

2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award

A SOURCE OF PRIDE

In establishing the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1962, The Association of Former Students sought to honor those worthy of such recognition, and also to increase the pride of students, former students, faculty and staff in Texas A&M University. A quick glance at the accomplishments of the Aggies honored by The Association and Texas A&M University with this, the highest honor to be bestowed upon a former student, would affirm their mission has been accomplished.

Among the 190 Distinguished Alumni—recognized for their significant contributions to their professions, Texas A&M University and their local communities—are six Aggies named to this prestigious group in 2009.

- **Edward C. “Pete” Aldridge, Jr., ’60**
- **Frank C. Litterst, Jr., ’43**
- **Pablo D. Marvin ’66**
- **Dr. Charles R. Munnerlyn, ’62**
- **Jesse L. Easterwood, Class of 1909**
(recognized posthumously)
- **Frederick W. Heldenfels, Jr., ’33**
(recognized posthumously)

“The Aggies recognized this year with our Distinguished Alumnus Award are each a testimonial of Texas A&M’s core values put into action through their personal and professional lifetime achievements,” said then Texas A&M University President Elsa A. Murano.

Dr. Murano continued, offering her congratulations to the recipients and their families and

thanked them for positively exemplifying the Aggie Spirit across the globe. She was joined in her appreciation by 2009 Association Chair Shelley Potter ’78.

“The Aggies recognized with this award are distinguished certainly because of their life’s accomplishments,” Potter said. “I am most impressed, however, by the way they conduct their lives and the legacy of selfless service they leave for future generations.”

The Association’s President and CEO, Porter S. Garner III ’79, echoed the sentiments of Dr. Murano and Shelley Potter and offered his congratulations on behalf of the Aggie Network.

“Our 2009 Distinguished Alumni represent a cross-section of life experiences and achievements as diverse and inspiring as the Aggie Network itself,” Garner said. “They all, however, share a deep commitment to Texas A&M and the unique and unrivaled Aggie Spirit.”

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI GALA

Friday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Brazos County Exposition Complex

Tickets and tables are now available.
For more information, call The Association of
Former Students at (979) 845-7514 or
visit AggieNetwork.com/DistinguishedAlumni.



Frank C. Litterst, Jr. '43

“At A&M you learned that anyone could do what they wanted to do, but that it takes a good man to do what he doesn’t really want to do. That discipline helped me later on to face and conquer whatever was in front of me.”

Frank C. Litterst, Jr. '43 was a Ross Volunteer and Commander of Battery “A” Coast Artillery at Texas A&M when he was called to service as an artillery officer during World War II. Injured while in theater and honorably discharged, he returned to Texas A&M and completed his degree in animal husbandry in 1946.

In a career spanning 44 years, Litterst worked as a rancher, a beef cattle specialist with the Texas Agricultural Education Specialist program, and as a lecturer in the Department of Animal Science. He served as superintendent of the Houston Livestock Show’s Junior Market Steer Show from 1966 through 1976 and was a member of the show’s Range Bull and Heifer Committee from 1969-1987. Additionally, he is credited with developing an evaluation instrument for range bull grading used by major livestock shows today and for contributing to the development of the model, standards, and

application of the U.S Department of Agriculture Feeder Cattle Grades currently in use across the United States.

Recognized with The Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award for Extension in 1975 and for Teaching in 1984, Litterst was named Senior Lecturer Emeritus by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents upon his retirement in 1989.

Litterst is a loyal and active contributor to Texas A&M University, including The Association of Former Students’ Century Club and currently serves as a Class Agent for the Class of 1943.

Litterst lives in College Station and with his late wife, Royce, has three children; Kathy Gough (spouse, Carl Gough, Jr. '69), Frank III '68 and Mike '73 (spouse, Carlette '75). He has seven grandchildren, including Carl Gough III '92 (spouse, Jane Gough '96) and Christopher Gough '95 (spouse, Megan Gough '96); and 11 great-grandchildren. 🍷





Edward C. 'Pete' Aldridge, Jr. '60

“The academic education I received at Texas A&M is clearly at the top, since it gave me the background and skills to continue my education and enter my professional career. But almost as important are the leadership skills I obtained from my years at Texas A&M in the Corps of Cadets. The Corps not only taught me how to follow, but also how to lead. These academic and leadership skills have benefited my career and my life. ♦

Edward C. “Pete” Aldridge, Jr. ’60 earned a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from Texas A&M and a Master’s degree in the same field from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1962. As a student, he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, the Institute of Aerospace Sciences, Sigma Gamma Tau Aerospace Engineering Honor Society, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and the Shreveport Hometown Club.

