Marshall Doke Wins Statewide Historic Preservation Award

AUSTIN, Texas—In recognition of his outstanding four decades-long leadership and service to Texas history organizations, Marshall J. Doke, Jr., a retired Dallas attorney, was named this year’s winner of the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award by the Texas Historical Commission. Catherine McKnight, vice chair of the THC, made the presentation to Doke at a luncheon in McKinney on April 22.

A native Texan, Doke joined the Texas Historical Foundation board in 1993, served as president of the organization from 2000-2004, and chairman of the board for the next four years. During that time, he single-handedly fundraised—and personally contributed his own financial resources—in support of THF’s Texas Legal History Preservation Trust, designated for the preservation of materials related to the legal history of the Republic and State of Texas (the endowment now bears his name). This endowment has provided a funding resource for preservationists and curators, including support of important work done by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to conserve deteriorating 1800’s-era Texas Supreme Court documents. He also secured funding that established THF’s Heritage Magazine Endowment, ensuring the future of the award-winning quarterly Texas history publication. In addition to his volunteer efforts with THF, Marshall Doke served on the advisory board of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco and as Texas History Chair, Dallas Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, where he established and organized the annual Preserving Texas History Celebration, an educational and social event featuring speakers and other history-related activities.

Since 1954, the Texas Historical Foundation has funded preservation and education projects around the state and helped promote the cultural legacy of Texas. Among the group’s efforts is its award-winning quarterly magazine and an active grants program. For more information, see texashistoricalfoundation.org.

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