



2011 Award recipient Mr. Norm Miller and his wife, Anne.

## 2011 Dinner Committee

Boone Powell  
*honorary chair*

Mike Arnold  
*chair*

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Rusty Hill	J.L. Sonny Williams

# 24th Annual *Russell H. Perry* Award Dinner Honors

## *Mr. Norm Miller*

Dallas Baptist University named Norm Miller, chairman of Interstate Batteries, as recipient of the 2011 Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award during the annual award dinner held on November 7 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. Boone Powell, retired president of Baylor Health Care System and former award recipient, served as honorary chair for the dinner with more than 1,300 people in attendance.

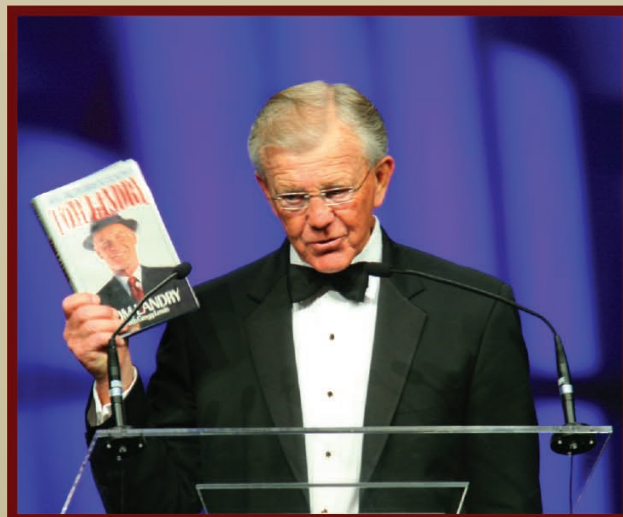
Mike Arnold, DBU trustee and president of Arnold Stone, Inc., was the chair for this year's dinner, as well as the evening's emcee.

The 24th annual gala event strives to recognize and honor Texas leaders, who use their God-given talents and abilities to make the most of opportunities created for them by the free enterprise system. The event is

named in honor of Dallas leader and philanthropist Russell H. Perry, whose life of service to Dallas impacted the lives of many. Mrs. Russell H. (Phoebe) Perry continues to be a friend to Dallas Baptist University. She and her late husband began their support of DBU in the 1960s.

Over the past 24 years, the dinner has raised over \$3.5 million in scholarship funds for over 1,500 DBU students.

As emcee, Arnold began the evening's program by thanking those in attendance for their support of DBU, specifically on behalf of the students who are directly impacted by the scholarship funds raised through this event. A DBU alumnus and former Patriot baseball player, Arnold was himself a recipient of scholarship aid during his time at the University.



Joe Gibbs, former coach of the Washington Redskins and owner of Joe Gibbs Racing, served as the keynote speaker for the dinner.



Dr. Robert Jeffress, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas and father of DBU student Julia Jeffress Sadler, offered the Pledge of Allegiance. It was followed by the DBU Grand Chorus leading the National Anthem. DBU student Anna Jones Goetsch was featured as the soloist during the Anthem. Dr. Jeff Warren, senior pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church and DBU trustee, then offered the invocation.

Dinner music was provided on piano by Sue Mitz, longtime DBU professor of music. Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, shared a word of gratitude for those in attendance and then introduced current DBU student Lindsey Adams.

Adams shared about her journey to DBU, following her career as a race car driver. She expressed her appreciation to all in attendance for scholarships which have helped make her, and many other students', education possible.

The DBU Grand Chorus performed a patriotic medley entitled "America! I Still Can Hear Your Song" conducted by Dr. Stephen Holcomb, director of choral studies and professor of music at DBU. A special men's trio performed during the selection, featuring DBU students Colton Necessary, Aaron Jones, and Clancy Spencer.

