

# THE GEORGIA TRUSTEES



GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## THE GEORGIA TRUSTEES

The Georgia Trustees is a recognition as old as Georgia and is today the highest honor the state can confer. In conjunction with the Governor's Office, the Georgia Historical Society reestablished the Georgia Trustees to recognize Georgians whose accomplishments and community service reflect the highest ideals of the founding body of Trustees. The original Georgia Trustees, a governing body chartered and appointed by His Majesty King George II of England in 1732 to establish a new colony in North America, founded the Georgia colony upon the principle of *Non Sibi, Sed Aliis* – “Not for Self, but for Others.” They governed the colony with this vision until their disbandment in 1752, after which Georgia became a

royal colony. Reestablished in 2008, the Governor and the Georgia Historical Society make an annual appointment of new Trustees whose history-making accomplishments and service reflect the original Trustees' ideals.

During this induction, the newly-appointed Georgia Trustees are presented with an exact replica, cast in bronze, of the 1733 Trustees' seal. This impressive and historic medal serves as a symbol of the inductee's status as a Georgia Trustee and is presented by the Governor and the President of the Georgia Historical Society.

## MODERN-DAY GEORGIA TRUSTEES

2023

*Daniel P. Ames • Donna W. Hyland*

2022

*Dan Cathy • Shirley Franklin*

2021

*David P. Abney • Juanita Powell Baranco*

2020

*Robert L. Brown, Jr. • Robert S. Lepson, Jr.*

2019

*Frank S. Blake • John Boland Schuerholz*

2018

*Edward H. Bastian • W. Paul Bowers*

2017

*F. Duane Ackerman • A.D. "Pete" Correll*

2016

*James H. Blanchard • Muhtar Kent*

2015

*Alana Smith Shepherd • Paula S. Wallace*

2014

*Arthur M. Blank • William Porter "Billy" Payne*

2013

*S. Truett Cathy • Herman J. Russell*

2012

*Thomas G. Cousins • Andrew J. Young, Jr.*

2011

*Vincent J. Dooley • Samuel A. Nunn, Jr.*

2010

*Henry "Hank" Aaron • Robert Edward "Ted" Turner III*

2009

*Bernard Marcus • Marguerite Neel Williams*

## THE GEORGIA TRUSTEES

When the Georgia Historical Society and the Office of the Governor revived the Georgia Trustees in 2008, they created an honorary title to recognize the achievements and contributions of modern-day Georgians. They also breathed life into a long-dormant body, renewing interest in a neglected but important group of leaders from Georgia's earliest days.

The original Trustees were created when King George II signed a charter establishing the Georgia colony and creating its governing board on April 21, 1732. They governed the colony from that time until they surrendered the charter to the Crown in 1752. Only one of them—James Edward Oglethorpe—ever laid eyes on the colony itself.

The most famous of the Georgia Trustees is of course Oglethorpe himself. He is still to this day revered in the Georgia that he founded. He remains the most prominent figure in Georgia's colonial history, and he lived long enough to see his beloved colony become an American state. His leadership, his vision, and his stamp on Savannah all account in large part for the reason that most Georgians outside Savannah are unfamiliar with any of the other original Trustees or the three royal governors of Georgia who followed him. Oglethorpe himself was never technically "governor," but for all intents and purposes, he acted and served as Georgia's first. Oglethorpe ranks among the great colonial founders like John Winthrop of Massachusetts Bay, Roger Williams of Rhode Island, William Penn of Pennsylvania, and John Smith of Virginia.

Serving in Parliament in the early 1730s, Oglethorpe met a lot of influential people in the House of Commons because of his work on prison reform, none more influential or powerful than John Viscount Percival, who became the Earl of Egmont

in 1733. Together these men formed a group called the Trustees for Establishing the Colony of Georgia in America—the Georgia Trustees. They petitioned the Crown for a charter to plant a colony in British North America—the first new one in over 50 years—in the land south of the Savannah River and north of the Altamaha.

This new colony, would serve all kinds of purposes—and Oglethorpe and the Trustees had to sell it on many different levels to a range of potential backers. First, it would serve as a philanthropic venture, giving the poor and destitute a place of refuge and a new beginning; second, it would serve as a defensive buffer between British South Carolina and the Spanish in Florida. Third, it would be a good business venture, as the colony began producing raw materials to serve the British Empire. This wasn't a new idea; everyone had been able to look at North American maps for years, and there had been other attempts to settle the area that became Georgia. But the twenty-one Georgia Trustees finally succeeded where others had failed. While Egmont headed up the venture, it fell to the 35-year-old Oglethorpe to accompany the first colonists to Georgia, the only Trustee who did so.

The selection process for the first Georgia colonists was a very strict and rigid one. The Trustees interviewed carpenters, tailors, bakers, farmers, merchants—anyone with skills necessary to make the venture a success. But forget about taking the poor and destitute—that never happened. Too much was at stake in the end. Finally, Oglethorpe and 114 men, women, and children sailed from Gravesend on the River Thames on November 17, 1732, on board the *Anne*. They arrived in Charleston first, then stopped at Port Royal, while Oglethorpe and a band of Carolina Rangers went ahead to scout out a location in Georgia. They decided on Yamacraw Bluff, 17 miles from the mouth of the Savannah River, and the colonists all arrived in Georgia on what is now February 12, 1733.



During the twenty years of the Trustee period, 71 men served as Georgia Trustees. The Georgia charter named 21 Trustees and made them a self-perpetuating body that could increase its number to 24. Fifteen members would serve as an executive committee called the Common Council, with a quorum of eight needed to transact business. As the years went by, it grew more difficult to assemble a quorum. During the life of the Trust there were approximately 215 meetings of the Common Council and 512 meetings of the corporation.

