



2023 SAM HOUSTON AWARD RECIPIENTS

Sandy and Jim Hall

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Midland residents Jim and Sandy Hall have exemplified the Texas spirit of innovation, self-reliance, and freedom throughout their lives.

Born in Abilene, Jim earned a mechanical engineering degree from the California Institute of Technology. While there, he participated in his first car race with his brother, Dick, and fell in love with the sport. Later, he worked at Carroll Shelby Sport Cars in Dallas, where he was able to test some of the world's most advanced race cars and developed into one of America's top young drivers. Over time, he believed that he and his tiny band of fellow Texans could beat the mighty armies of Ferrari, Porsche and Ford in the world's major races with cars he built right in Midland. He was right. His historic breakthrough was "net downforce," the idea that you could manage airflow over, under and around the car to create a downward force that would almost glue it to the road. His winged Chaparrals 2E and 2F and "ground effect" — another Hall innovation — Chaparral 2J were the fastest cars of their era. His ground effect Chaparral 2K won the Indianapolis 500.

Today, thanks to Hall, net downforce is incorporated into every major racing car, from Formula 1 down, and most high-performance road cars. As a driver, he won multiple national championships. His exploits landed him on magazine covers worldwide and led to his induction into multiple halls of fame, including the Texas Sports Hall of Fame and Motorsports Hall of Fame of America.

Jim currently serves as General Manager of Condor Operating Company LLC, an independent oil and gas operator founded, along with his brothers Dick and Chuck, in 1959.

Shortly after Jim and Sandy married, Sandy became Jim's assistant at the office. She became an invaluable part of the Chaparral team. She was a receptionist, bookkeeper, and travel agent. She did racetrack timing and scoring, and pit board communications to the driver. She was beside Jim 24/7.

Since 2006, Jim and Sandy have supported TPPF's mission to champion liberty and conservative governance in countless ways. Most notably, the Halls were significant contributors to TPPF's capital campaign, naming both the Hall Family Liberty Café and Hall Family Capitol Overlook Terrace on the Austin headquarters' sixth floor.

With lives characterized by a pioneering spirit and fierce work ethic, Jim and Sandy are emblematic of the values that make Texas and America exceptional.