footsteps. He earned his PGA Tour card in 1991 after an outstanding college career in which he was First-team All-American in 1988-89 and was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Year.

When he's not on the golf course, Toms likes to hunt, fish, and watch LSU athletics. He and his wife Sonya have one son, Carter.



**HUDDIE
LEDBETTER**
- 2004 Inductee

Huddie Ledbetter, known by the nickname Leadbelly, was born near Mooringsport, Louisiana in 1889 and overcame poverty and many other hardships to become a pioneer folk singer and musician. His musical achievements helped pave the way for other musical styles such as blues and rock and roll.

He spent time in Shreveport in the early 1900s and traveled throughout Louisiana and Texas, supporting himself as a performer. In 1933, he came to the attention of song collector John Lomax who recorded and released Ledbetter's music for the first time. Ledbetter is best known for songs such as "Goodnight Irene," "Rock Island Line" and "The Midnight Special" which were covered by singers such as Johnny Cash and Frank Sinatra.

Although he died in 1949, Ledbetter's musical achievements continue to be recognized. In 1988 he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



**HANK
WILLIAMS**
- 2004 Inductee

Born in Mount Olive West, Alabama in 1923, Hank Williams began his music career as a teenager, giving radio performances and making regional appearances with his band, the Drifting Cowboys. As his regional popularity grew, he gained the attention of music executives in Nashville, Tennessee and signed his first record deal in 1947. Shreveport radio station KWKH became interested in Williams, and in August of 1948, he joined the station's Louisiana Hayride show.

Williams career reached new heights in early 1949 with the release of his song "Lovesick Blues." The song reached number one and remained there for sixteen weeks. This success gave Williams the opportunity to sing on the Grand Ole Opry. But by the early 1950s, Williams' career and life were in a tailspin.

Afflicted with severe back pain, Williams became dependent on alcohol. Fired by the Opry for missed performances, Williams returned to the Hayride. In 1953, while in route to a performance in Ohio, Williams died at age 29.

Williams was one of the first inductees into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1961, and although his career was short, his impact on the music industry is still being felt today.



**HANK
WILLIAMS, JR.**
- 2004 Inductee

Hank Williams, Jr. was born in Shreveport in 1949 and began performing at an early age. Affectionately nicknamed Bocephus by his father, he made his first appearance on the Grand Ole Opry at age 11. Early in his career, Williams had hits such as "Standing in the Shadows" and "All for the Love of Sunshine," which reached number one on the charts. He survived a near-fatal mountain climbing accident in 1975 and came back strong after his recovery with two Top Ten singles - "Family Tradition" and "Whiskey Bent and Hell Bound."

His success continued in the 1980s with hits such as "Texas Women" and "Dixie on My Mind," and he was named Entertainer of the Year five times by the Country Music Association. Although he had developed his own distinctive style, Williams always paid tribute to his late father.

Williams gained a whole new legion of fans when he began proclaiming, "Are you ready for some football?" to kick off ABC's Monday Night Football. His efforts for the network earned him four Emmys. He is the first country music artist to ever receive an Emmy.

His appeal continues to stretch across musical boundaries. He has performed with artists ranging from Johnny Cash to Tom Petty, and he will, no doubt, continue to entertain for years to come.



**MERLE
KILGORE**
- 2004 Inductee

As a teenager at Byrd High School, Merle Kilgore decided he wanted to work in show business. It didn't take him long to establish himself in his chosen career

field. After graduating in 1952, Kilgore wrote his first number one hit "More and More," which became a million seller for Webb Pierce in 1954. Other hits followed including "Wolverton Mountain" and "Ring of Fire," which was recorded by Johnny Cash.

Kilgore also had chart-topping records as a singer. His self-penned "Dear Mama" hit the top ten and was followed by "Love Has Made You Beautiful," "42 in Chicago" and "Fast Talking Louisiana Man."

Kilgore's resume also includes work as an actor. He has appeared in films such as Coal Miner's Daughter, and Nashville and he played himself in the tv movie Living Proof, the life story of Hank Williams, Jr.

Kilgore's many awards and honors include the Country Music Association's Manager of the Year and induction into the Byrd High School Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Hall of Fame. In addition to serving in numerous organizations, Kilgore directs the operations of Hank Williams, Jr. Enterprises and Merle Kilgore Management in Tennessee.



**JIM McCULLOUGH, SR. (left)
JIM McCULLOUGH, JR. (right)**
- 2005 Inductees

Long time Shreveport residents Jim McCullough, Sr. and Jim McCullough, Jr. are known for their work in film as actors, writers, directors, producers, and distributors.