Twelve Trustees attended the first meeting on July 20, 1732, at the Georgia office in the Old Palace Yard, close to Westminster. While the Trustees worked to raise funds, Parliament granted £10,000 to offset costs in 1733 and lesser amounts with each passing year.

Oglethorpe was the best known, but in London two Trustees did most of the work: James Vernon (who attended 712 meetings total and maintained an interest in Georgia throughout the life of the Trust) and the Earl of Egmont. After Egmont's retirement in 1742, Vernon worked even harder: He missed only 4 of 114 meetings during the last nine years of the Trust. Of the original Trustees only Vernon persevered to the end.

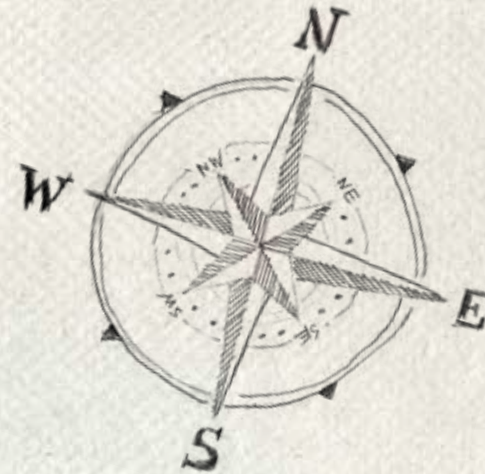
Other active members of the Trust, in terms of their attendance at council, corporation, or committee meetings, were Henry L'Apostre (who advised on finances), Samuel Smith (religious advisor), Thomas Tower (legal counsel), John Laroche, Robert Hucks, Stephen Hales (a scientist), and Anthony Ashley Cooper, fourth earl of Shaftesbury, who led the negotiations that turned Georgia into a royal colony. For the entire twenty years the Trustees employed only two staff members in London, Benjamin Martyn as secretary and Harman Verelst as accountant, while William Stephens served as secretary on the ground in Savannah until 1751.

In the end, Georgia survived by becoming a Royal colony, operated by the Crown and the British government. The

Trustees finally surrendered their charter to the Crown on June 28, 1752.

Georgia may have been the youngest and weakest colony when the Revolution began, but it would grow to become one of the strongest and most important of the American states, and the Georgia Trustees played no small role in that. Oglethorpe and the Trustees sustained Georgia through the first difficult decades of its existence, when it might have ended in spectacular failure. They championed Georgia's cause and worked to secure its rightful place in the strongest empire on Earth. In doing so they ensured its ultimate survival, which was no small task. They kept Georgia's enemies at arm's length and provided a foundation that would allow her the opportunity to prosper and grow.

The modern Georgia Trustees who are appointed by the Georgia Historical Society and the Governor each year are recognized as "Georgians whose accomplishments and community service reflect the highest ideals of the founding body of Trustees, which governed the colony from 1732 to 1752." Their selection each year proves that though the Trustees vision ended with Georgia becoming a Royal colony, their enterprising spirit of *Non Sibi, Sed Aliis* lives on.



## THE ORIGINAL GEORGIA TRUSTEES

1732

*Adam Anderson • Arthur Bedford • William Belitha  
Rev. Richard Bundy • John Burton • Thomas Ceram  
Edward Digby • Francis Eyles • Rev. Stephen Hales  
George Heathcote • (Sir) William Heathcote  
Rogers Holland • Robert Hucks • John Laroche  
Robert More • James Oglethorpe  
John Lord Viscount Perceval (Earl of Egmont)  
William Steper • Rev. Samuel Smith • Christopher Towers  
Thomas Towers • James Vernon*

1733

*Richard Chandler • James Lord D'Arcy  
James Earl of Derby • Thomas Frederick • Sir John Genson  
William Hanbury • Robert Kendall (Sir Robert Cator)  
Henry L'Apostre • James Lord Viscount Limerick  
John Page • (Sir) Erasmus Phillips  
Anthony Ashley Earl of Shaftesbury  
John Lord Viscount Tyrconnel • George Tyrer • John White*

1734

*Henry Archer • Thomas (Lord) Archer  
Richard Coepe • Hon. Robert Eyre  
Rev. (Lord Bishop of Londonderry) Thomas Rundle  
(Lord) William Talbot • Robert Tracy  
Francis Wellaston • William Wellaston*

1737

*Sir Jacob Des Bouverie (Lord Viscount Folkestone)*

1738

*Sir Harry Gough*

1739

*Roger Burgoyne • Lord Sidney Beauclerk*

1741

*Henry Bathurst • John Frederick • Philip Perceval*

1742

*John Barrington • Henry Calthrope  
Alexander Hume Cambell • Samuel Tuffnell*

1743

*(Sir) John Phillips • Velters Cornwall • John Wright*

1745

*Rev. Thomas Wilson*

1747

*Francis Cockayne • Samuel Lloyd • Christian Von Munch  
Rev. Samuel Urbsperger*

1749

*Shingsby Bethel • John Gust • John Earl of Egmont  
Anthony Ewer • Edward Hoope • Stephen Theodore Jansen*



## JOHN PERCIVAL, EARL OF EGMONT

---

John Viscount Percival, the Earl of Egmont, was the first president of the Common Council and the dominant figure among the Georgia Trustees until his retirement in 1742. He acted as Georgia's champion in Parliament. Next to James Oglethorpe, he was the most important person in founding the Georgia colony.

