



## Upcoming Houston Methodist Centennial Lectures

### Physicians Lecture Recognizing Marquee Honoree

Michael E. DeBakey, MD  
Thursday, April 25, 2019

4 p.m. Lecture | John F. Bookout Auditorium

5:30 p.m. Reception & Dinner | Barbara and President George H.W. Bush Atrium

### Partners Lecture Recognizing Marquee Honoree

Houston Astros  
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | John F. Bookout Auditorium

### Leadership Lecture Recognizing Marquee Honoree

John F. Bookout

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | John F. Bookout Auditorium

### Philanthropy Lecture Recognizing Marquee Honorees

Paula and Joseph C. “Rusty” Walter III  
Monday, October 21, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Barbara and President George H.W. Bush Atrium

### Faith Lecture Recognizing Marquee Honorees

Bess and Bishop A. Frank Smith  
Monday, December 9, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | John F. Bookout Auditorium

All lectures will take place at Houston Methodist Hospital.

For additional information or to RSVP, please contact [specialevents@houstonmethodist.org](mailto:specialevents@houstonmethodist.org) or 346.238.1123.



# Houston Methodist Centennial Lecture



Recognizing Marquee Honorees  
**Ella and Walter Fondren and Family**  
and the Inaugural  
Houston Methodist Board of Directors

**Monday, February 25, 2019**

Barbara and President George H.W. Bush Atrium  
Paula and Joseph C. “Rusty” Walter Tower

## Houston Methodist Centennial Lecture

Monday, February 25, 2019

Barbara and President George H.W. Bush Atrium  
Paula and Joseph C. “Rusty” Walter Tower

### Welcome

Marc L. Boom, MD

Ella Fondren and Josie Roberts Presidential Distinguished Centennial Chair  
President and CEO, Houston Methodist

### Lunch

### Center of Excellence Spotlight

Lynda K. and David M. Underwood Center for Digestive Disorders  
and the Houston Methodist Immunology Center

### Legends and Leaders:

#### The Inaugural Houston Methodist Board of Directors

Bryant Boutwell, DrPH

Retired Distinguished Teaching Professor, The University of Texas System  
Retired Professor, McGovern Medical School

### Video Tribute Recognizing Marquee Honorees Ella and Walter Fondren and Family

### Remarks on behalf of the Ella and Walter Fondren Family

David M. Underwood Jr.

Houston Methodist Board of Directors,

Houston Methodist Hospital Foundation Board of Directors,  
Houston Methodist President’s Leadership Council Senior Cabinet

### Centennial Honorees Introduction

Marc L. Boom, MD

### Houston Methodist Interactive Centennial History Wall Unveiling

Marc L. Boom, MD

### Closing Remarks and Centennial Blessing

Rev. Charles R. Millikan, DMin

Dr. Ronny W. and Ruth Ann Barner Centennial Chair in Spiritual Care  
Vice President, Spiritual Care and Values Integration, Houston Methodist



**Bryant Boutwell, DrPH**  
 Retired Distinguished Teaching Professor,  
 The University of Texas System  
 Retired Professor, McGovern Medical School

Dr. Bryant Boutwell was the inaugural John P. McGovern, MD, Professor of Oslerian Medicine at the University of Texas McGovern Medical School at Houston and a UT System distinguished teaching professor prior to retirement in 2017. For more than four decades he has been collecting the stories of Houston and the Texas Medical Center. He has written award-winning newspaper columns, radio programs, and television programs including scripts

narrated by the late Walter Cronkite. Recent books include biographies of John P. McGovern and Red Duke published by Texas A&M University Press. His current book in progress is the history of Houston Methodist, 1919-2019, scheduled for release in Fall, 2019. He holds bachelor degrees in news journalism and biology and a master and doctorate in public health from the University of Texas. Married with three daughters, he resides in Houston.

## Centennial Marquee Honorees Ella and Walter Fondren and Family



The deep roots of Houston Methodist are forever intertwined with the Fondrens and include eight family members who have proudly served on the hospital's board, committing a combined 187 years of service...and counting.

Walter W. Fondren was a self-made man who worked as an independent drilling operator at Spindletop. Ultimately, he helped found Humble Oil, which became ExxonMobil. He and his wife Ella were devoted to the Methodist church and supported its many programs, including its hospital operations. Over his 20 years of service on The Methodist Hospital board from 1919 to 1939, the couple dedicated much of their philanthropy toward the hospital.

After Walter's death in 1939, Ella diligently continued her husband's work and was subsequently elected to the board of The Methodist Hospital. She has been referred to as the "Matriarch of Methodist," a fitting moniker considering she spent more than 43 years of her life in service to the hospital. Time and time again, Ella was involved in key decisions concerning the hospital and contributed significantly to major milestones. She was on the building committee for the hospital's new Texas Medical Center site, and was instrumental in optimistically pushing for a larger 300-bed facility at a time when such an endeavor was thought too financially risky by many on the board. She continuously pushed the hospital to expand and gave generously for its growth.

The family tradition of service didn't stop there. Grandson David M. Underwood joined the Houston Methodist board in 1963 — along with his cousins Walter W. Fondren III

and W. Bryan Trammell Jr., whose wife Ann

Gordon Trammell and brother Tom Trammell later joined the board. David subsequently became the longest-serving board member in the institution's history. Over the next 50-plus years, David M. Underwood helped to oversee Houston Methodist's dramatic growth and transformation from an excellent patient care institution into a renowned academic medical center.

The Fondren legacy continues to this day, with David M. Underwood Jr. serving on the Houston Methodist Board of Directors, Houston Methodist Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, Houston Methodist President's Leadership Council Senior Cabinet, Patient Experience and Campaign Steering Committees and the Houston Methodist Immunology Center Task Force; Duncan K. Underwood co-chairing the Lynda K. and David M. Underwood Center for Digestive Disorders Task Force and serving on the Houston Methodist President's Leadership Council Patient Experience and Campaign Steering Committees; Sarah and Duncan K. Underwood serving as past chairs of The Society for Leading Medicine; Rob Fondren co-chairing the Lynda K. and David M. Underwood Center for Digestive Disorders Task Force and serving on the Houston Methodist President's Leadership Council Campaign Steering Committee; Christine L. Underwood serving on the Houston Methodist Cancer Center Council and the Houston Methodist J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center Task Force; Ann Trammell and Laura Baird serving on the Houston Methodist Immunology Center Task Force; and Matthew Baird serving on the Houston Methodist President's Leadership Council Patient Experience Committee.

## Inaugural Houston Methodist Board of Directors

- John T. Scott, *President*
- Walter William Fondren, *Vice President*
- Samuel Fain Carter, *Treasurer*
- Judge Robert L. Cole, *Secretary*
- T.E. Acker
- Robert W. Adams, MD
- J.C. Bailey
- John Hueter Bohmfalk
- C.W. Boone
- William Lockhart Clayton
- George W. Davis
- W.L. Dean
- Judge James A. Elkins
- George W. Glass
- Henry Brown Goodman
- John E. Green Jr.
- C.A. Hodges
- C.A. Lord
- W.E. Mitchell
- Oscar L. Norsworthy, MD
- Edward S. Phelps
- J.W. Reynolds
- Leroy Trice
- T.B. "Tony" Wessendorff
- James Marion West