

# RED MCCOMBS TO BE HONORED AS 2009 BOSS OF THE PLAINS

BY MARSHA PFLUGER

**S**AN ANTONIO BUSINESSMAN Red McCombs has been selected to receive the 2009 Boss of the Plains Award from the Ranching Heritage Association. It will be presented during an award dinner following a 6:30 p.m. reception, Friday May 15, at the Lubbock Country Club, 3400 Mesa Road.

The award recognizes McCombs' generosity to the NRHC museum and historical park. Created in 1999, the Boss of the Plains is presented annually to individuals who are highly regarded in their professions and who have provided noteworthy support for the National Ranching Heritage Center.

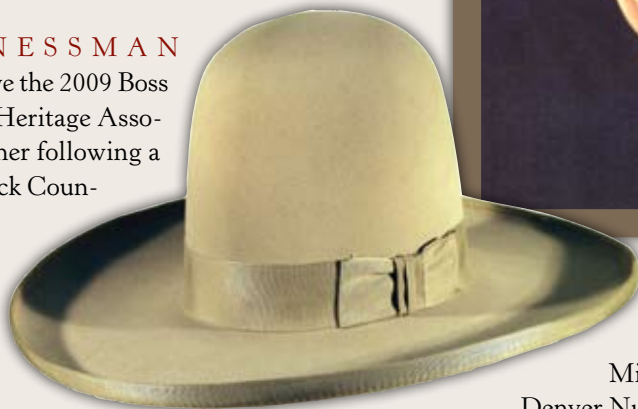
A charter member of the Ranching Heritage Association's National Advisory Board, McCombs has helped to underwrite several Heritage Campaign projects, including making possible the Red McCombs Main Gallery in the museum's new North Addition expansion.

Born in 1927 in Spur, Texas, McCombs attended Southwestern University and the University of Texas at Austin in both the School of Business and School of Law. He began his career as a salesman in the automobile business in Corpus Christi in 1950. In 1958, he relocated to San Antonio where he became a partner, then sole owner of Red McCombs Automotive. In addition to his auto interests, he is co-founder of Clear Channel Communications and McCombs Energy Corp. in Houston and is active in a variety of other businesses.

McCombs has served leadership roles in many national, state and local organizations. He served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Southwestern University where he was honored as Distinguished Alumnus, and he served as chairman of the Board of Visitors of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

McCombs was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Texas at Austin, where he was honored when their nationally acclaimed business school was renamed the Red McCombs School of Business. He has also been honored with numerous local, state and national recognitions including the San Antonio Business Hall of Fame, San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame, the National Automobile Dealers Hall of Fame and the Texas Business Hall of Fame.

Recently, the National Football Foundation presented him with the College Hall of Fame honor in New York, and The Texas Sports Hall of Fame recognized him with the first annual Lamar Hunt Lifetime Achievement in Sports Award.



McCombs is the former owner of the NFL Minnesota Vikings, the NBA Denver Nuggets and the San Antonio Spurs, which he secured for the city in 1972. At

age 25, he purchased his first professional sports team, the Corpus Christi Texas Clippers in the Big State Baseball League.

McCombs married the former Charline Hamblin in Corpus Christi in 1950. Their daughters, Lynda McCombs, Marsha Shields and Connie McNab, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren all reside in San Antonio.

The Boss of the Plains comes from the Stetson Hat Co., whose founder, John B. Stetson, created the first true hat of the American West. The hat and its name were the first registered by Stetson in its long and colorful history. Stetson, recognizing the significance of the Boss of the Plains Award, authorized its use and its name to honor those who lead the way in supporting the National Ranching Heritage Center.

Individual tickets for the Boss of the Plains Award reception and dinner are \$50 each. A reserved table seating six is \$500; a table seating eight is \$750. Call or e-mail Tim Bynum at the NRHC at (806) 742-0498 or [tim.bynum@ttu.edu](mailto:tim.bynum@ttu.edu) ★

## PAST RECIPIENTS

- 1999 Tom and Evelyn Linebery
- 2000 John F. Lott Sr.
- 2001 John R. "Rich" Anderson
- 2002 Eugene F. Williams Jr.
- 2003 Anne W. Marion
- 2004 Clarence and Dorothy Scharbauer
- 2005 Ruth Lowrance
- 2006 Bob Macy
- 2007 Jerry N. Worthy
- 2008 James L. Burkhart