Jim McCullough Productions has filmed eleven of twenty-eight films in Louisiana and the McCulloughs are best known for their work on the family classics WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS, WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS, PART II, and the remake of the original story released in December 2004 by Disney, featuring pop singer Dave Matthews. Other films include the CREATURE FROM BLACK LAKE, THE CHARGE OF THE MODEL T'S, THE ST. TAMMANY MIRACLE, and THE AURORA ENCOUNTER.

Jim McCullough Productions is a realization of Jim Sr.'s childhood dream—making award-winning movies. He began his career after attending UCLA film school in Los Angeles. He worked as an actor at ZIV Studio's HIGHWAY PATROL and BLACK BEAUTY. His first project as an independent producer was a remake of THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS. As a producer he worked with many celebrated film stars, including James Whitmore, Beverly Garland, Steve Allen, Jack Elam, Don Johnson, Ben Johnson, Wilford Brimley, Lisa Whelchel and Mark Paul Gosselaar.

Recent developments for the McCulloughs: Jim, Sr. is collaborating with John Dean, Managing Partner with Heard, McElroy and Vestal, a local CPA firm, and Bill Immerman, formerly with Twentieth Century Fox Studios, Crusader Pictures, and currently President of Salem Productions, Inc. to encourage media production in the state and to gain tax incentives for the benefit of production companies and Louisiana taxpayers. McCullough, Dean and Immerman coordinated the acquisition of the Tax Credit Incentives amounting to several million dollars from the John Grisham film RUNAWAY JURY and the Ray Charles story, RAY.

Jim, Jr. who is also a local realtor and the author of the book, THE 4-HAT SOLUTION, is currently working on his next book in the 4-HAT series, THE 4-HAT SOLUTION FOR REAL ESTATE AGENTS.





**Frank
Page**
- 2005 Inductee

Frank Page is often referred to as the Dean of Shreveport radio. He has the longest continuous tenure of any announcer in Shreveport and, perhaps, the entire state of Louisiana. Frank Page has introduced America and the world to many of the top country music entertainers from the stage of the Shreveport's Municipal Auditorium. He is widely respected both nationally and internationally for his vast knowledge of Louisiana, Shreveport, KWKH and the Louisiana Hayride. Page continues to spread the northwest Louisiana story through his collaborative writing and music producing efforts and through his years of experience, he has become an international ambassador for northwest Louisiana's rich musical heritage.



**TERRY
BRADSHAW**
- 2005 Inductee

Terry Paxton Bradshaw was born in Shreveport on September 2, 1948. He played football at Woodlawn High School and Louisiana Tech, and was the first player chosen in the 1970 NFL draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

He led the Steelers to six AFC Championship gains and eight straight play-off appearances. Bradshaw still holds the Super Bowl passing records for average gain per attempt in a career (11.1 yards) and average gain in a game (14.7 yards). He is a two-time Super Bowl Most Valuable Player and a four-time All-Pro. Bradshaw is the all-time leader in passing yards and passing touchdowns for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was the NFL Player of the Year in 1978 and in 1979. He shared the Sports Illustrated Man of the Year Award with Willie Stargell of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He has also been named to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.

Bradshaw began his broadcasting career as a guest commentator in 1980. In 1984, he became a game analyst with CBS Sports. TV Guides Reader Poll named him America's Favorite Sportscaster, and today he is recognized as an NFL studio personality with FOX NFL Sunday.

His long list of accomplishments includes film actor, musician and author. Bradshaw appeared in the films Hooper, The Cannonball Run, Smokey and the Bandit II, and several TV shows. His most recent film work includes voice over in the popular 2005 movie Robots. He has recorded several songs and his single "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" placed in the Top 20 on the Billboard Country Singles Chart. He has written and co-written five books.

SUPPORT THE WALK OF STARS

Help us expand the Walk of Stars in the Red River District and along the streets of downtown Shreveport. Partner with the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce as a Walk of Stars Supporter through sponsorship or as a Friend of the Walk.

PRESENTING SPONSORSHIP—\$3,000

Benefits—Business name included in title of Walk of Stars induction event; top billing on all event signage; featured in promotional materials developed by the Chamber. Banner ad featured for one quarter on the Chamber's website with a link to more information on the Walk of Stars as well as a link to the sponsor's website. Recognition in the brochure highlighting the Walk of Stars honorees to be distributed at various sites in the Greater Shreveport area; and recognized from the podium at the Walk of Stars event and news conference.

CO-SPONSORSHIP—\$1000

Benefits—Business name and logo included in promotional materials produced by the Chamber. Company will be recognized from the podium at the event.

FRIENDS OF THE WALK—\$100

Benefits—Friends of the Walk listed in the Walk of Stars brochure distributed throughout the Greater Shreveport area.

- YES**, please contact me about becoming a Walk of Stars Supporter.
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Walk of Stars Committee
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DIRECTIONS TO WALK OF STARS

Take Spring Street exit from Interstate 20. Turn right on Crockett Street and left on Commerce Street.

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