Following the Grand Chorus, Dr. Jim Denison, president of the Denison Forum on Truth and Culture and chairman of the DBU Advisory Board, introduced the evening's keynote speaker, Joe Gibbs. The owner of Joe Gibbs Racing and former head coach of the Wash-

ington Redskins, Gibbs jokingly told the audience this was "the best welcome I've ever received in Dallas," in reference to the long-standing rivalry between the Redskins and the Dallas Cowboys.

Gibbs had a remarkable record as head coach of the Washington Redskins, winning Super Bowls XVII (1982 season), XXII (1987 season), and XXVI (1991 season). He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1996.

Gibbs is also the author of the New York Times best-selling book, *Game Plan for Life*. He runs a ministry by the same name, which reaches out to inmates in prison to share the Good News of God's love.

In 1991, Gibbs was introduced to Norm Miller, and the two formed a fast friend-

ship and successful partnership in the racing industry. Although Gibbs did not possess much knowledge of racing when he began the company, he had a strong desire to win.

With Miller's partnership, it was only two short years later when Joe Gibbs Racing went on to win the Daytona 500 with Dale Jarrett racing in the #18 Interstate Batteries car. Then, in 2000, the team took home the prestigious Winston Cup Championship.

Describing Miller as a perfect family man and strong Christian businessman, Gibbs shared stories of their friendship during the evening's program.

"Your recipient tonight is creative, and he has non-stop ideas," Gibbs expressed. From movie production



Surprise guests, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, sing a medley of their hit songs in honor of their friend, Norm Miller. Their performance included, "Houston," "All the Gold in California," "Help Me," and "Americans, That's Who."



1994 Russell Perry recipients Gretchen Minyard Williams (center right) and her husband J.L. Sonny Williams (far right), along with Alicia Landry, wife of the late Tom Landry (center left), and Robert Whitfield, DBU advancement officer (far left).



Ebbly Halliday Acers, Dallas real estate icon, along with DBU student Jordan McKinney. Ebbly was the 1990 recipient of the Russell Perry Award, along with her late husband, Maurice Acers.





Dr. Jim Denison, president of the Denison Forum on Truth and Culture and chairman of the DBU Advisory Board, introduces the evening's speaker, Joe Gibbs.



Dr. Wright Lassiter, chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District and current DBU trustee, offers the dinner's benediction. Dr. Lassiter is a past recipient of the Russell Perry Award.



Lindsey Adams, a current DBU student and former race car driver, shares her testimony and tells of her decision to come to DBU as well as her time as a student.

to talking watches, Gibbs emphasized that if Miller is interested in making something happen, he will not stop until the job is finished.

One of Miller's greatest accomplishments, according to Gibbs, was the creation of "I Am Second" in 2008. This ministry was born out of an idea to share the Gospel with Miller's neighbors in the city of Dallas. In just three years, the website, [www.iamsecond.com](http://www.iamsecond.com), has had more than 5,000,000 hits. The website, which features celebrities, athletes, and everyday people sharing their testimony of God's love, is now running in more than 200 countries.

Gibbs stated that Miller's love for Christ is encompassed in everything that he does. He offered as an example the time he and Miller were interviewing their first race car driver, Dale Jarrett, in 1991. To convince Jarrett to join the Joe Gibbs Racing team, Miller was asked the question, "Why do you want to get involved in racing?"

Miller could have answered about wanting to win races, but instead he simply replied with the answer, "I

want to win souls for Christ."

"Norm is a person who is impacting a lot of people," Gibbs shared. "He is a special person."

Afterwards, Steve Blow, a columnist for *The Dallas Morning News*, introduced a special video presentation about Miller from friends, family, and colleagues, who offered their praise and congratulations to Miller for being honored.

Then, Boone Powell, also a friend of Miller's, took the stage to introduce surprise guests who appeared from behind the curtains riding in an Interstate Battery truck and race car – Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers. Much to the delight of the audience, the famous country trio performed several of their hit songs, including "Houston," "All the Gold in California," "Help Me," and a special "Americans, That's Who," in which they were accompanied by the DBU Grand Chorus.

Powell then presented the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise award to Miller.

