

# NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER 36

## Celebrates Milestone 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In October, North Texas Chapter 36 celebrated its golden anniversary event, “Good as Gold” in Irving, Texas. The gala was held in honor of the Chapter’s long and rich 50-year heritage, which started in the fall of 1960. At that time, the organization was known as the American Right of Way Association and the members were comprised of “right of way men” from agencies and companies long since gone.

Originating in Dallas-Fort Worth, the Chapter has since grown to 385 members. Considered the second largest chapter in the Association, they have demonstrated a strong commitment to bringing professional development programs to their members. With such a large group, it might be expected that they would celebrate their 50th anniversary with some major pizzazz.

In honor of the milestone, the Chapter transformed their traditional red, white and blue Texas shaped logo into a celebratory version. An anniversary logo-shaped cake was donated and became an event highlight. Thanks to its many longstanding members, chapter memorabilia adorned the banquet room, and photographers were on



The Chapter’s logo-shaped anniversary cake was an event highlight.

hand to capture the moment. The evening began with a social hour, followed by live music, and of course, a Texas-sized buffet. A visual presentation of Chapter 36 events throughout the years gave many a sentimental walk down memory lane.

After dinner, Master of Ceremonies, Greg Althoff, SR/WA, R/W-RAC introduced the evening’s two honored guests. They were Early Milstead, SR/WA, a Chapter member since 1966, and Carroll Keck, SR/WA, a Chapter member since 1970. As a Past International President from 1985-1986, Carroll reminisced as he spoke about the early days of the Chapter. In sharing his memorable experiences as a local, Regional and International officer, he challenged others to seek out leadership positions and take advantage of the many opportunities offered through the Association.

A special commemorative poster, created for the event by Tarrant County award winning graphic artist James Duff, depicts a 1960 Cadillac with old maps, photos and a toll ticket from the Texas Turnpike Authority. The Texas Turnpike Authority operated the toll road from 1957 to 1977. At that time, the toll road was the only direct connection between Dallas and Fort Worth.

International President-Elect Randy Williams, SR/WA, MAI, FRICS and International Secretary Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC were in attendance, along with Region 2 Vice-Chair Georgia Snodgrass, SR/WA. Randy congratulated Chapter 36 on its accomplishments and presented Chapter President Greg Cook, SR/WA with a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plaque on behalf of the Association.



Longstanding members, Early Milstead, SR/WA and Carroll Keck, SR/WA received special recognition from Greg Althoff, SR/WA, R/W-RAC.

Greg then announced the Chapter's new "Donald J. Sherwood, SR/WA Scholarship Program" in recognition of Donnie's service and achievements at the Chapter, Region and International levels. The evening's events were interrupted by the gala's surprise guest. An adorned Marilyn Monroe character sang Happy Birthday to Chapter 36's President Greg Cook in the same manner as President John F. Kennedy's birthday celebration in 1962. Following the presentations, casino night activities began. Chapter members and guests played Blackjack, Craps, Texas Hold'em and Slots with funny money, all in an effort to win tickets for a raffle of great prizes. The evening culminated with prizes ranging from a round of golf to a pair of Texas Stadium seats from the now razed Dallas Cowboy's Texas Stadium.

The evening's success was credited to the dedication of the Gala Committee and their extraordinary planning efforts. The group included Denise Perez, SR/WA, Christi Glendinning, MAI, Dorrien Himes, Kathy Jones-Robertson, SR/WA, Carol Nugent, R/W-RAC and Greg Althoff, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, all of whom worked tirelessly in securing monetary donations, prizes and services from generous Chapter 36 supporters. The evening was such a memorable success that planning for the Chapter's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has already begun.

The Chapter would like to extend a very special thanks to its generous sponsors. They include Platinum Plus Sponsor - Integra Realty Resources; Gold Sponsors - Universal Field Services, Burford & Ryburn, CAA Right of Way Appraisals, and Marriott Las Colinas; Silver Sponsors - Paramount Valuation, Paradise Settlement Services, IMS Mayflower Relocations and Terry May DJ Services; Bronze Sponsors - Wier and Associates, Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau, Pinnacle Consulting, Jim and Joanne Lucas and Hensley Photography. A special thanks to Blessing Florist, Sweet Virginia's Bubble Lifestyle Café and Caterer, James Duff and Katie Althoff for their generosity, time and efforts.



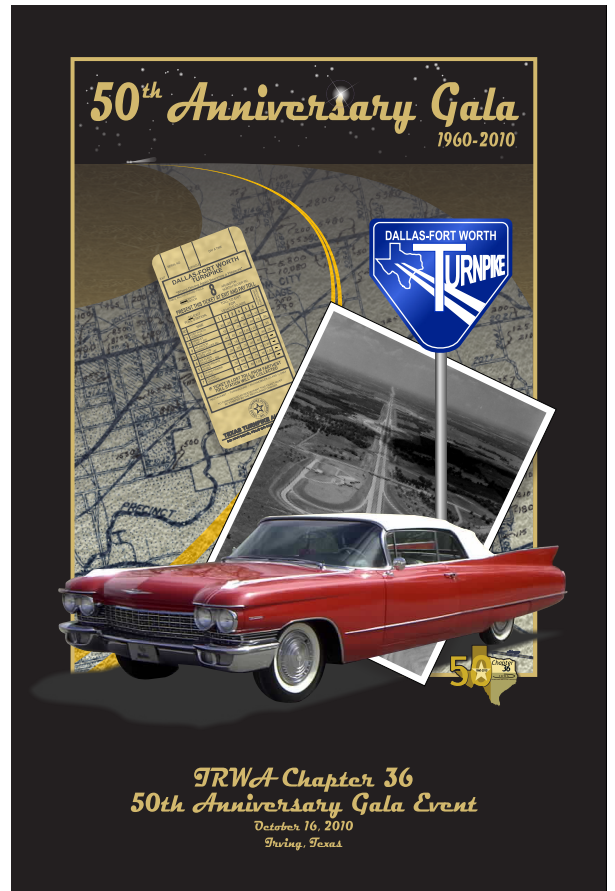
In honor of the Chapter's milestone, International President-Elect Randy Williams, SR/WA, MAI, FRICS presented Chapter President Greg Cook, SR/WA with a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plaque.



Taking part in the festivities were International President-Elect Randy Williams, SR/WA, MAI, FRICS and International Secretary Lisa Harrison, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC.



Surprise guest, Marilyn Monroe, sang Happy Birthday to the Chapter.



The commemorative poster was designed by Tarrant County's award-winning graphic artist, James Duff, in honor of the event.