

2023 Citizen of the Year

Sponsored by Patterson, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram

“Exceptional dedication to our community...unwavering commitment to make Marshall a better place...contributions to community have been multi-faceted and profound...” These are *just a few* of the nomination accolades that were submitted for tonight’s Citizen of the Year recipient. Consistently demonstrating a rare combination of vision, integrity, and compassion, our honoree’s vision for community betterment is clear, as exemplified through “outstanding leadership, remarkable character, dedication, and positive impact.”

A lifelong educator, our honoree arrived in Marshall in 2001 as a football coach for MISD, and later became the District’s Physical Education Director, advancing to Asst. Principal at Sam Houston Middle School before becoming Principal of Marshall High School. His positive influence on hundreds of young men and women is widely known; he knew his many students by name, not to mention his staff, understanding the value of each individual. He is said to have treated his students, parents, and staff with respect and dignity. Being known for his kindness, generosity, and willingness to lend a helping hand to those in need, tonight’s recipient annually provides scholarships to high school seniors and quietly helps those in need across our community without fanfare or attention.

When we asked his wife what stands out most to her about his life here, she said “He always says that he believes in leading by example. He’s not one to complain about what’s *not* being done unless he has a solution, so

he's going to do his part to support and improve his adopted hometown. He moved several times as a child, so he never felt he had a hometown. But after he met me, he fell in love with Marshall and its people. Now people forget that he is not a native Marshallite!" As they say, he got here as quick as he could!

Our honoree's commitment to Marshall has been evidenced by voluntary work on various local boards, such as the Harrison County Appraisal District, the Community Advisory Committee, the Harrison County Texas Exes, the Chamber of Commerce and the board of the Good Shepherd Medical Center. He is a Rotarian, having served as Club President, District Governor, and Foundation Chair, exemplifying their "Service Above Self" motto. His work with Rotary International has taken he and his wife across the globe to help build homes and schools for others, as well as partnering with fellow Rotarians in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

He has volunteered at Mission Marshall, Hearts for the Hungry, and has tutored a myriad of MISD students. A supporter of Farm City Week, our award winner annually organizes a group of individuals who purchase livestock projects each year to support area students and their successes. Our recipient has taught Sunday School and served as a Deacon at Central Baptist Church for 16 years, and now attends Mobberly Baptist Church in Marshall where he served as chairman of the Personnel Committee.

Married to Angela Fitts Huffhines for 40 years, and the proud father of two MHS graduates: Holly, married to Brad Balda, and Heather, an MISD employee and Marshall Mavette Sponsor, is married to Garrett Hill. "Proud

Grandparent” is next among titles, lovingly called “Angel” and “Coach” by Meg, Nora, and new baby sister arriving next fall.

Please join me in honoring the 2023 Citizen of the Year, sponsored by Patterson Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Ted Huffhines.