

# 2019 RICHARD W. WEEKLEY PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP AWARD DINNER **RECAP**



Sen. John Whitmire, Sen. Dawn Buckingham, Dr. Theresa Tran, and Britton Davis.



Chuck Jenness and Dick Weekley.



Event speaker U.S. District Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore with Sonny Jiles.



The 2019 Richard W. Weekley Public Policy Leadership Award.



The Hon. Eduardo Aguirre, Jr. introduces the former award honorees.



Jodie's family (pictured) was amongst the many people in attendance to congratulate Jodie.



Hon. Jeff Moseley delivered the Invocation.



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner praised Jodie's servant leadership.



Jodie with one of the event's speakers, Texas Children's Hospital president and CEO, Mark Wallace.



Robert Duncan delivered special remarks.



After graciously accepting the award, Jodie thanked his family, friends, business partners, and all of those who attended the event.



Sonny Jiles, Dick Weekley, and Robert Duncan joined Jodie on stage to present him the 2019 Weekley Award.



Longtime friends, family, business partners, and fellow TBLC members all joined in honoring Jodie on this special evening.



Senator John Cornyn was one of many who congratulated Jodie with a special video message.



Rudy Rasmus, Pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church, delivered the Benediction.



Thank you to all of those who attended the private VIP reception before dinner.



Sonny and Jodie Jiles listening to the evening's presenters.



TBLC members Bryan Sheffield and Rex Gore with their table guests at the reception.



TBLC members Jason Wolfe, Nick Serafy, and Rick Francis with guest during the VIP reception.



TBLC treasurer Colleen McHugh with opening remarks.



Chancellor of The University of Texas System James B. Milliken enjoying the evening's programming.



Members of the Duncan family during the pre-dinner reception.



TBLC member Val LaMantia Peisen and UTRGV's Guy Bailey.



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On Wednesday, December 4, 2019 the Texas Business Leadership Council held its 6th 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 Houston business and civic leader, Jodie Lee Jiles.

The event began with a VIP reception bringing together TBLC members with guests from the Capitol, Texas business leaders, and VIPs from Jodie's education, healthcare, and nonprofit work. Among the guests, civic leaders included Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner; legislators included Senator Dawn Buckingham, Senator John Whitmire, Representative Briscoe Cain, Representative Gina Calanni, Representative Jim Murphy, and Representative Jon Rosenthal; and community leaders included Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell and Pastor Rudy Rasmus. Additionally, UT System Chancellor, James B. Milliken and Regent David Beck were in attendance with U.S. District Judge, Vanessa Gilmore, Texas Southern University Regent, the Hon. Marilyn Rose, Honorary Consul General to The Bahamas, Lynden Rose, Houston Port Authority Commissioner Wendy Montoya Cloonan, and former Ambassador to Spain and Andorra, the Hon. Eduardo Aguirre.

TBLC President Justin Yancy served as our emcee for the evening and the event began with a welcome video from Governor Greg Abbott. TBLC Treasurer Colleen McHugh welcomed elected officials and VIPs; Amb. Aguirre introduced the TBLC and talked about the awards' past recipients; and the Hon. Jeff Moseley, CEO of the Texas Association of Business, delivered the Invocation. Following dinner, Yancy introduced a video tribute highlighting the works and achievements of Jodie Jiles, put together by a few of his friends and colleagues; TBLC Chairman Gay Gaddis, Woody Hunt of Hunt Companies, Larry Heard of Transwestern, Rev. Bill Lawson of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Dr. Ed Young of Second Baptist Church, Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell of Windsor Village United Methodist Church, Commissioner Cloonan of The Port of Houston Authority, and Dr. Paul Klotman of the Baylor College of Medicine.

During the event, our four keynotes were interwoven with special video messages from both Austin and Washington as congratulatory videos came from Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Senator John Cornyn, and Senator Ted Cruz. Our first speaker, Mayor Turner, spoke to Jodie's lifelong residency in Houston and his work and commitment to the community. Mark Wallace of the Texas Children's Hospital shared Jodie's passion to help those who are most vulnerable and in need of care. Judge Vanessa Gilmore shared stories about Jodie's selflessness and servant leadership while Robert Duncan of Transwestern talked to Jodie's impact on the culture of the firm and his informal role as a spiritual leader and mentor to many.

As we moved to the award ceremony, Dick Weekley was invited to the stage to discuss the importance of the business communities' involvement in the policy making process and that it's important for Texas' long term competitiveness that people like Jodie Jiles participate in Austin. Yancy then invited both Jodie and Sonny Jiles to the stage as Dick Weekley and Robert Duncan presented the award to Jodie - which he humbly accepted - while Sonny received a giant bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her support.

Jodie passed along his thanks to every person involved in the occasion - making sure to highlight how much he appreciated their friendship. Jodie's unwavering servant leadership could not be missed as he acknowledged the good works of so many others. Upon Jodie's conclusion, he invited his friend, Rev. Rudy Rasmus to deliver the Benediction as guests stood to give Jodie a standing ovation. Pastor Rasmus thanked Jodie, all involved in producing the event, and closed the dinner.