John Percival was born in County Cork, Ireland, and was educated at Magdalen College at Oxford. He won a seat in the Irish Parliament before he was appointed to the British Privy Council, the sovereign's private council, a seat he would hold for half a century. In 1715, Percival received an Irish Barony and became Viscount Percival seven years later.

In the British House of Commons, Percival served on the committee on jails with a young member named James Oglethorpe, who shared his idea about a new colony in North America for the deserving poor. Percival, like Oglethorpe, became a Georgia Trustee, and during Georgia's first decade, with Oglethorpe in America, Percival worked harder than anyone to champion Georgia's cause and secure its future. In 1733, he was awarded an Irish earldom, becoming the first Earl of Egmont.



## JAMES EDWARD OGLETHORPE

---

James Edward Oglethorpe was born in 1696 in London and was educated at Oxford. He gained valuable military experience in the Austrian army fighting the Turks. Oglethorpe chaired a parliamentary committee charged with prison reform. It inspired him and a group that became the Georgia Trustees to start a new North American colony as a haven for the destitute and the poor. With a charter from King George II, Oglethorpe sailed in 1732 with the first colonists—none of whom were poor or destitute—arriving in February 1733.

Oglethorpe served as unofficial governor for 10 years, working tirelessly to ensure political, military, and economic stability. After repelling a Spanish attack in 1742, Oglethorpe left for England the next year and never returned. He remained interested in American affairs, however, and just weeks before his death he met with John Adams, the first ambassador to Britain from the independent United States. The colony he founded is now the largest of the United States east of the Mississippi.

*Non Sibi, Sed Aliis  
Not for Self, but for Others*

## THE MODERN-DAY GEORGIA TRUSTEES

2023

### DANIEL P. AMOS

Dan Amos became CEO of Aflac Incorporated in 1990 and is the second longest-serving CEO in the *Fortune* 200 behind Warren Buffett. His innovative leadership style has led to astounding annual revenue growth for the company and has helped transform Aflac into a top international brand



recognized by *Fortune* magazine as one of the World's Most Admired Companies for 22 years. His commitment to ethical business practices has led the Ethisphere Institute to recognize Aflac as a World's Most Ethical Company for seventeen consecutive years. Mr. Amos has appeared five times on *Institutional Investor* magazine's lists of

America's Best CEOs for the insurance category, and he has been recognized as one of the 100 Best-Performing CEOs in the World by the *Harvard Business Review* five times.

Dan and his wife, Kathelen, have spearheaded Aflac's decades-long commitment to helping families of children diagnosed with cancer. The company and its independent sales associates have contributed more than \$165 million to this cause, including funding for the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. In Japan, through the Aflac Parents House, Aflac has also helped more than 140,000 children and their families who are facing cancer and other diseases.

### DONNA W. HYLAND



For 32 years, Donna Hyland has helped shape the delivery of healthcare to children in Georgia and beyond. First as Chief Financial Officer, then Chief Operating Officer and now as President and Chief Executive Officer, Hyland has overseen monumental growth and achievement at Children's Healthcare of

Atlanta. She was instrumental during the merger of Egleston Children's Health Care System and Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center, as well as the addition of Hughes Spalding and Marcus Autism Center, which led to the formation of what is now one of the largest pediatric healthcare systems in the country. Today, Children's is consistently ranked as a top pediatric hospital by *U.S. News & World Report* and one of *Fortune* magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For."

Hyland's dedication to pediatric healthcare has resulted in recognition as one of Atlanta's and Georgia's most influential leaders.

Her dedication to the community extends outside of Children's, where she serves on the boards of Atlanta Committee for Progress Inc., Cousins Properties Incorporated, Genuine Parts Company, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, Truist Atlanta Advisory Board, and Stone Mountain Industrial Park, Inc.

## 2022

### DAN CATHY



Dan T. Cathy is chairman of Chick-fil-A, Inc. Mr. Cathy's previous roles include President and Chief Operating Officer, Senior Director of Operations, Vice President of Operations, and Executive Vice President.

Under his leadership, Chick-fil-A was named

the top fast-food restaurant for customer service by *Newsweek* in 2019 and received multiple honors in QSR's 2019 Reader's Choice Awards, including "The Most Respected Quick-Service Brand" and "Best Brand for Overall Experience."

Mr. Cathy is also involved in the community, working to improve Atlanta's Historic Westside communities in partnership with numerous business leaders, nonprofits, charities, and government agencies. Mr. Cathy serves on the boards of the Georgia Aquarium, the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the Atlanta Committee for Progress, Eagle Ranch, and Heritage Preparatory School.

A recipient of the Zig Ziglar Servant Leadership Award, Mr. Cathy has received numerous honors, including the Herman J. Russell CEO of the Year by the Atlanta Business League and the Most People-Focused CEO at the inaugural Business Chronicle HR Excellence Awards.

Mr. Cathy's induction as a Georgia Trustee follows that of his father, S. Truett Cathy, in 2013.

### SHIRLEY FRANKLIN



Shirley Franklin served two terms as Mayor of Atlanta from 2002 to 2010. She was the first African-American woman to serve as mayor of a major southern city, and under her leadership Atlanta experienced unprecedented growth.

Ms. Franklin championed strict ethics legislation and implemented sweeping government operational reforms. She led the effort for the Atlanta BeltLine project and invested over \$6 billion in improvements to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Atlanta city parks, affordable housing, and water infrastructure projects. She also led the

effort to acquire the personal papers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for Morehouse College.

Ms. Franklin has served on numerous boards throughout her professional career, including Delta Air Lines. Currently, she chairs the Board of Directors of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights.

Ms. Franklin previously served in the administrations of Atlanta Mayors Maynard Jackson and Ambassador Andrew Young.

