



OKPOLICY.ORG

Oklahoma Policy Institute

**FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

&

**GOOD SENSE
GOOD CENTS
AWARDS**



Honoring

MELVIN MORAN

introduced by Judge Robert Henry

&

ROBERT LAFORTUNE

introduced by Councilor G.T. Bynum

January 30, 2013 ~ Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa, OK

WELCOME

**to Oklahoma Policy Institute's
Fifth Anniversary Dinner &
Good Sense/Good Cents Award
Honoring**

Robert LaFortune



Melvin Moran



Music

Jon Glazer, Piano

Rebecca Ungerman, Vocals

Event Planners

Karen Kantor & Susan Palmer

Special Thanks

- ~ Susan Arteman-Dack ~ Copy-Scan & More ~
- ~ Sen. Brian Crain ~ Rep. Scott Inman ~
- ~ Mary Mowdy ~ Anne Roberts ~ Mana Tahaie ~
- ~ Matt Leach ~ Sterlin Harjo ~ Claire Edwards ~
- ~ Chelsea Davey ~ Kelly Kurt Brown ~
- ~ Tiffany Turner-Coats ~ Grant Vespasian ~
- ~ Staff, Interns, & Board of OK Policy ~

~ SCHEDULE ~

Reception & Music

Jon Glazer & Rebecca Ungerman

Welcome

Vince LoVoi, Board Chair

Invocation

Rabbi Marc Fitzerman,
Congregation B'nai Emunah
&
Father Tam Nguyen,
St. Francis Health Systems

Dinner

McNellie's Group Catering

Video

OK Policy: Five Years of
Better Information, Better Policy
Produced by This Land Press

Remarks

Vince LoVoi, Board Chair

Our First Five Years

David Blatt, Director

**Awards
Ceremony**

The Good Sense/Good Cents Awards recognize a lifetime of civic engagement based on respectful political dialogue, sound fiscal stewardship, and concern for the less fortunate.

Presentation to
Honoree

Honorable Robert Henry, President,
Oklahoma City University

Acceptance Remarks

Honorable Melvin Moran

Presentation to
Honoree

Councilor G.T. Bynum, Chair,
Tulsa City Council

Acceptance Remarks

Honorable Robert J. LaFortune

Closing Remarks

Vince LoVoi

Concluding Song

“My Oklahoma Home”

~ ABOUT OK POLICY ~



Oklahoma Policy Institute is a Tulsa-based state policy think-tank. Our mission is to promote adequate, fair, and fiscally responsible funding of public services and expanded opportunity for all Oklahomans by providing timely and credible information, analysis, and ideas. We are extensively involved in debates on the state budget and tax policy, as well as health care, education, poverty, immigration, economic development, and criminal justice.

Established in 2008, OK Policy has gained widespread recognition among policymakers from both parties and the general public as a trusted source of policy information. The Oklahoman has written that, “while small, Oklahoma Policy Institute has an outsized influence among Oklahoma’s decision-makers and thought leaders.”

During the 2012 legislative session, OK Policy led the successful effort to preserve the state income tax and fight off tax cuts. The Tulsa World acknowledged the impact we had in “shaping and even steering the debate... for giving the opposition plenty of persuasive arguments, and even for rallying stakeholders to fight back, rather than just sit back and take it.”

OK Policy produces a regular stream of information through issue briefs, fact sheets, opinion articles, blog posts, email alerts and social media. Each day, we distribute In the Know, a morning email that compiles and links to top news stories from Oklahoma news sources. We are interviewed frequently by Capitol reporters, public radio, and television, and we are cited regularly in newspaper editorials. Our Director, David Blatt, provides a weekly opinion column to the Journal Record and our material is regularly published in the newspapers and magazines across the state.

OK Policy is a 501(c)(3) organization funded through a combination of grants from Oklahoma and national foundations, and contributions from hundreds of individuals, organizations and businesses. Contributions to OK Policy are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Our information is all freely available at <http://okpolicy.org>.

