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**By Robert Osborne**

**May 2017**

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During the Alliance's 87<sup>th</sup> Expo and Annual Meeting, we honored a member, a company, and two students for their outstanding accomplishments.

Townes Pressler, Teepee Production Company and Pressler Consulting in Houston, received the Senator Tom Haywood Lifetime Achievement Award. I refer to Townes as "the most interesting man in Texas" because he has accomplished so much in his life.

Just at this organization, Townes has served as Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Board from 2012-2014, and we elected him as our first Chairman Emeritus.

He has made numerous trips to Washington and Austin to represent the Alliance before members of Congress and the Texas Legislature. His in-depth knowledge of the industry has been a tremendous asset as we try to sort out the issues that face oil and gas industry.

The award bears the name of Senator Tom Haywood, who served as Executive Vice President of the North Texas Oil and Gas Association before being elected to the Texas Senate in 1994. Senator Haywood, who also held a Ph.D. in physics, died in 2001 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

We also honored Burk Royalty Company from Wichita Falls as our Member of the Year. David Kimbell, Jr. accepted the award on behalf of his brothers, George T. "Tommy" and Stan Kimbell. Burk Royalty has been a member of the association since the 1930s. David's grandfather, George, and his father, David Sr., who served as President of NTOGA from 1968 to 1970, were very active in the industry for decades. They have supported and led the association in many ways for many years.

Two students were honored. Jack Hays from Graham High School received the Chairman Tommy Taylor Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was established in the name of Tommy Taylor, a former Chairman of the Alliance from Abilene who died in 2014 following a tragic accident. Nicholas Staviski, a junior at the University of Texas at Austin, received the Joseph King McMahon Petroleum Engineering Scholarship. This scholarship was established in 2006 by the McMahon family to aid deserving students who are interested in pursuing the study of petroleum engineering.

Thanks to all of our sponsors and everyone that attended the expo and annual meeting.