

For Immediate Release

LYDA HILL AND MARTY LEONARD NAMED 2025 RECIPIENTS OF JO & HOLT HICKMAN LEGACY AWARDS

In honor of Jo and Holt Hickman's extraordinary contributions to Fort Worth and their steadfast commitment to philanthropy, preservation, and community, the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum is proud to announce the 2025 recipients of the Jo & Holt Hickman Legacy Awards: Lyda Hill and Marty Leonard.

The Legacy Awards, established in 2024, are presented annually to individuals or entities that exemplify the values held dear by Jo and Holt—Preservation, Western Heritage, Community Impact, and Entrepreneurial Spirit. Last year's inaugural honorees were William S. "Bill" Davis and Brenda Kostohryz.

The 2025 Legacy Awards Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at the Hotel Drover, located in the Fort Worth Stockyards.

Lyda Hill

Philanthropist • Conservationist

Lyda Hill is a trailblazer in both business and philanthropy, dedicating her life to enriching the cultural fabric of North Texas. As the founder of the Lyda Hill Foundation, she champions bold, transformative ideas in scientific research, education, environmental conservation, and the preservation of natural heritage.

Her friendship with Holt Hickman was rooted in a shared vision: to honor Fort Worth's Western heritage while embracing progress. In 1990, Lyda and Holt partnered to purchase key properties in the Fort Worth Stockyards, including the historic Livestock Exchange Building, the hog and sheep pens, and the horse and mule barns. This marked the beginning of the revitalization of the Stockyards into an award-winning historic district and visitor destination, showcasing the city's rich Western legacy.

Together, they transformed the crumbling hog and sheep pens into Stockyards Station, a vibrant shopping and dining hub, built the Stockyards Visitors Center, and restored the Livestock Exchange Building. The Horse and Mule Barns—one of their major acquisitions—became home to the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame for over a decade.

Lyda's generosity has touched countless local institutions, including the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, Cook Children's Medical Center, the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, the Fort Worth Zoo, and the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame.

Her philanthropic reach extends beyond Fort Worth. A driving force behind the development of Pegasus Park, Lyda Hill Philanthropies and LH Capital are fueling the growth of biotech innovation across North Texas.

Despite her remarkable achievements, Lyda is renowned for her humility, warmth, and unwavering commitment to making a positive impact. She is one of the few women to be named among *Forbes'* top 15 entrepreneurs who give back.

Lyda's impact also extends to Colorado, where she served as President of Seven Falls near Colorado Springs—her family's summer destination—and led the development of the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center.

Deeply rooted in Texas and devoted to preserving and promoting Fort Worth's cultural and philanthropic landscape, Lyda Hill is a true pillar of the community. Her vision and generosity have helped preserve the heritage of the Stockyards while ensuring its future, making her a most deserving recipient of the Jo & Holt Hickman Legacy Award.

Marty Leonard

Philanthropist • Golf Enthusiast • Fort Worth Icon

Marty Leonard, SMU graduate, is a beloved Fort Worth native, civic leader, philanthropist, and champion of preservation, conservation, and the environment.

Daughter of Marvin Leonard, founder of Leonard's Department Store, Colonial Country Club, Shady Oaks Country Club, and Starr Hollow Golf Club, Marty inherited a legacy of innovation and community investment.

She served for more than 15 years on the Tarrant Regional Water District, preserving local natural resources and shaping the future of water in Tarrant County. To honor Marty, the Cedar Creek Wetlands will be named after her.

She is a longtime board member of Lena Pope (65 years), the Friends of the Nature Center, United Way and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Advisory Board. Marty has also served on the boards of the Junior League, All Saints Health Foundation, United Way and several other nonprofit organizations.

She was also honored by family and friends on her 50th birthday with the building of the Marty Leonard Community Chapel at Lena Pope.

A lifelong golfer, Marty built and owns Leonard Golf Links, a premier practice facility in Fort Worth. She was inducted into the Texas Golf Hall of Fame along with her father—they are the only father-daughter duo in the TGHoF.

Her dedication to conservation, service, and Fort Worth's cultural fabric has left a lasting mark on the city, making her a most deserving recipient of the Jo & Holt Hickman Legacy Award.

Jo Hickman, his high school sweetheart and wife, stood by Holt's side through decades of partnership. Together, they raised a family and built a legacy of giving. Jo played an active role in supporting the purchase of the Sterquell Wagon Collection and the renovation of the Fort Worth Stockyards. Today, she continues the family's philanthropic legacy through gifts to numerous local causes, including the Jo and Holt Hickman Center for ACH Child and Family Services.

The Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame & Museum is proud to recognize *The Norris Foundation and JJ & Bobby Norris* as the 2025 Presenting Sponsors of the Legacy Awards Luncheon. We also extend our gratitude to *Harriet Jeffers*, our Valet Sponsor, for her generous support of this special event. Sponsorship opportunities for this prestigious event are limited and filling quickly—early commitment is encouraged to secure premium placement and recognition.

Make plans to join us as we celebrate the lives and impact of Lyda Hill and Marty Leonard, and honor the enduring legacy of Jo & Holt Hickman.

Tickets and table sponsorships are available at tchof.com/hickman-legacy-award

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