

## The Woodlands Township honors retiring directors, welcomes newly elected

The Woodlands Township Board of Directors held a reception just prior to the regular board meeting Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at The Woodlands Township. It was held to honor retiring directors, Mike Bass, Jeff Long and Ed Robb, and newly elected directors Brian Boniface, Gordy Bunch, John Anthony Brown and Robert Bruce Rieser.

Gordy Bunch emceed the reception and introduced his fellow newly elected directors Brian Boniface, John Anthony Brown and Robert Bruce Rieser. The board recognized each new director and welcomed them. To learn more about the newly elected directors, please visit <http://thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/169/Board-of-Directors>.

Afterwards, each retiring directors received a heart-felt thank you from the board and a special photograph of the “On the Shoulders of Giants” sculpture by Robert Cook. The sculpture bears a quote from Sir Isaac Newton, which says, “If I have seen farther, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Also, they will have a tree of their choice planted in The Woodlands.

The Woodlands community has been fortunate to have had many giants, visionary leaders who have spent time and energy creating the community that we as residents love and feel passionate about. Mike Bass, Jeff Long and Ed Robb, are three giants on whose shoulders the new board will stand.



*Mike Bass, left, served on The Woodlands Township Board from 2012 to 2016.*

### **Mike Bass**

After graduating from Baylor University with a BBA degree in accounting and obtaining his CPA certificate, Mr. Bass served six years in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Texas National Guard.



Mr. Bass retired in 2000 with 35 years of international business operations and financial expertise as a Senior Partner with Accenture, one of the largest international business consulting firms. During the late 70s, Mr. Bass served as VP of Marketing and Operations for a midsize manufacturing company. Although Mr. Bass has a strong financial and accounting background, his area of business expertise is in the area of supply change management dealing with logistics, procurement, plant scheduling and operations and materials management across a wide range of industries. Mr. Bass also served six years in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Texas National Guard.

Mr. Bass and his wife, Georgie, have been married for 47 years. During the course of their marriage, they have lived in Houston, New York, Singapore, Vancouver and Chicago. In 2008, they moved to The Woodlands to be closer to their two sons and three grandchildren. He graduated from Baylor University in 1965 with a BBA majoring in accounting. He obtained his CPA certificate in 1967. H

Before being elected to the Township Board, Mr. Bass served on the Sterling Ridge Village Association Board, the Sterling Ridge Residential Design Review Committee and the Design Standards Committee. He was also a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for many years. In his role as a Township Director, Mr. Bass served on the Ad Hoc Transportation Committee and currently serves on the Law Enforcement Advisory Committee, Park and Recreation Advisory Committee, Investment Committee and the Audit Committee. He also serves on The Chamber of Commerce's Mobility and Legislative Committees and as a member of the Board for the Woodlands Road Utility District. In addition to his 4 years of service as a Township director, Mr. Bass serves the community as Director and Treasurer for The Woodlands Waterway Art Council and a member of The Woodlands Rotary Club.

Mr. Bass considers his involvement with residents as his biggest accomplishment as a Township Director and he obtained this by attending most all Village Association meetings. Mr. Bass specifically takes pride in supporting residents in their concerns regarding mobility, clear-cutting and various development projects.



*Jeff Long, center, served on The Woodlands Township Board from 2012 to 2016.*



### **Jeff Long**

After retiring as Director of Public Works in Lancaster, California, and moving to The Woodlands almost 15 years ago, Jeff was motivated to use his City experience and became involved with The Woodlands Community Association. Upon his arrival to The Woodlands, he devoted thousands of volunteer hours to many community initiatives. Some of his larger roles have been with The Woodlands Township and The Woodlands Community Association Board of Directors where he served as President during the time of Agreements with the cities of Houston and Conroe.

He was further motivated to volunteer as a community leader to address the threat of annexation by the City of Houston. The most satisfying aspect of serving as President of The Woodlands Community Association was helping to sculpt the independent future of The Woodlands. Since becoming a Township Board Director, he has especially enjoyed working on Design Standards Committee, Joint Ad Hoc Cost Recovery Committee and Election Committee, Transportation Committee, The Woodlands Convention & Visitors Bureau, and newly formed Drainage Subcommittee.

The former baseball standout who still has a love for the game, has worked with municipal governments for over 30 years as a Licensed Professional Civil Engineer in several states. Jeff has been married to his lovely wife Cherie for 46 years. He's been a faithful and dedicated father for 40 years to a disabled daughter. Jeff has a son and daughter-in-law in Houston who has given him, in his own words, "four super grandchildren." He has consistently appreciated and respected the professional staffs of The Township and CVB.



*Dr. Ed Robb, second from left, served on The Woodlands Township Board from 2008 to 2016.*

### **Dr. Ed Robb**

Back in 1978, Dr. Ed Robb received a call from a United Methodist Church bishop to start a church in a little master planned community called The Woodlands. It wasn't a goal for Dr.



Robb to start a church, but it was a venture he happily accepted.

Educated at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University and Asbury College, from which he holds an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, Ed and Bev found themselves in this new town with about 3,000 people. There were hardly any restaurants in site, no gas stations, no grocery stores, but a few hundred homes.

The Bishop told him, "There are not many people there now, but someday there will be.' And Dr. Robb said, 'Okay.'"

That was January of 1978. Dr. Robb immediately set about growing the church using what little experience he had. "I didn't know anything about how to start a church," he says. "Nobody told me anything either. I just started knocking on doors. It was very slow growth."

After the first year, the church had 160 members on the church rolls, but not necessarily showing up every Sunday. And even that early growth seemed to plateau, though, due to how small the area was at the time.

Over the years since the move, the current campus has grown by leaps and bounds. It is still growing, in fact, with numerous services, a congregation over 11,000 people.

And along the way, Dr. Robb has found so many different ways to be involved with the growth of The Woodlands. Some of those include:

- Being elected to The Woodlands Township Board of Directors in 2008 and leading the Township through his positions as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for The Woodlands Township.
- Dr. Robb served as Chairman of the Board of the Township in 2015 and 2016.
- Dr. Robb was instrumental in the creation of The Woodlands Township after serving 10 years as Director for the Town Center Improvement District, of which he became Chairman in 2005.
- Dr. Robb has contributed to the community as a board member of South County YMCA, Interfaith and The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion.

Some of Dr. Robb's long-lasting physical structures accomplishments, outside of the TWUMC campus, include high profile landmarks in The Woodlands:

- The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Convention Center
- The expansion of The Pavilion from 13,000 to 17,000 capacity
- Expansion of the outdoor shopping at The Woodlands Mall
- The creation of Market Street
- Building Waterway Square
- Development of Town Green Park
- And our most recent development of a permanent home from The Ice Rink



Dr. Robb not only had the vision with his colleagues, he had the determination from vision to fruition, knowing all of these developments would enhance the value for residents to live, work, play, learn and pray in The Woodlands.

Ed and his lovely wife Bev of 44 years have three grown children, Edmund IV, Nathanael and Ashley. They have and eight grandchildren, Sadie, Xavier, Blake, Cara, Brody, Palmer, Bexley and Hadley Kate.

After 8 years of serving as a Township Director, he will be more involved in his grandkids life, ministerial work and serve as a director on the Houston Methodist Healthcare System Board and the Asbury Theological Seminary.