She received the 2005 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, which honored her for her courageous leadership in restoring fiscal stability and ethical government to Atlanta.

## 2021

### DAVID P. ABNEY



David Abney is the former Executive Chairman of the UPS Board of Directors. He served as CEO of UPS from 2014 until May 2020 and was appointed Chairman of the Board in 2016. Prior to his role as Chairman and CEO, Mr. Abney served as the company's Chief Operating Officer, overseeing logistics, sustainability, engineering, and all facets of UPS's global transportation network. He began his UPS career in 1974 as a part-time UPS package loader while attending Delta State University.

Mr. Abney serves as a Trustee of the UPS Foundation and the

Annie E. Casey Foundation and is a member of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta as well as the Business Roundtable. In 2019, he received the prestigious Horatio Alger Award for perseverance, integrity, and a commitment to excellence. He also served as Chairman of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, as well as on the boards of Macy's, Inc., Northrop Grumman Corporation, and Catalyst, an organization working to accelerate and advance women into senior leadership and board positions.

A native of Greenwood, Mississippi, Mr. Abney earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Delta State University, where he and his wife, Sherry, sponsor the school's annual symposium on international business.

### JUANITA POWELL BARANCO



Raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, Juanita Powell Baranco earned her B.S. and J.D. from Louisiana State University. Baranco had a successful law career, including serving as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Georgia. She is the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

of Baranco Automotive Group, one of the first African-American-owned car dealerships in the metro-Atlanta area. The Barancos own several other car dealerships including Mercedes-Benz and Acura.

Mrs. Baranco has served as the Chairman of the DeKalb County Education Task Force and as a member of the Georgia State Board of Education from 1985 to 1991. She was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to the Board of Regents and in 1995 became the first African-American woman to chair the board. She served on the Board of Trustees of Clark Atlanta University for twenty years, including ten years as board chair. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Southern Company and previously served on the Board of Directors of Georgia Power Company.

She has been recognized with numerous awards including recognition by the Dow Jones Company for entrepreneurial excellence; the first Trumpet Award from Turner Broadcasting System for entrepreneurial excellence; Entrepreneur of the Year by the Atlanta Business League; and the Blanchard Award for Outstanding Stewardship and Ethics in Business.

2020

**ROBERT L. BROWN, JR.**

Robert L. Brown, Jr. FAIA has compiled an exemplary record of public service during his career, impacting how the entire profession of architecture is practiced in Georgia. He earned his architecture degree from Tuskegee University and in 1984 established his firm, R L Brown & Associates. He has held leadership positions with the Georgia Department



of Transportation, serving as Chair in 2016-17, and with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, Citizens Trust Bank, and Agnes Scott College. He is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Curators of the Georgia Historical Society.

His design portfolio includes iconic work on the campuses of Morehouse College and Tuskegee University as well as Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Mr. Brown was elevated to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows in 1999. For his commitment to civic leadership, education, and mentorship, he received the 2017 AIA Georgia Bernard B. Rothschild award. He is also widely respected for a commitment to mentoring upcoming generations of architects, with many of them now in important leadership roles in the profession in Georgia.

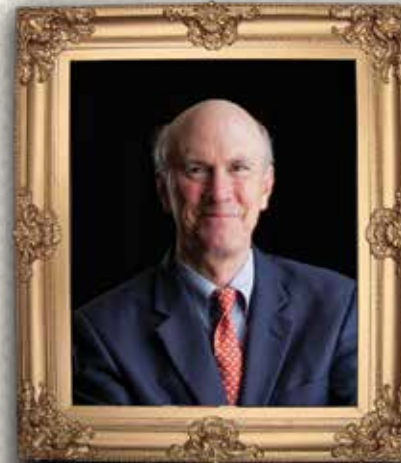
**ROBERT S. JEPSON, JR.**

Robert Jepson was Chairman and CEO of Jepson Associates, Inc., a private investment firm that he founded in 1989, the Jepson Corporation, which he sold in 1989, and Kuhlman Corporation, which he sold in 1999. He and his wife, Alice, are active philanthropists. They direct the main focus of their giving to the arts and to the field of higher education, most notably his alma mater, the University of Richmond, where in 1992 he conceived and created the Jepson School of Leadership Studies. Mr. Jepson earned two degrees from the University of Richmond: a B.S.B.A. in 1964 and an M.S. in Commerce in 1975. The University awarded him an honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree in 1987, the Alumni Award for Distinguished Service in 1992, the Trustees Distinguished Service Award in 1994, and the President's Medal in 2002. Mr. Jepson is Chairman Emeritus of the GHS Board of Curators, and serves on many other Boards, including the Georgia Research Alliance, Dominion Resources, Inc. in Richmond, and many local and state charities in Georgia. He has received numerous other awards, including Georgia's Most Respected Business Leader by *Georgia Trend* magazine.



**FRANK S. BLAKE**

Frank Blake served as Chairman and CEO of The Home Depot from January 2007 through November 2014, and then as chairman through January 2015. Mr. Blake joined The Home Depot in 2002 as executive vice president, business development and corporate operations.



The Boston native previously served as deputy secretary for the U.S. Department of Energy and in a variety of executive roles at General Electric, including senior vice president, Corporate Business Development.

Mr. Blake's public sector experience also

includes having served as general counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, deputy counsel to Vice President George Bush and law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

Mr. Blake serves on the board of directors for the Georgia Aquarium, Proctor & Gamble, Macy's, and is currently serving as Chairman of the Delta and Grady Hospital boards. Additionally, he sits on the Board of Trustees at Agnes Scott College. He holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and a jurisprudence degree from Columbia University School of Law.