~ HONORABLE MELVIN MORAN ~



Melvin Moran was born in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1930, the son of Jewish European immigrants. As a young child, his family moved to Seminole where Moran attended elementary school. He graduated from Tulsa Central High School (1947) and the University of Missouri (1951). He served two years in the U.S. Air Force in England in a top-secret unit. There he met London West End actress Jasmine Lindsay on a blind date. They married in 1953 and settled in Seminole, where Moran took over his family business, becoming CEO of Moran Oil Enterprises and Moran-K Oil.

Moran is a former mayor of Seminole and a past president of the Seminole Chamber of Commerce. He has been a regent of Seminole State College for 14 years. He has served on the Seminole Industrial Foundation and Seminole Economic Development Corporation, among other civic organizations. He was named Citizen of the Year by the city of Seminole and was inducted into the Seminole Hall of Fame. Melvin and Jasmine co-founded the world-class Jasmine Moran Children's Museum in Seminole.

Moran has served on the board of directors of many business associations, including director and past president of the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association, director of the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce, and a founding director of BancFirst. He has been appointed by six governors to state boards and committees, including the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Board and Oklahoma Arts Council.

He received the 1993 Governor's Arts Award and was named the 1993 Philanthropist of the Year by the Oklahoma chapter of the Society of Fund Raising Executives. In 1997, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Higher Education Hall of Fame, Seminole Hall of Fame, Tulsa Central Hall of Fame, and Oklahoma Oil Museum Hall of Fame.

He and Jasmine have three children - Marilyn, Elisa and David - along with six granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

~ HONORABLE ROBERT J. LAFORTUNE ~



Robert J. LaFortune was born in Tulsa in 1927 to Joseph A. and Gertrude LaFortune. He graduated from Cascia Hall Preparatory School and served in the United State Merchant Cadet Corps from 1945-46. He attended Tulsa University and graduated from Purdue University with a degree in chemical engineering in 1951. Before entering public life, LaFortune worked in chemical sales and was co-owner of Reed Drilling Company, as well as serving as Captain in the United States Air Force reserves from 1951 - 1962.

LaFortune served as Tulsa's Commissioner of Streets and Public Safety from 1964-70 before winning election as Mayor of Tulsa in 1970. LaFortune was active in the development of the Tulsa Port of Catoosa and the city's freeway system, as well as the Williams Center and Tulsa Performing Arts Center in downtown Tulsa. He served four two-year terms as Mayor before leaving office in 1978.

LaFortune has served on the Boards of the Bank of Oklahoma Financial Corporation, Apco Argentina International, Inc and St. John's Health System. His civic activities include service on the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, past chairman and trustee of the Philbrook Museum, the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust, and Metropolitan Human Services Commission. His state service includes appointments to the Oklahoma Ethics Commission and the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Education. He is an honorary life member of the Tulsa Area United Way.

Among his many honors, LaFortune has been elected to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, Tulsa Hall of Fame, and University of Tulsa Engineering Hall of Fame. The Boy Scouts of America recognized him with the Silver Buffalo, Beaver, and Antelope Awards. He has received the Harwelden Award and Kathleen P. Westby Award from the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa, as well as the Governor's Art Award from Governor Henry Bellmon. In 1995, the University of Tulsa awarded him an honorary doctor of laws degree.

He was married to Jeanne Morse LaFortune until her death in 2003; he has six children and 24 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

~ COUNCILOR G.T. BYNUM ~



G.T. Bynum is a fifth-generation Tulsan. He is a graduate of Cascia Hall Preparatory School and Villanova University, where he served as Student Body President .

Bynum spent six years in Washington D.C. working for Senators Don Nickles and Tom Coburn. After returning to Tulsa, he worked for the American Red Cross and Williams & Williams Worldwide Real Estate Auction. Bynum is the managing partner of Capitol Ventures, a firm with offices in Tulsa and Washington, D.C., which assists Oklahoma companies with federal contracting and business development.

Bynum was elected to the Tulsa City Council in 2008. In 2011, he was selected by his colleagues to serve as the youngest City Council Chairman in Tulsa history. Bynum and his wife, Susan, are the proud parents of Robert and Annabel.

~ HONORABLE ROBERT H. HENRY ~



Born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, Robert Henry has enjoyed a distinguished career as a writer, educator, attorney, and businessman, as well as serving in each branch of government. Elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives while he was still in law school, he served in that body from 1976 to 1986. In 1986 he was elected Attorney General of Oklahoma and won a historic re-election without opposition. In 1991 he became dean and professor of law at Oklahoma City University.