Miller began his career with Interstate Batteries shortly after graduating from North Texas State University in



Dr. Robert Jeffress (right), pastor of First Baptist Dallas, along with his daughter and son-in-law, Julia and Ryan Sadler, DBU students. Dr. Jeffress led the evening's pledge of allegiance.



Former DBU trustee Scott Robinson (far left) and his wife, Carla (far right), along with current DBU trustee and pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dr. Jeff Warren, and his wife, Stacy (center). Dr. Warren offered the invocation before the meal.





*Dr. Gary Cook, who is currently serving in his 24th year as president of DBU, brought special greetings from the University and thanked those in attendance for their support for DBU through the years.*



*Sheila Cook, wife of Dr. Gary Cook, along with Abby Arnold, daughter of Mike and Mandy Arnold. Mike, who is a current DBU trustee, served as the dinner chair and emcee.*

## Previous Recipients

2010-Dr. Wright Lassiter  
 2009-Tom Leppert  
 2008-Drayton McLane, Jr.  
 2007-Andy and Joan Horner  
 2006-David Dean  
 2005-Pete Schenkel  
 2004-Noble Hurley (posthumously)  
 2003-The Weir Furniture Family  
 2002-George A. Shafer  
 2001-Mary C. Crowley (posthumously)  
 2000-Erle Nye  
 1999-Ross Perot, Jr.  
 1998-Jim L. Turner  
 1997-Rodger Meier  
 1996-W. Forrest Smith  
 1995-Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim  
 1994-Bob Minyard, Liz Minyard,  
 Gretchen Minyard Williams,  
 J.L. Sonny Williams  
 1993-Boone Powell, Sr.,  
 Boone Powell, Jr.  
 1992-Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper  
 1991-Tom Landry  
 1990-Maurice and Ebby Halliday Acers  
 1989-Trammell Crow  
 1988-John Stemmons, Sr.

1962. In the past 48 years of working for the company, he has moved through the ranks of Interstate—from beginning with his father's Tennessee distributorship, to the National Field Sales team at Dallas corporate headquarters, and on to the helm of Interstate's Executive Management Team.

Miller assumed the president and chairman roles in 1978, after working 16 years under his mentor, company-founder, John Searcy. Since Miller took on those roles in 1978, Interstate Batteries has grown to become the number one replacement battery in North America with 200,000 dealers across the U.S. and in Canada.

Additionally, Miller led the company in the founding of the Interstate Batteries Great American Race in 1983, which has become the world's richest old car race and America's premier vintage car event. In 1989, he also pioneered Interstate's entry into NASCAR.

Miller was recognized by DBU for his strong Christian leadership at Interstate Batteries as well as in the community. He serves as a board member for Dallas Theological Seminary and is a founding team member

of "I Am Second."

He and his wife, Anne, have two grown children, Tracy and Scott; five grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Quoting his favorite Bible verse, 1 John 1:9, Miller shared, "I'm a sinner saved by grace. It's just remarkable that God can use me, and you, and the rest of us."

He then directed attention back to DBU during his acceptance speech. "The real honoree is Dallas Baptist University," he said. "I am thrilled to be able to promote for these young people."

Having recently spoken at a chapel service on campus, Miller expressed, "It was so great to see these young people and see a godly place training our young people with a Christian basis – honoring God, loving Jesus, lifting up Christ. You can see it on their faces, in their eyes. It is a wonderful place. If you have not been out there, you need to go."

The closing benediction was led by Dr. Wright Lassiter, chancellor of Dallas County Community College District and last year's award recipient.



*Ken Pilgrim, current DBU trustee, and his wife, Donna. Ken's father, Bo Pilgrim, received the Russell Perry Award in 1995.*



*Current DBU trustee Sandra Doty and son, DBU student Drew Epting, along with her husband, Elmer Doty, former CEO of Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc.*



*Forrest Smith, member of the 2011 dinner committee and 1996 Russell Perry Award recipient, along with his wife, Martha.*