2019

**JOHN BOLAND SCHUERHOLZ**

John Schuerholz served as general manager of the Kansas City Royals before assuming the same role with the Atlanta Braves in 1990. Under his leadership the Braves established an American professional sports record by winning 14 consecutive division titles from 1991 to 2005. The Braves won the National League pennant five times, winning the 1995 World Series. Mr. Schuerholz was named Vice Chairman Emeritus by the Braves in 2018.

Mr. Schuerholz's many honors include inductions into the Braves Hall of Fame (2017), the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame (2015), and the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame (2008). He received baseball's highest honor when he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2016.



A native of Baltimore and a graduate of Towson University, Mr. Schuerholz served on the advisory board of Camp Sunshine, an organization that provides opportunities to enrich the lives of children with cancer in Georgia, and the board of Yes!Atlanta, which gives at-risk teenagers a chance to experience personal success through voluntary programs based on long-term regular support by committed, caring and trained adults.

2018

**EDWARD H. BASTIAN**



As CEO of Delta Air Lines, Ed Bastian's responsibility is to champion the company's employee-driven, customer-focused culture and inspire the spirit of innovation that is the foundation of Delta's success. An 18-year Delta veteran, Mr. Bastian was part of the team that led the airline from bankruptcy. Named CEO in May

2016, Mr. Bastian puts Delta's shared values at the core of every decision. When asked to sum up his job, Mr. Bastian's response is: "Taking care of our people." The answer reflects his leadership philosophy—if you take care of your people, they take care of your customers, whose business and loyalty allows you to reward your investors.

Mr. Bastian grew up in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Mr. Bastian joined Delta in 1998. He became Delta's Chief Financial Officer in 2004, and was appointed to serve as Delta's President in 2007.

**W. PAUL BOWERS**



Paul Bowers is Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Georgia Power, the largest subsidiary of Southern Company. Prior to assuming his current role in 2011, Mr. Bowers served as Chief Financial Officer of Southern Company from 2008 to 2010. Previously, he served in various senior executive leadership positions across Southern Company in Southern Company Generation, Southern

Power and the company's former U.K. subsidiary, where he was President and Chief Executive Officer of South Western Electricity LLC/Western Power Distribution.

Mr. Bowers was the 2016 chair of the Atlanta Committee for Progress, a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Energy

Policy Council, the current chair of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation, and serves on the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia as well as multiple other boards throughout the state.

2017

**F. DUANE ACKERMAN**



F. Duane Ackerman is the retired Chairman and CEO of the BellSouth Corporation. Mr. Ackerman was named the President and Chief Executive Officer of BellSouth Telecommunications, BellSouth's local telephone service unit, and largest subsidiary, in November 1992. He was promoted to Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of the parent

company, BellSouth Corporation, in 1995, and was elevated to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of BellSouth in 1997. One year later, the Board added the chairman's responsibilities, and Mr. Ackerman served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer until BellSouth's merger with AT&T in 2006.

Additionally, Mr. Ackerman has served on the boards of the Allstate Corporation, United Parcel Service, and the Home Depot. He is a past chairman of Rollins College, the National Council on Competitiveness, as well as a past chair of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee. Additionally, Mr. Ackerman is a former member of the Homeland Security Advisory Council and has served on the board of governors for the Society of Sloan Fellows of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was President of the Atlanta Area Council of Boy Scouts of America and chaired the Olympic Park Private Sector Campaign for Centennial Olympic Park.

**ALSTON D. "PETE" CORRELL**



A.D. "Pete" Correll died on May 25, 2021, at the age of 80. He was a native of Brunswick, Georgia, and served as CEO of Georgia-Pacific for 13 years.

He held a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Georgia and a master's degree in Pulp and Paper Technology and Chemical Engineering from the University of Maine, as well as an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Georgia and an honorary Doctor of Public Service from the College of Coastal Georgia.

During his tenure as a member and later as Vice Chairman of the Georgia Historical Society's Board of Curators, Pete Correll played a key role in the institution's growth. Along with his wife Ada Lee, he helped to establish the

endowment for the Vincent J. Dooley Distinguished Fellows Program and contributed to the renovation and expansion of the GHS Research Center. Among his many notable acts of service, Mr. Correll helped revive a restoration project for Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. served as pastor. He had also served as Chairman of the Board of Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation and on the boards of the Georgia Aquarium and the Mother Nature Network, among many others.

Mr. Correll leaves a legacy of generosity, leadership, and service.

2016

**JAMES H. BLANCHARD**

James H. Blanchard is the retired Chairman of the Board and CEO, Synovus and Chairman, Board of Advisors, Jordan-Blanchard Capital, LLC., a firm that focuses on investing in small businesses in the manufacturing, distribution, and business services sectors.



Mr. Blanchard began his service with Synovus Financial Corp. in June 1970 and served as CEO and Chairman of the Board before retiring in October 2006.

In 2006, he formed a partnership with Columbus State University's Cunningham Center

of Leadership Development to create the Jim Blanchard Leadership Forum. The mission of the forum is to provide Columbus and the region the opportunity to interact with some of the most influential political, military, and business leaders in the world, creating a synergy that raises both the local and national standard for leadership development. He has been widely recognized for his leadership in philanthropy.

**MUHTAR KENT**

Muhtar Kent is Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Coca-Cola Company. From 2009-2017, he served as the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Previously, he was President and Chief Executive Officer and earlier, President and Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Kent joined The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta in 1978, holding a variety of marketing and operations leadership positions over the course of his career. In 2006, he was named President and Chief Operating Officer, and he became CEO in 2008.



