

8-10-15

**To:** Mr. Orv Olivier  
Awards Committee Chairman

**From:** Sam Parks  
BFA President

**Subject:** Nomination for 2015 Shields-Trauger Award

**Nominee:** Dr. Bill Bussey  
Address: Longview Texas

**Ballooning Experience:**

- 37 years of flying
- Over 3,000 hours
- Corporate Ballooning Experience
- 29 US Records
- 14 World Records
- Over 35 Event Championships
- 1994 Al Desmond Award for Contribution to Competitive Ballooning
- Montgolfier Diploma Recipient
- Shields Trauger Award 1994 (Most Significant Flight)
- 2007 Inducted into Texas Aviation Hall of Fame

**Nomination Explanation:**

Dr. Bussey organized and founded the Great Texas Balloon Race in 1978. In addition, Dr. Bussey organized the first ever "Balloon Glow" in 1980 which is now common at balloon festivals around the world.

The Great Texas Balloon Race has from its beginning, focused on world class balloon competition, attracting the best competition pilots from the United States and around the World.

Considered by many pilots to be the most competitive event in the US, second only to the US Nationals, has earned the GTBR the designation as "The Balloon Capital of Texas" by the Governor in 1985. In 2013, Gregg County was proclaimed "The Balloon Race Capital of Texas" by the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature.

For 38 years Dr. Bussey's vision of a world class competitive balloon event in Longview has been shared by the hundreds of volunteers and sponsors that work untold hours to prepare for the event. The end result is the thousands of spectators that gather at the Gregg County Airport to witness the excitement of the competition and breath-taking beauty of the night time Balloon Glow.

Recently the Great Texas Balloon Race has hosted the Texas State Championship, and from 2012 thru 2015 they were the host of the US Nationals. For the future, there are plans to host a Southwest Regional Championship and perhaps an American Continental Championship.

Dr. Bussey continues to stay active in ballooning and it's through his direction and vision that the Great Texas Balloon Race has continued to foster the spirit of competitive ballooning in America.

Dr. Bussey has often told me that "there are two groups of people, givers and takers, and we should always try to be in the givers group". I believe that Dr. Bussey (Bill) has lived his life with that idea in mind. He has given so much to our sport and is planning for the future by establishing a foundation that was created to keep alive the Great Texas Balloon Race and competitive ballooning.

In the Category of Exemplary Service to the BFA I believe that Dr. Bill Bussey is a worthy candidate for the Shields-Trauger Award for 2015. I hope you agree.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam Parks  
President  
Balloon Federation of America