

# 2010 Unsung Hero Awards

*Honoring Texas State Employees*

On April 8th state employees participated in the presentation of TPEA's 2010 Unsung Hero Awards. This award is in its sixth year and is considered one of the highest honors a state employee can receive. The Unsung Hero Award recognizes the outstanding public service and community contributions of individual state employees and group of state employees in specific categories. The award is notable because fellow employees make the nominations, and senior agency management generally presents the awards. TPEA recognizes the hard work of all state employees and we seek to celebrate and honor those among us who perform exemplary service for the people of Texas. The categories and honorees for TPEA's 2010 Unsung Hero Awards are:

## Category One: An Individual State Employee

The award recognizes an active employee who has made a lifetime or singular contribution to advancing the mission, goals and services of his/her state-employing agency.

### **Sergeant Sabrina Adams**

Nominated by: Captain Lance Porter  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

### **Gloria Camacho**

Nominated by: Senior Warden Diana Kukua  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

### **Kerry Kipp**

Nominated by: Carla Baze  
Texas Department of Transportation

## Category Two: A Group of State Employees

The award recognizes a division, project team, etc. within a state agency, which has made a contribution to advancing the mission, goals and services of their employing state agency.

### **Eligibility Staff**

Nominated by: Commissioner Tom Suehs  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
Accepting Award: Ramona Aguilar, Steve Allison, Melanie Buckner, Nancy Chavez, John G. Flores, Steve Hernandez, Fidel Lujano, Claudia Martinez, Tommie Mumphrey, Marissa Reak, Jane Seale, and Bertha Villegas

### **Hightower Unit and Offender**

#### **Transportation, Correctional Institutions Division**

Nominated by:

Warden Lonny Johnson and Assistant Warden Kyle Coston

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Accepting Award: Louis Lovett COV, Reba Mathis COV, Captain Henry Williams and Chief of Classification Karen Williams

### **Presidio/Terlingua Maintenance Section**

Nominated by: Christopher Weber

Texas Department of Transportation

Accepting Award: Benjamin D. Benavidez, Inez W. Dominguez, Eduardo A. Martin, and Sergio Proano

## Category Three: An Individual or Group of State Employees Contributing to their Community

The award recognizes an individual or group (single state agency, division, project team, etc.) that has provided outstanding volunteer outreach in their local, county or regional community.

### **Robin King**

Nominated by: Aileen Meche

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

### **Sheila Jansky**

Nominated by: Larissa Schmidt

Texas Animal Health Commission



TPEA's President Gilbert Jordan welcoming guests to the luncheon.



(L to R) Jan Thornton – presenter, Sabrina Adams – recipient



(L to R) David Casteel – presenter, Kerry Kipp – recipient, Delvin Dennis, TPEA Director)



Commissioner Tom Suehs (center) – presenter, HHSC Eligibility Staff – recipients



(L to R) Jan Thornton – presenter, Gloria Camacho – recipient



(L to R) Dr. Dee Ellis – presenter, Sheila Jansky – recipient



(4th from L) David Casteel – presenter, Presidio/Terlingua Maintenance Section Group – recipients



Jan Thornton (2nd from L) – presenter, Inmate Transportation and Hightower Unit of the Correctional Institutions Division – recipients



(L to R) Gene McCarty – presenter, Robin King – recipient

Thanks to all of you for making a difference in state government!