Active in the global business community, Mr. Kent is a member of the board and past Co-Chair of The Consumer Goods Forum, past Chairman of the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum, a board member and past Chairman of the U.S.-China Business Council, a past board

member of the National Committee on US-China Relations, and past Chairman Emeritus of the U.S. ASEAN Business Council. He serves on the boards of 3M, Special Olympics International, Catalyst, Cambridge China Development Trust, and Emory University.

2015

**ALANA SMITH SHEPHERD**

Alana Shepherd and her family co-founded Shepherd Center in Atlanta in 1975 to treat spinal cord injury. Through the years, Shepherd Center has grown from a six-bed unit to a world-renowned, 152-bed rehabilitation hospital specializing



in medical treatment, research, and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, and other neurological conditions.

Ms. Shepherd, along with her husband Harold and their son James, founded Shepherd Center after James sustained a paralyzing spinal cord injury in 1973.

Frustrated by the lack of state-of-the-art rehabilitation care in the southeastern United States, the family galvanized support among the Atlanta community to open a special facility.

Ms. Shepherd championed the fight, despite opposition, to bring the International Paralympic Games to Atlanta in 1996. She changed Olympic/Paralympic history when her efforts led the International Olympic Committee to decree that all cities seeking to be the site of future Olympic Games must include plans and proposed financing for the Paralympics, as well as access to the same sites and facilities.

**PAULA S. WALLACE**

Paula Wallace is the President and co-founder of Savannah College of Art and Design, an accredited, nonprofit, degree-granting university established in 1978. Today SCAD is the largest, most comprehensive nonprofit arts university in the nation, awarding undergraduate and graduate degrees in more than 40 areas of study. During her tenure as President, the university has grown to include SCAD Atlanta, SCAD Hong Kong, SCAD Lacoste, and SCAD eLearning.

As an academic leader at SCAD, President Wallace has envisioned and created the publicly inclusive opportunities of SCADstyle, deFINE ART, aTVfest, and Savannah Film Festival to celebrate performing and visual arts, architecture, and design. She has pioneered industry-sponsored collaborative projects for students to work alongside creative executives at Coca-Cola, Microsoft, NASA, and others.



She also oversees the SCAD Museum of Art, which has won top honors from the American Institute of Architects, International Interior Design Association, and the Congress for New Urbanism.

2014

**ARTHUR M. BLANK**

Arthur M. Blank is the owner and chairman of the Atlanta Falcons. Mr. Blank has distinguished himself as one of the most innovative and progressive owners in all of professional sports, allowing him to attract and retain some of the most talented executives, coaches, and players in the NFL. In 2016, Mr. Blank brought major league soccer to Georgia as owner of the Atlanta United.



Mr. Blank is widely known in the business community for his success in building the world's

largest home improvement retailer. He co-founded The Home Depot in 1978 with Bernie Marcus and retired from the company as co-chairman in 2001.

In 2002, he was inducted into Georgia State University's Business Hall of Fame. In 1998, The Arthur M. Blank Center for Entrepreneurship, the nerve center for entrepreneurial activity at Babson, was named in his honor.

Mr. Blank is also dedicated to giving back. Through his generosity, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation has granted nearly \$300 million to support early childhood development, education, the arts, and parks and green space. He is a signatory of The Giving Pledge, committing himself to give away half of his wealth to charitable causes.

**WILLIAM PORTER "BILLY" PAYNE**

Billy Payne was chairman of the Augusta National Golf Club from 2006 to 2017 and is a founding member and Chairman of Centennial Holding Company, LLC, an Atlanta-based real estate investment concern. Under his leadership, Centennial's portfolio has grown more than \$1 billion in asset value.



Mr. Payne is perhaps best known for his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Atlanta Committee for the 1996 Olympic Games.

He is the only person in modern history to lead the bid to win the Olympic Games and to continue uninterrupted as President and CEO of the Games themselves.

Mr. Payne has received numerous awards and designations during his career and has twice been named Georgian of the Year by *Georgia Trend* magazine. He has also been recognized as one of the 20th Century's Top 100 Individuals in the American South.

2013

**S. TRUETT CATHY**

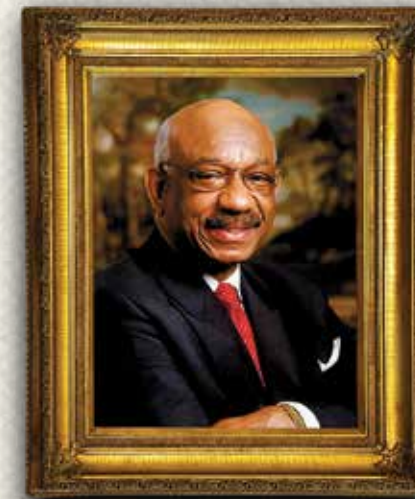


Chick-fil-A, Inc., founder S. Truett Cathy died Sept. 8, 2014, at age 93. Mr. Cathy started the business in 1946, when he and his brother, Ben, opened an Atlanta diner known as The Dwarf Grill (later renamed The Dwarf House®). Through the years,

that restaurant prospered and led Mr. Cathy to further the success of his business. In 1967, Mr. Cathy founded and opened the first Chick-fil-A restaurant in Atlanta's Greenbriar Shopping Center. Today, Chick-fil-A has the highest same-store sales and is the largest quick-service chicken restaurant chain in the United States based on annual system-wide sales.

Mr. Cathy was the author of six books and was a committed philanthropist dedicated to making a difference in the lives of youth. He was the recipient of countless awards over the years, both for his business acumen and for his charity.