Aldridge’s distinguished 42-year career in the aeronautics field included 18 years of service in the Pentagon under three separate presidential administrations. He served as the director of Planning and Evaluation, as Under Secretary and then Secretary of the Air Force, and finally as the under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. He also served as president of McDonnell Douglas Electronic Systems Company from 1988-1992 and as president and CEO of The Aerospace Corporation from 1992-2001.

Aldridge was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, presented the Wright Brothers Memorial

Trophy by the National Aeronautic Association and has been a volunteer and contributor to dozens of educational and non-profit organizations. He is an Honorary Fellow and Past President of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Active in his support to Texas A&M, Aldridge has donated generously to the Department of Aerospace Engineering and is an Endowed Century Club member with The Association of Former Students.

He is a native of Shreveport, La., and currently lives in Arlington, Va., with his wife, Jody. They have three sons, Michael, David, and Mark; a daughter, Lori Aldridge-Boyd; and six grandchildren. 🍷





“My father was drawn to Texas A&M because of the spirit exhibited by both his father and uncle, who preceded him at Texas A&M. To him, being an Aggie was not just an education but also a life-long experience, and he was guided throughout his career by the principles of leadership and contribution that he learned at Texas A&M.”

—Fred Heldenfels III

Frederick W. Heldenfels, Jr. '33 graduated from Texas A&M with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. As a student, he participated in the Corps of Cadets and was a member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society.

Heldenfels joined the family business in 1933 and with his brother, Tony Heldenfels, Class of 1935, led the lumber business started by his father and uncle to become one of the largest contractors for public and private construction projects in South Texas. He was named Chairman of the Board of Heldenfels Brothers, Inc. in 1978 and remained so until his death in 1992.

Active and influential within the construction industry, he served as president of both the Associated General Contractors of Texas and the Associated General Contractors of America. He served as a board member for the Del Mar College Board of Regents for 24 years and as its president for 10

years. In recognition of his service to the school, the administration building was named for him in 1982.

Heldenfels served on the Board of Directors of the Texas A&M Research Foundation and was an active supporter of The Association of Former Students and the 12th Man Foundation.

A native of Beeville, Tx, Heldenfels spent most of his professional life in Corpus Christi. He was married to Paula Heldenfels, and after her death to Rae Heldenfels. He was father to two sons, Frederick III '56 and John '60; grandfather to Frederick IV '79, Kenneth '82, Gilbreath '85, John '85; and Steven '88; and had seven great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild. 🐾



Frederick W. Heldenfels, Jr. '33





Paul D. 'Pablo' Marvin '66

“Texas A&M has given extra meaning to my life. The values that A&M teaches are of worldwide importance and if even a little bit of A&M could rub off on the rest of the world, the world would be a better place.”

Paul D. “Pablo” Marvin ’66 earned a Bachelor of Science in business management while working part-time and later full-time to support his young family.

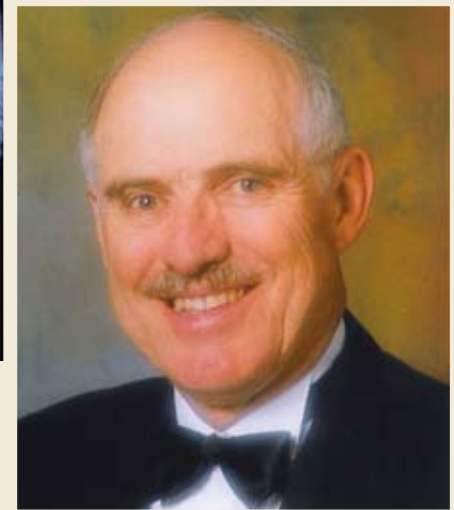
Upon graduation, he returned to his native Mexico and built a long and prosperous career in business. Marvin worked for Aceros Nacionales, S.A. and Deutz, CV.de C.B in Mexico City. He later founded Plasticos Precisos, S.A., a plastics extrusions company; the Los Tocayos chain of restaurants in Denver, Co; and Compania de Inversionistas de Mexico, S.A. de C.V, a real estate company where he currently serves as CEO.

