

2018 RICHARD W. WEEKLEY PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP AWARD DINNER **RECAP**



TBLC Chairman Gay Gaddis began the dinner by welcoming guests and giving the evening's opening remarks.



John Bel with Christus Santa Rosa Health Care Foundation of San Antonio delivered the invocation.



Senator John Cornyn applauded Charlie on his achievements and for receiving the night's top honor with a special video.



TBLC President, Justin Yancy, spoke on the "Tradition of Leadership" and on the history of the award.



TBLC Vice Chairmen Mark Brooker and Kent Eastman thanked Charlie by gifting him an antique map of San Antonio.



Longtime friends, business partners, and fellow TBLC members honored Charlie in a special tribute video.



Hon. Donna N. Williams introduced Chancellor Brian McCall, Ph.D. after sharing a few stories about Charlie.



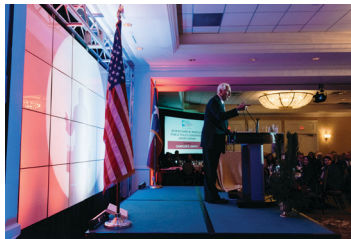
Chancellor Brian McCall, Ph.D. praised Charlie for his hard work and dedication to the Texas State University System.



Hon. Henry Bonilla thanked Charlie for his many years of support before introducing keynote Becky Hammon.



Coach Becky Hammon with the San Antonio Spurs spoke about Charlie's support on following her career goals.



Charlie Amato taking the podium to a standing ovation, thanking the attendees.



Before accepting the award, the night had one more surprise. The Spurs Coyote entered the room with excitement and laughter.



Longtime friend and business partner Gary Dudley took the stage to congratulate Charlie and share in a toast.



The award's namesake, Dick Weekley, spoke on the importance of getting involved and the example Charlie has set.



Dick Weekley and Gay Gaddis pose for a photo after formally presenting Charlie with the evening's award.



After graciously accepting the award, Charlie began by thanking his family, SWBC, the Spurs, and his friends.



Charlie talking about the importance of civic-service and getting involved in your community.



Coach Hammon, Charlie Amato, and Gay Gaddis enjoying the many laughter inducing stories shared throughout the night.



Debbie Marino, Eddie Aldrete, Cristina Aldrete, and Comm. Kevin Wolff pose for a photo at the pre-dinner reception.



Congratulations to the TBLC's 2018 award honoree, Charlie Amato and thank you for your dedication to Texas.



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On Thursday, November 29, 2018 the Texas Business Leadership Council held its 5th Annual Richard W. Weekley Public Policy Leadership Award Dinner. The award was established in 2014 in celebration of the TBLC's first twenty years. Its purpose is to honor a business leader who has exemplified the positive outcomes that can arrive at the intersection of volunteerism and public policy. This year the Council honored long time civic-servant, philanthropist, and San Antonio business leader, Charlie Amato - Co-Founder and Chairman of SWBC.

The event began with a VIP reception bringing together state and local public officials, Texas business leaders, and education and healthcare stakeholders. Among the guests, officials included Texas State Supreme Court Justice Paul Green; from the Texas Forth Circuit Court of Appeals, Justice Marialyn Barnard; Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Member Donna Williams; San Antonio City Councilman Manny Pelaez; Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff; and Bexar County Commissioner Kevin Wolff. Additionally, the Hon. Brian McCall, Chancellor of the Texas State University System, was in attendance with former U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla, and former New Mexico Secretary for Economic Development, Jon Barela.

TBLC Chairman Gay Gaddis served as our emcee for the evening as John Bel, Vice President and Chief Development Officer for Christus Health Santa Rosa Health Care Foundation delivered the invocation. Following dinner, United States Senator John Cornyn wished Charlie well, via a special video, and congratulated him for receiving the night's top honor. TBLC President, Justin Yancy, spoke to the mission and effectiveness of the TBLC before introducing a tribute video highlighting the works and achievements of Charlie Amato, put together by his friends and colleagues. After the tribute video played, TBLC Vice Chairmen Mark Brooker of the Frontline Group in Houston and Kent Eastman of Capital One Bank in Dallas rose to present Amato with a framed, antique map of San Antonio.

Yancy then introduced Higher Education Coordinating Board member the Hon. Donna Williams - who sat with Charlie as a Regent for the Texas State University System. In between a few personal anecdotes about the time they shared on the board together, Williams introduced Chancellor Brian McCall, P.h.D.

McCall discussed Amato's work for the Texas State System, how important his own education was, and why he wanted to give back in this way. All the while, McCall humorously invoked Amato's speaking style, incorporating air quotes to emphasize hyperbole as the crowd roared with laughter. In the end, McCall praised Charlie for his work ethic and dedication to the Texas State System and its students.

An additional video message came from United States Senator Ted Cruz, congratulating Amato and praising the Texas Business Leadership Council for its work on issues like NAFTA. Amato serves as Vice Chairman of the Council and is involved in its Federal Issues Task Force.

Following Senator Cruz's message, Yancy introduced former U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla to introduce the evening's keynote speaker Becky Hammon, Assistant Coach for the San Antonio Spurs. Bonilla said of Charlie that he was his most ardent supporter while in Congress and that while Amato didn't live in the district - he was still "Charlie's Congressman!"

Becky Hammon, the first woman to earn a full-time coaching position in the history of the four major North American sports leagues, took the stage to thank Charlie for his years of support and camaraderie. The former WNBA star spoke about Charlie's contagious happiness, sense of humor, and his dedication to all of his endeavors - both business and civic. Now also a spokesperson for SWBC, Coach Hammon recalled how Charlie has always been a source of encouragement in following her career goals. As her remarks came to a close, Coach Hammon mentioned that she had one very special guest from the organization who wanted to congratulate Charlie personally - the San Antonio Spurs Mascot, "Coyote."

Coyote made a grand entrance into the room, working the crowd with hand-shakes and high-fives before escorting Amato to the stage for the award presentation. Joining Amato on stage would be TBLC Chairman Gay Gaddis, Co-Founder and President of SWBC, Gary Dudley; and Dick Weekley, the award's namesake. Charlie was toasted by SWBC partner, Dudley and received the award from Gaddis and Weekley. Amato then used his time to emphasize the importance of civic service and how important it is to be involved in the community.