**HERMAN J. RUSSELL**



Herman J. Russell died November 15, 2014, and was the founder of one of the largest minority Industrial/Service companies in the United States, Herman J. Russell & Company. Mr. Russell worked with major Fortune 500 companies in his native Atlanta such as Georgia-Pacific, Delta Air Lines, The Coca-Cola Company, Turner Field, the Georgia World Congress Center, the Atlanta City Hall

Complex, the Georgia Dome, and Phillips Sports Arena. His real estate development interests focused on the revitalization of local municipalities into strong mixed-income communities

A quiet, but influential civic leader, Mr. Russell was the first black member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and worked very closely

with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960s. Mr. Russell was also a philanthropist who generously gave back to his community through the Herman J. Russell Foundation, Inc., which is focused on stimulating self-sufficiency of youth and the communities in which they live.

2012

THOMAS G. COUSINS

Thomas G. Cousins founded Cousins Properties Incorporated in 1958, after graduating from the Darlington School in Rome, Georgia in 1948, the University of Georgia in 1952, and serving in the U.S. Air Force.



Cousins Properties is one of the larger equity Real Estate Investment Trusts in the country. The firm has enjoyed joint venture relationships with The Coca-Cola Company, IBM, Bank of America,

Temple-Inland, and Emory University. Mr. Cousins has chaired and is on the board of the Georgia Research Alliance, and is a director emeritus of Emory University. He has served as President of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta and is a member of its board of trustees, and also served on the Board of the Woodruff Arts Center. His business and civic board experience includes Central Atlanta Progress, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army, and Rockefeller University. He has chaired the University of Georgia Foundation and has been awarded honorary degrees from the University of Georgia, Emory University, and Oglethorpe University. He serves as Chairman of the C.F. Foundation and is a member of its Board of Trustees.

ANDREW J. YOUNG, JR.



Ambassador Andrew Young's humanitarian efforts and influence have spanned the globe. From his beginnings as an ordained minister and top aide to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement to his current position as founding principal and chair of GoodWorks International, an

organization that embraces his long-held mission of facilitating economic development in the Caribbean and Africa, Ambassador Young has dedicated himself to improving the lives of all people, particularly those in Africa and the diaspora.

Ambassador Young served in the United States Congress and as United States Ambassador to the United Nations during the Carter Administration. In 1996, he was awarded the Olympic Order, the highest award of the Olympic Movement, for his work as International Vice President for Law Engineering and Chair of the Centennial Olympic Games hosted in Atlanta.

While Mayor of the City of Atlanta for two terms, Ambassador Young helped attract 1,100 new businesses and 70 billion dollars in private investments, and created one million new jobs. His leadership helped the city to earn the international reputation it holds today. Ambassador Young recently received the Emmy for Lifetime Achievement.

2011

VINCENT J. DOOLEY

Vince Dooley died on October 28, 2022. For over 50 years, Vince Dooley had an enduring impact on the University of Georgia (UGA), the Southeastern Conference, and collegiate athletics across the country. He served as head football coach at UGA from 1963 to 1988 and as UGA Director of Athletics from 1979 to 2004. Coach Dooley was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 1978 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 1994.



Coach Dooley's 25 years as head football coach earned him the distinction as the most successful coach in Georgia history. He guided the Bulldogs to a career record of 201-77-10. The Bulldogs won one national championship (1980) and six SEC Championships under his direction. He took his teams to 20 bowl games. He was twice named NCAA National Coach of the Year and Georgia teams won 23 national championships under his leadership as athletics director.

Coach Dooley's community service and charity work was extensive and included work with the Heart Fund, Multiple Sclerosis, Juvenile Diabetes, Boy Scouts, and the Order of Malta. He was Chairman Emeritus of the Georgia Historical Society Board of Curators and on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army for which he chaired a successful million-dollar fund raising campaign for its new facilities in Athens.

SAMUEL A. NUNN, JR.

Sam Nunn is co-chairman of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), a charitable organization working to reduce the global threats from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. He served as a United States Senator from Georgia for 24 years (1972-1996) and is retired from the law firm of King & Spalding.



Raised in the small town of Perry in middle Georgia, he attended Georgia Tech, Emory University, and Emory Law School, where he graduated with honors in 1962. After active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard, he served six years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. He first entered politics as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives in 1968.

In addition to his work with NTI, Senator Nunn has continued his service in the public policy arena as a distinguished professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech and as chairman of the board of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

2010

### ROBERT EDWARD “TED” TURNER

Robert Edward “Ted” Turner began his career as an account executive with Turner Advertising Company and entered the television business in 1970 when he acquired Atlanta independent UHF station Channel 17. In 1976, he purchased Major League Baseball’s Atlanta Braves and launched TBS Superstation, originating the “superstation” concept. The following year, Turner Broadcasting acquired the National



Basketball Association’s Atlanta Hawks, and in 1980 launched CNN, the world’s first live, 24-hour global news network.

Mr. Turner is chairman of the Turner Foundation, Inc., which supports environmental causes; co-Chairman of the Nuclear Threat Initiative, which

works to reduce the threat from nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; and chairman of the United Nations Foundation, which promotes a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

He is also the recipient of numerous honorary degrees, industry awards and civic honors, including being named *Time* magazine’s 1991 “Man of the Year.”

### HENRY “HANK” AARON



Henry L. Aaron died January 22, 2021, at the age of 86. He was recognized as one of the true greats in Major League Baseball history. Aaron’s major league playing career spanned 23 years with the Milwaukee and Atlanta Braves

and the Milwaukee Brewers. His 755 home runs stood as the major league record for 33 years. He was named an all-star twenty-five times, was named the National League’s Most Valuable Player and World Series MVP with the Milwaukee Braves in 1957, won the National League’s Gold Glove Award three times, and received the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award in 1970. His contributions on and off the field continued the struggle against segregation begun by Jackie Robinson in 1947.

