



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120
Houston, TX 77027
h-gac.com | @HouGalvAreaCog

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 24, 2020

Contact: Kristina Michel / 713.993.4559 / kristina.michel@h-gac.com

MATAGORDA COUNTY JUDGE NATE MCDONALD AWARDED WILBUR R. DUNK AWARD FOR REGIONAL LEADERSHIP BY THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

HOUSTON, TX – Honorable Judge Nate McDonald of Matagorda County has received the Wilbur R. Dunk Award for Regional Leadership by the Texas Association of Regional Councils in recognition of his dedication to fostering regional cooperation through councils of government. He was nominated by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), where he has served on the board of directors since 2007 and as chair in 2016.

The award was presented to McDonald at the association’s board of directors meeting on Friday, Sept. 18. McDonald has served as Matagorda County judge for 14 years. During his tenure, he has been a strong advocate for the county and the Houston-Galveston region’s economic and workforce development. He helped to bring a Wharton County Junior College campus to Bay City, and he was instrumental in attracting global pipe manufacturer Tenaris to build a new \$1.8 billion facility in the region. He also serves on the Matagorda County Economic Development Corporation board.



“Our key strengths in this region are our diversity of place, people, opportunities, and natural and manmade assets,” said McDonald. “We are the living and breathing embodiment of the American ideal, that anyone can accomplish great things through commitment, education, and hard work.”

McDonald has also played a key role in coordinating regional emergency response efforts and promoting disaster preparedness. He helped secure crucial recovery funds for Hurricanes Ike and Harvey, and he has pushed heavily for creating a region-wide drainage plan that would help mitigate flooding from future storms. As H-GAC board chair, he approved the creation of the Gulf Coast Regional 9-1-1 Emergency Communications District, which modernized and

Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit h-gac.com.



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120
Houston, TX 77027
h-gac.com | @HouGalvAreaCog

enhanced funding for the region's emergency communications infrastructure.

“Judge McDonald has shown exemplary leadership in fostering cooperation between local governments and promoting the welfare of the Houston-Galveston region and the more than 7 million people who live and work here,” said Chuck Wemple, executive director of H-GAC.

Judge McDonald exemplifies what a leader should be. He has been my advisor and cheerleader at H-GAC and now at the Texas Association of Regional Councils,” said Nancy Arnold, chair of the H-GAC board of directors and City of Waller councilmember. “It’s been my privilege to serve with him on several committees, where he’s always demonstrated insight and knowledge.”

Every year at its fall annual meeting, the Texas Association of Regional Councils recognizes leaders, elected officials, and staff for exceptional service in strengthening, unifying, and partnering with councils of government in Texas. The Wilbur R. Dunk Award is presented to an elected official who has shown extraordinary dedication to the purposes and possibilities for regional cooperation through councils of government. McDonald joined the Texas Association of Regional Councils board of directors in 2014 and served as president in 2018.

“Judge Nate McDonald has been a dedicated board member, officer, and past president of our organization for much of my career,” said Ginny Lewis Ford, executive director of the Texas Association of Regional Councils. “Not only is he capable in these roles, but he is also a compassionate and caring person. I am so proud to work with a man of his character.”

For more information about the Texas Association of Regional Councils, visit txregionalcouncil.org.

For more information about the Houston-Galveston Area Council, visit h-gac.com.

###

Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit h-gac.com.