A loyal supporter of Texas A&M, especially to initiatives focusing on international programs, Marvin was named an Outstanding International Alumnus in 2006. He is a member of the Texas A&M International Board, the Texas A&M Mexico Center Advisory Board, the Bush School Development Council and is a founding member of Texas A&M’s International Programs Office. In 1993, Marvin and his wife, Barbara, pro-

vided 5,000 square feet of office space rent-free to Texas A&M University, allowing for the creation of the Texas A&M University Center in Mexico. He is a mentor to Texas A&M’s Academy for International Leaders Program, an external advisor to the Mexican Student Association and was actively involved in the planning of the Central American Aggie Summit in 2006 and in the 2007 Middle East Aggie Summit.

A native of Mexico City, Marvin and his wife Barbara now reside in College Station with their daughter, Sophia. Marvin is also father to Paul ’86 (spouse, Pamela Galbreath Marvin ’87), Taylor, and Rosalind. 🍷





Dr. Charles R. Munnerlyn '62

“Not only did I receive an excellent education in the principal areas of physics while at A&M, my experiences in the Corps and in the military science classes gave me training in leadership and management. I also was taught to take responsibility for my actions and to work with others to accomplish a task.”

Dr. Charles R. Munnerlyn '62 earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from Texas A&M University, and was a member the Corps of Cadets, Phi Eta Sigma, Sigma Pi Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, the Student Conference on National Affairs, a distinguished physics graduate and a distinguished Air Force ROTC Cadet. He served three years in the United States Air Force before earning a Ph.D. in Optical Engineering from the University of Rochester in 1969.

A founding father of laser vision correction, Munnerlyn designed and built the first excimer laser system for vision correction and founded VISX, Inc. in 1987, the leading manufacturer of laser vision correction systems in the world, which is

now a part of Abbott Laboratories.

Munnerlyn is a member of the Texas A&M Academy of Distinguished Graduates for the College of Science, a Fellow of the Optical Society of America and 2007 recipient of the Edwin Land Medal, a distinguished alumnus of the University of Rochester's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the 2008 recipient of the University of Rochester's Distinguished Scholar Award and the 2001 Stevens Institute of Technology Honor Award, and was named 2001 Engineer of the Year by *Design News Magazine*.

His support to Texas A&M includes The Association of Former Students' Century Club, the Texas A&M Foundation's *One Spirit One Vision* campaign, and endowments in Physics and Observational Astronomy. Texas A&M's Charles R. '62 and Judith G. Munnerlyn Astronomical Laboratory and Space Engineering Building is named in his honor.

A native of Edna, TX, Munnerlyn lives in San Jose, CA with his wife Judy. They have four children, Audrey, Patrick '93 (spouse, Rhonda Worrall Munnerlyn '93), John and Stewart; and four grandchildren. 🍷





Jesse L. Easterwood, Class of 1909

“Lt. Easterwood exemplified the values on which this institution was founded—duty, honor and service. His life illustrated the leadership abilities Texas A&M instills and values in other great Aggies such as Earl Rudder '32, including leading from the front, inspiring by example and never asking others to do what he was not willing to do himself.”

—Stephen H. Lucy '82

Jesse L. Easterwood, Class of 1909, studied agriculture at Texas A&M, leaving in 1909 to pursue business opportunities in Mexia, where he would become one of the town's leading citizens. As a student, he was a member of B Company Infantry and played second base on the baseball team.

Upon the United States' declaration of war on Germany in 1917, Easterwood sold his business and volunteered for duty as an aviator. He would become one of the first Americans qualified to fly as a naval aviator and sailed to Europe with the first group of American pilots to serve overseas in World War I. He completed 16 missions deep behind German lines and later saw service with the

air forces of France and Italy. By the end of the War, Easterwood was one of only three survivors from the original group of 68 American pilots.

After the war, Easterwood remained in the Navy, flying the dangerous early air-mail experiments. As a naval lieutenant he took it upon himself to fly all aircraft with mechanical problems and perished in 1919 while attempting an emergency landing in a seaplane with a notoriously bad engine.

