

# PRESS RELEASE

## Reception Held in Austin to Honor Legislators, Share Regional Priorities and Honor Legislator of the Year

**Kilgore, TX, February 22, 2013:**

Approximately 200 legislators, elected officials, business and civic leaders joined in Austin on Tuesday for the second bi-annual East Texas Reception hosted by ETCOG on behalf of the County Judges and Commissioners Association. The reception, held at the Mansion at Judges Hill from 12-2, was to honor legislators while they are in session, share priorities important to the region, and honor a legislator of the year.

ETCOG Executive Committee chairman, Judge Thomas Cravey of Camp County, shared the top three

regional priorities during his welcome speech: 1) Community & Economic Development, 2) Health and Human Services with an added emphasis on Mental Health, and 3) Workforce Training & Education. The regional priorities were nominated by the ETCOG Chief Elected Officials board, and voted on by the board, ETCOG Executive Committee and general public by an emailed electronic survey. See the full list of regional priorities [here](#).

Representative Dan Flynn was recognized as the Legislator of the Year at the event. Judge Rita Koches of Van Zandt County introduced the Representative and shared her appreciation of his service. ***The Judge stated, "Dan Flynn brings a perspective to the office, one of Vision, Value and Leadership. These principles have proven to open bridges of communication to all citizens, giving opportunity for more people to be involved in the process. He is a principled Conservative, fighting to maintain the philosophy expressed in our Texas and American heritage and is a strong believer of the philosophy of limited government and the rights of the American people."*** The legislator of the year was nominated by electronic survey of the general public and selected by the ETCOG Chief Elected Officials Board.

Guests dined on a menu of heavy hors d'oeuvres including prime rib, shrimp skewers, loaded potato bites, stuffed mushrooms, chicken tenders and homemade dessert bars.

The reception was paid for by admission fees and sponsorships of the event. The 2013 Reception sponsors included: GOLD SPONSORS (\$2,500): AEP Southwestern Electric Power and Traylor & Associates, Inc.; SILVER SPONSORS (\$1,000): Brinson Benefits, City of Carthage, Freese & Nichols, Longview Economic Development Corporation, Luminant, Moore & Associates, Progressive Waste Services, and the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler; and BRONZE SPONSORS (\$500): Allied Waste Services, Capshaw & DeRieux Attorneys at Law, City of Emory/Emory Economic Development Corporation, City of White Oak, HALFF Associates, High Plaza Center,

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Johnson & Pace, KSA Engineers, RouteMatch Software, Southside Bank, TH Enterprises, Texas Municipal League, and the Wood County Industrial Commission.

Photos of the event are available [here](#) and may be used with photography attribution to Michelle Cahal. For more information, contact ETCOG's Executive Director, David Cleveland, at 903.984.8641 x221.

### **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.

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