



PRESS RELEASE

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**TEXARKANA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NAMES
H. ROSS PEROT AS 2009 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**



Texarkana, TX -- Texarkana Independent School District will honor one of their own – H. Ross Perot (Texas High School Class of 1947) - as the 2009 Distinguished Alumni during events which will be held on Friday, September 18.

A Student Leadership Breakfast will be held from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. at Northridge Country Club. This event will offer leadership students from Texas Middle School and Texas High School to have the opportunity to hear and visit with Mr. Perot and learn first-hand how the example that you set for others and for yourself begins at an early age and builds a strong foundation for personal and professional growth.

Following the Student Leadership Breakfast, Mr. Perot will tour the Martha and Josh Morriss Mathematics & Engineering Elementary School and the Texas High School 9th Grade STEM Academy.

From 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., a Distinguished Alumni Luncheon will be held at the Texarkana Country Club where Mr. Perot will be presented and awarded the honor of 2009 Distinguished Alumni. After the luncheon, Mr. Perot will take the opportunity to tour the Texas A&M University – Texarkana Bringle Lake Campus from 1:50 – 2:30 p.m.

Ross Perot was born June 27, 1930 in Texarkana, Texas. His parents, Ross and Lulu May Perot, were major influences in the lives of Mr. Perot and his sister, Bette. Although the family was of modest circumstances, Mr. Perot has often said he was born rich, because of his parents' love, support and encouragement.

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Starting at age seven, and throughout this childhood, Mr. Perot held various jobs, including breaking horses; selling Christmas cards, magazines, and garden seeds; buying and selling bridles, saddles, horses and calves. He also delivered newspapers and collected for classified advertising sales.

Mr. Perot joined the Boy Scouts of America and became an Eagle Scout in fifteen months.

He attended public schools in Texarkana as well as Texarkana Junior College, where he was President of the Student Council. At age 19, he entered the U. S. Naval Academy where he served as Class President, Chairman of the Honor Committee and Battalion Commander. He was chosen as one of the outstanding leaders at the Naval Academy and received the National College Award for Leadership. After graduating in 1953, he served four years at sea on a Destroyer and on an Aircraft Carrier. His first cruise on the Destroyer took him around the world through 17 seas and oceans, and 23 foreign countries.

He met Margot Birmingham of Greensburg, Pennsylvania in 1952, while he was at the Naval Academy. They married in 1956 and, after Mr. Perot's honorable discharge from the Navy in 1957, settled in Dallas. Mrs. Perot taught school and he joined IBM as a salesman in the Data Processing Division.

In 1962, with a \$1,000 loan from his wife, Mr. Perot started Electronic Data Systems (EDS). Over the next 22 years, he built EDS into one of the world's largest technology services firms. In 1984, he sold EDS to General Motors for \$2.5 billion.

In 1988, he founded a new technology services company, Perot Systems Corporation. He served as Chief Executive Officer until 1992 and again from 1997 until 2000, helping to take the company public in 1999. Mr. Perot served as Chairman of the Board until 2004, when he was elected Chairman Emeritus.

In 1992, Mr. Perot ran for President of the United States as an Independent candidate, winning 19% of the vote, one of the largest percentages ever for an Independent. He ran again in 1996 on the Reform Party ticket.

In addition to his successful business career, Mr. Perot has been involved in a number of public activities. In 1969, at the request of the U. S. government, he spearheaded a three and a half-year campaign to end the brutal treatment U.S. POW's received from their Southeast Asian captors. In recognition of his efforts, Mr. Perot was awarded the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest civilian award presented by the Department of Defense.

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When two EDS employees were taken hostage by the Iranian government in 1979, Mr. Perot organized and directed a successful rescue mission, composed of EDS employees (Vietnam veterans) and led by retired Special Forces Colonel Arthur "Bull" Simons. Noted author Ken Follett, in his book *On Wings of Eagles*, which NBC later made into a mini-series, told the story of this daring rescue. The book was #1 on the New York Times bestseller list.

Mr. Perot has also been active in public policy issues in his home state of Texas. In 1979, at the request of Governor William Clements, he led the Texans' War on Drugs Committee that proposed five laws to make Texas the least desirable state for illegal drug activity. All five bills were passed into law.

In 1984, Governor Mark White asked Mr. Perot to lead the effort to reform the public school system in Texas, which resulted in major legislative changes and long-lasting school improvements in public education.

Also, in 1984, Mr. Perot purchased the only copy of the Magna Carta that has been allowed to leave Great Britain. It has been placed on loan to the National Archives in Washington, DC, where it is displayed alongside the U. S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Mr. Perot purchased many historical artifacts from the Russian space program in 1993. They are on display at the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institute in an exhibit called "The Space Race."

Mr. Perot has received numerous awards and honors during his life, including:

The Winston Churchill Award. Mr. Perot was the third recipient and the only businessman to receive this award, given to those who best exemplify the imagination, boldness and vigor of the late British Prime Minister. Prince Charles and First Lady Nancy Reagan made the presentation to him in 1986.

The Raoul Wallenberg Award. As the first recipient of this award, Mr. Perot was honored for a lifetime of service that embodies the spirit, courage and dedication of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

The Jefferson Award for Public Service.

The Patrick Henry Award. Mr. Perot was the first recipient of this award given to an American for outstanding service to his country.

The National Business Hall of Fame Award

The Sarnoff Award for contributions to the electronics industry.

The Eisenhower Award presented by the Veterans of Foreign War for support of the POW's in Vietnam.

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The Smithsonian Computerworld Award. As the first recipient of this award, Mr. Perot was recognized for his contributions to the computer industry.

The Horatio Alger Award. This award is presented to individuals who overcome obstacles to achieve significant success in their careers.

The Texas Business Hall of Fame Award – 1986

The Texas Science Hall of Fame Award – 2001

2004 Eisenhower Award presented by Business Executives for National Security.

Distinguished Business Leader Award presented by Texas Association of Business – 2004.

2004 – Mr. Perot was chosen as one of *History's Ten Greatest Entrepreneurs*, going all the way back to the 5th Century.

Mr. Perot is the author of seven books on a variety of subjects. *United We Stand; Not for Sale at Any Price; Save Your Job, Save Our Country* (co-authored with Pat Choate); *Intensive Care; Preparing Our Country for the 21st Century; The Dollar Crisis* (co-authored with Senator Paul Simon); and *Ross Perot, My Life & The Principles for Success*.

The Perots, married for 53 years, have five children – Ross, Jr., Nancy, Suzanne, Carolyn and Katherine. They also have 15 grandchildren.

The Perot family is actively involved in a variety of charitable and civic activities through the Perot Foundation.

Since 1992, TISD has sponsored a Distinguished Alumni Awards program to recognize the outstanding personal and professional achievements of their alumni. These outstanding former Texas High School and Dunbar High School graduates are models to current and future alumni in terms of their professional, leadership and ethical standards. Past award recipients have been: Truman Arnold, Dr. Lenox Dial Baker, Miller Barber, Ned Burns, Ken Dyson, Theron Goynes, Dan Haskins, David Kusin, Gary Kusin, Prudence Mackintosh, Donald Ray McNeal, George McWilliams, Rick Minter, Jerry “Boo” Mitchell, Colonel Willie R. Pollard, Jr., Collin Raye, Bill Rogers, Marjorie Scardino, Robert Wickliffe “Wick” Temple, Dr. David Tilson, III, Sheilah Walker and Dr. Steve Woodle.

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