Easterwood was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic deeds during World War I. In 1940, Texas A&M paid tribute to his service by naming its new flying field – now known as Easterwood Airport – in his memory. 🇺🇸



LEFT: Easterwood family attorney James Dearien (left) and the trustees of the Jesse L. Easterwood Scholarship Trust (from left) Clay Bright '78, Robert Walker '58, Dr. Elsa Murano, Gene Stallings '57, and Mike Baggett '68.

BELOW: Easterwood Airport, then and now.



AN HONOR BESTOWED

The recipients learned of their honor when surprised by a group of University and Association representatives, including then Texas A&M President Dr. Elsa Murano; The Association of Former Students' 2009 Chair of the Board Shelley Potter '78; Association President and CEO Porter S. Garner III '79; Association Vice President Marty Holmes '87; a Ross Volunteer; along with Reveille and her handlers, John Busch '11 and Ben Coffman '12.

The Association of Former Students will further honor Texas A&M University's 2009 Distinguished Alumni at events and ceremonies throughout the year, including the annual Distinguished Alumni Gala on Oct. 9 and the Fall 2009 Freshman Convocation on Aug. 30.

The Distinguished Alumni Of Texas A&M University

Since 1962 the following Texas A&M graduates have been honored as Distinguished Alumni. For information on the nomination process for 2010 Distinguished Alumni award, please visit www.aggienetwork.com/DistinguishedAlumni. Nominations will be accepted through Nov. 6, 2009.



2009

Edward C. "Pete" Aldridge, Jr. '60
Frank C. Litterst, Jr. '43
Pablo D. Marvin '66
Dr. Charles R. Munnerlyn '62
Jesse L. Easterwood, Class of 1909*
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(recognized posthumously)

2008

Neal W. Adams '68
Arthur R. McFerrin, Jr. '65
James D. Pitcock, Jr. '49
Charles H. Weinbaum, Jr. '47

2007

Raul B. Fernandez '59
Preston M. Geren, Jr. '45
Roderick D. Stepp '59
Edwin J. Kyle, Class of 1899*
(recognized posthumously)

2006

L. C. "Chaz" Neely, Jr. '62
Erle A. Nye '59
RADM Robert Smith III '61
Richard W. Younts '67
COL E. B. Cushing, Class of 1880*
(recognized posthumously)
Dr. Frederick E. Giesecke, Class of 1886*
(recognized posthumously)

2005

Hon. Willie E. B. Blackmon '73
Jerry S. Cox '72
Melbern G. Glasscock '59
Billy Pete Huddleston '56
Edward F. Kruse '49
James K. B. Nelson '49

2004

Dr. Dionel E. Avilés '53
John David Crow '58
Joe B. Mattei '53*
Dr. Carl Raba, Jr. '59

2003

Carlos H. Cantu '55*
M. L. "Red" Cashion '53
A. W. "Head" Davis, Jr. '45*
J. Howard Shelton '41*

2002

Marvin J. Girouard '61
Howard W. Kruse '52
Gov. Rick Perry '72

2001

J. L. Huffines '44*
Randy Matson '67
Harris J. Pappas '66
Dr. Josie Williams '71

2000

Bill E. Carter '69
Jack E. Little '60
Bernard C. Richardson '41*
Eugene C. Stallings '57

1999

Jim Adams '61
Jon L. Hagler '58
Bill W. Klotz '46
S. Shariq Yusufzai '74

1998

Mike Baggett '68
Robert E. Bolen '47
Raymond E. Galvin '53
Ronald L. Skaggs '65

1997

Joe B. Foster '56
L. Lowry Mays '57
James S. Moore '52
H. Bartell Zachry, Jr. '54

1996

BG Mike P. Cokinos '43
Weldon D. Kruger '53
Marvin Runyon, Jr. '45*
Henry Wendler '34*

1995

Gabe D. Anderson, Jr. '41*
Willy Frank Bohlmann, Jr. '50
Daniel D. Clinton, Jr. '52

1994

John R. Hill, Jr. '44*
Wayne A. Showers '53*
A. P. Wiley, Jr. '46

1993

George A. Linskie '38*
William C. McCord '49*
Edward E. Monteith '43*
Richard "Buck" Weirus '42*

1992

Jack Finney '38
Frank M. Muller, Jr. '65
Samuel L. Neal, Jr. '59
Lester T. Potter '28*

1991

Harvey "Bum" Bright '43*
William B. Heye, Jr. '60
Frederick D. McClure '76
James E. Wilson, Sr. '37*