At the recommendation of Senator David Boren, Henry was nominated by President Clinton and approved by the United States Senate to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, where he became Chief Judge in 2008. He left his lifetime appointment on the federal bench to become the seventeenth president of Oklahoma City University in July 2010.

Henry is married to Dr. Jan Ralls Henry, an Oklahoma City dentist.

~ OKLAHOMA POLICY INSTITUTE ~

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~ LOOKING AHEAD ~

A portion of your contributions to the 5th Anniversary Dinner will support the following new initiatives:

SUMMER POLICY INSTITUTE

In 2013, Oklahoma Policy Institute will host the first Summer Policy Institute in Tulsa. The event will bring together 40-50 of Oklahoma's top upper-level undergraduate and graduate level students for an exciting and stimulating two-and-a-half day learning experience. The Institute will offer participants a unique opportunity to become better informed about vital state policy issues, network with fellow students and leading participants in the policy process, and prepare for their future studies and work in policy-related fields.

Participants in the Institute will be chosen through a competitive application process aimed at selecting students with strong academic training, diverse experiences, and a clear interest in the study and practice of public policy. Particular emphasis will be given on choosing a class of participants from a range of educational institutions, fields of study, and geographic and cultural backgrounds.

DIRECTOR'S RESEARCH FUND

The Director's Research Fund will provide financial support to encourage and support high-quality research on key policy issues affecting Oklahoma. Grants in amounts ranging from \$2,500 - \$10,000 will be awarded to university faculty members, senior-level graduate students, and independent researchers through a competitive application process based on a research proposal that explores current policy challenges in areas such as state fiscal policy, education, health care, criminal justice, or energy, among others. The final product will be expected to include a lengthy research report and a short (2-4 page) policy brief that OK policy will publish and publicize. OK Policy will work with an advisory group of academic experts to identify topics and review applications.

~ MY OKLAHOMA HOME ~

When they opened up the strip I was young and full of zip
I wanted some place to call my home
And so I made the race and I staked me out a place
And settled down along the Cimarron

It blowed away (blown away), it blowed away (blown away)
My Oklahoma home, it blown away
Well it looked so green and fair when I built my shanty
there
My Oklahoma home, it blown away

Well I planted wheats and oats, got some chickens and
some shoats
Aimed to have some ham and eggs to feed my face
Got a mule to pull the plow, I got an old red muley cow
And I also got a fancy mortgage on this place

Well it blowed away (blown away), it blowed away (blown
away)
All the crops that I've planted blown away
Well you can't grow any grain if you ain't got any rain
Everything except my mortgage blown away

Well it looked so green and fair when I built my shanty
there
I figured I was all set for life
I put on my Sunday best with my fancy scalloped vest
Then I went to town to pick me out a wife



She blowed away (blown away), she blowed away (blown away)

My Oklahoma woman blown away

Mr as I bent to kiss her, she was picked up by a twister

My Oklahoma woman blown away

Well then I was left alone just listening to the moan

Of the wind around the corners of my shack

So I took off down the road, yeah, when the south wind blowed

I traveled with the wind upon my back

I blowed away (blown away), I blowed away (blown away)

Chasin' that dust cloud up ahead

Well once it looked so green and fair and now it's up in the air

My Oklahoma farm is over head

Well I'm a roam'n Oklahoman but I'm always close to home

And I'll never get homesick until I die

'Cause no matter where I'm found, my home's all around

My Oklahoma home is in the sky

It blowed away (blown away), it blowed away (blown away)

And my farm down on Cimarron

But now all around the world wherever the dust is swirled

There is some from my Oklahoma home

NUMBERS OF THE DAY

5

Years of Better Policy, Better Information from the Oklahoma Policy Institute

439

Individual donors supporting our work in 2012

1,414

Posts on the OK Policy Blog as of January 15, 2013

5,277

Combined Facebook and Twitter followers as of January 15, 2013

52,567

Unique visits to OK Policy's 2012 State Questions page

400%

Growth in full-time staff since January 2011