

PRESS RELEASE

ETCOG CEO Board Chair, Judge Thomas Cravey, Named Vice President of Texas Association of Regional Councils

Kilgore, TX, October 22, 2014: On September 26th, Judge Thomas Cravey of Camp County took Oath of Office to serve as Vice President of the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Board, the statewide association assists the regional councils in strengthening their capabilities to serve their local government members. Cravey serves on the board as a representative of the East Texas Council of Governments.

TARC is governed by the Board of Directors which is made up of local elected officials who serve on the governing boards of member regional councils.

"I am interested in serving as an officer of TARC because I have seen the results that can be achieved by cooperation and working collectively toward common goals," said Judge Thomas Cravey. "Regional efforts draw greater attention to needs and result in benefits to a wider population. Regionalism is a way for my county to have a voice and an impact at the State level. I strongly support the work of the COG's and TARC."

The 2015 TARC Executive Committee includes:

President – The Honorable Wes Suiter

County Judge, Angelina County
Deep East Texas Council of Governments

President-Elect – The Honorable Daniel Burkeen

County Judge, Limestone County
Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Vice President – The Honorable Thomas Cravey

County Judge, Camp County

Immediate Past President – The Honorable Maurice Pitts

Commissioner, Lee County
Capital Area Council of Governments

Executive Directors' Council Chair – Mr. R. Michael Eastland

Executive Director
North Central Texas Council of Governments



Judge Cravey & the 2015 TARC Officers (L to R: The Honorable Maurice Pitts, The Honorable Thomas Cravey, The Honorable Wes Suiter & the Honorable Daniel Burkeen).

Officers took their oath in Austin at the TARC Annual Board of Directors Meeting. The term expires October 2, 2015.

Thomas Cravey took office as Camp County Judge on August 8, 2008. He currently serves as Chairman of the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) Chief Elected Officials/Rural Planning Organization Board. He also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and as the ETCOG representative for the Corporation for Texas Regionalism. He is a member and past chairman of the ETCOG Executive Committee.

In addition to the above, Judge Cravey is a member and past Chairman of the Juvenile Board for Camp, Titus, Morris, and Marion Counties. He also serves as a trustee for the Pittsburg Camp County Museum Association and a member of the Northeast Texas Community College Criminal Justice Advisory Board. He is a member of the Gordon Mattison Post 422 American Legion and a U.S. Army veteran.

Judge Cravey entered public service as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff for Camp County in 1985. In 2000 he began a five year tenure as Camp County Chief Deputy Sheriff and followed that with four years of service as Countywide Constable for Camp County.

Judge Cravey is a resident of the Leesburg community in Camp County, along with his wife Frances. They have three grown children, Carl, Johnette, and Toni. He was employed in various management positions for Pilgrim's Pride Corporation for 25 years. Judge Cravey and his wife currently operate a family beef cattle farm in Leesburg. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Pittsburg.

“Judge Cravey’s distinguished record of public service to Camp County, the ETCOG region, the Corporation of Texas Regionalism, and TARC is both stellar and meritorious of recognition. We are honored that he calls East Texas his home, said ETCOG Executive Director, David Cleveland. “Everyone who has had the pleasure of working with Judge Cravey knows that he is a humble, dedicated public servant who always places the needs of others before his own, sometimes at great personal and professional cost.”

For more information, contact ETCOG Executive Director, David Cleveland, at David.Cleveland@etcog.org or (903) 218-6423.

About TARC

The Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) was organized in 1973 by interlocal agreement among Texas' regional councils of governments. The statewide association assists the regional councils in strengthening their capabilities to serve their local government members; provides a forum for the regular exchange of information and ideas; educates other governmental entities, public and private organizations, and the general public about the services and functions of regional councils; and represents the councils before both state and federal agencies and legislative bodies.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.