1990

Dr. Davis L. Ford '59
Henry J. Gruy '37
Dr. Sam A. Nixon, Jr. '47*
James E. Wiley, Sr. '46

1989

Dr. Ogbourne D. Butler, Jr. '39*
Aaron Cohen '52
Joe C. Richardson, Jr. '49*
John F. Younger '37*

1988

Dr. James H. "Red" Duke '50
James B. Hervey '42
LTG Ormond R. Simpson '36*
Harwood K. Smith '35*

1987

Jack G. Fritts '53*
Herschel G. Maltz '50
Hon. Jack M. Rains '60
E. M. "Manny" Rosenthal '42*

1986

Thomas R. Frymire '45*
Dr. Richard H. Harrison III '47*
Thomas A. Murrah '38*
James H. Uptmore '53

1985

Richard N. Conolly, Sr. '37
O. Wayne Crisman '38*
Gerald D. Griffin '56
LTG Eivind H. Johansen '50

1984

Jefferson C. Dykes '21*
Thomas A. O'Dwyer '47*
Dr. Chester J. Reed '47*
Gilbert M. Turner '45

1983

John R. Blocker '45*
John A. "Jack" Crichton '37*
Dr. Mavis P. Kelsey '32
Kenneth E. Montague '37*

1982

Alfred I. Davies '34*
Richard E. Haas '45*
Field Scovell '30*
Charles G. Scruggs '45*

1981

Joe C. Denman, Jr. '46
R.A. Murray Fasken '38*
C.E. "Pat" Olsen '23*
Clayton W. Williams, Jr. '54

1980

Harvey Cash '33*
LTG James F. Hollingsworth '40
Frank H. Newman, Jr. '31*
Hon. Mayo J. Thompson '41*

1979

Robert H. Allen '50
Fred R. Brison '21*
Hon. Bill W. Clayton '50*
H. C. Heldenfels '35*

1978

Searcy Bracewell '38*
John H. Lindsey '44
Joe Hiram Moore '38*
James L. Sewell '27*

1977

Ford D. Albritton, Jr. '43
Leslie L. Appelt '41*
George P. Mitchell '40
J. Roy Quinby '24*

1976

George D. Comnas '35*
Fred Hale '22*
Hon. William T. Moore '40*
L. F. Peterson '36*
Ernest Lee Wehner '41*
GEN Otto P. Weyland '23*

1975

Robert W. Baker '44*
Dr. Lawrence E. Fouraker '44*

1974

Robert R. Herring '41*
Bernard G. Johnson '37*
Owen W. Sherrill '10*
Julian B. Thomas '11*

1973

Morris "Buddy" Benz '32*
Sterling C. Evans '21*
James M. "Cop" Forsyth '12*
Royce E. Wisenbaker '39*

1972

Hal N. Carr '43*
Harold J. Haynes '46
Frank J. Malina '34*
Edward M. "Buck" Schiwetz '21*
Dr. Durward B. Varner '40*

1971

LTG Robert W. Colglazier '25*
Rex B. Grey '41*
Dr. Marion T. Harrington '22*
Dr. John M. Knox '46*
Norman N. Moser '37*

1970

J. H. Galloway '29*
Marion J. Neeley '22*
MG J. Earl Rudder '32*
Dr. Sam H. Sanders '22*
William C. Tinus '28*

1969

W.C. "mAggie" McGee, Jr. '31*
Dr. William E. Morgan '30*
Edward J. Mosher '28*
Francis C. Turner '29*

1968

LTG Andrew D. Bruce '16*
Roy B. Davis '27*
Michel T. Halbouty '30*
Carl C. "Polly" Krueger '12*

1967

James W. Aston '33*
Ernest D. Brockett '34*
MG Alvin R. Luedecke '32*
Horace A. Sawyer '16*

1966

Wilfred T. Doherty '22*
Richard A. Goodson '27*
Dewitt C. Greer '23*
Hon. Olin E. "Tiger" Teague '32*

1964

Tyree L. Bell '13*
R. Wofford Cain '13*
J. Harold Dunn '25*
H. B. Zachry '22*

1962

Dr. Edward F. Knipling '30*
William W. Lynch '22*
John W. Newton '12*
GEN Bernard A. Schriever '31*

* Deceased