Mr. Aaron, a native of Mobile, Alabama, was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982 as one of the highest-ranking nominees in its history.

Along with his wife Billye, he was the founder of the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation. Mr. Aaron received numerous civic awards, including the Medal of Freedom in 2002, awarded by President Bush, and the Presidential Citizens Medal, awarded by President Clinton.

2009

### BERNARD MARCUS

Bernard Marcus is co-founder of The Home Depot, Inc., the world’s largest home improvement retailer. His company revolutionized the home improvement business with its warehouse concept. He served as Chairman of the Board until his retirement in 2002. He remains Director Emeritus.



Mr. Marcus’s personal civic involvement has been translated into the creation of The Marcus Foundation where he serves as chairman of the board. His areas of focus include Jewish causes, children, medical research, free enterprise, and the community.

In 1991, Mr. Marcus and his wife Billi established The Marcus Institute, which provides programs for children and adolescents with disorders of the brain. The Marcus Foundation has also partnered with Atlanta’s Shepherd Center to create Project Share, which helps support the housing, transportation and care costs of military personnel with brain or spinal injuries who are sent to Shepherd.

Mr. Marcus was largely responsible for the creation of the Georgia Aquarium. In 2012, he was awarded the William Simon Prize for Philanthropic Leadership.

### MARGUERITE NEEL WILLIAMS

Marguerite Neel Williams died May 11, 1999, at the age of 81. Born in Thomasville, Georgia, Williams developed a passion



for preservation that was instrumental in making historic preservation a vital force in enhancing the livability of Georgia. She served as a Founding Trustee of the Georgia Trust for Historic

Preservation. She was a member of the Board of Curators of the Georgia Historical Society.

She was tireless and creative in spearheading preservation activity in her own hometown. Among the many efforts she led, supported, and inspired are the rehabilitation of an old post office as the home of the Thomasville Genealogical, History and Fine Arts Library.

Ms. Williams’s energy, talent and philanthropy also focused on children and education. Her entrepreneurial spirit and tenacity were responsible for the establishment of many organizations that positively touch the lives of children in Thomas County, including the Boys and Girls Club of Thomas County, Thomasville Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the Thomasville Cultural Center.

## ABOUT GHS

**G**eorgia Historical Society (GHS) is the premier independent statewide institution responsible for collecting, examining, and teaching Georgia history. GHS houses the oldest and most distinguished collection of materials related exclusively to Georgia history in the nation. Founded in 1839, the Georgia Historical Society is the oldest continuously operated historical society in the South.

As a non-university research and educational institution, the Georgia Historical Society has collected, preserved, and shared some of the most important documents, rare books, maps, photographs, and artifacts that tell the story of our state's journey through time. The cornerstones of the collection are Hodgson Hall, the National Historic Landmark building that serves as the GHS Research Center, and the impressive group of manuscripts, rare books, and archival materials housed in the adjacent Abrahams Archival Annex..

The collection includes more than 4 million manuscripts, 100,000 photographs, 30,000 architectural drawings, 15,000 books, and thousands of maps, newspapers, portraits, and artifacts. The papers of many influential Georgians, including Griffin Bell, Vince Dooley, Benjamin Hawkins, Helen Dortch Longstreet, Juliette Gordon Low, and Bernie Marcus, are held in the society's collections. Perhaps the most significant document in the collection is an original draft copy of the U.S. Constitution that belonged to Abraham Baldwin, a Georgia delegate to the national constitutional convention of 1787.

In addition to housing the oldest collection of Georgia materials in the nation, the Society has an impressive list of programs, publications, and other activities that make cutting-edge scholarship available to a wide public audience.

These include the scholarly journal *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*; the history newsmagazine *Georgia History Today*; lectures by noted historians and authors; membership programs and tours; statewide assistance in preserving local history through its Affiliate Chapter Program; the Georgia Historical Marker Program, including the Civil War 150 Project, the Georgia Civil Rights Trail, and the Georgia Business History Initiative; Recognizing an Imperfect Past: A History and Race Initiative; the Dooley Distinguished Fellows; the *Georgia History Festival*, the Society's annual K-12 education program; and the Georgia Trustees.

In 2010 the Georgia Historical Society opened an office in Atlanta and in 2014 it expanded its Savannah campus through the edition of the Jepson House Education Center. Originally built in 1856, the 8,000-square-foot mansion today houses the programming, administrative, and executive offices of GHS. This capital expansion in Atlanta and Savannah ensures that the Georgia Historical Society will continue to promote research and education as the institution approaches its third century of service to the people of Georgia and the nation.

For more information about the Georgia Historical Society please visit us online at [GeorgiaHistory.com](http://GeorgiaHistory.com) or by calling (912) 651-2125 or (404) 382-5410.

## BOARD OF CURATORS

### Officers

Shan Cooper, *Chair*  
Dr. W. Todd Groce, *President and CEO*  
David P. Abney, *Vice-Chair*  
Clyde C. Tuggle, *Treasurer*  
H. Jerome Russell, Jr., *Secretary*

### Curators

Kevin S. Blair  
Frank S. Blake  
James H. Blanchard, *Ex-officio*  
Stephanie V. Blank  
Ellen B. Bolch  
Mark Burns  
Dan T. Cathy  
Reed Dulany III  
Kimberly S. Greene  
Venessa Harrison  
Jeff Kole  
John F. McMullan, *Ex-officio*  
William T. Moore, Ph.D., *Ex-officio*  
Sam Nunn, *Honorary*  
Beatriz R. Perez  
Kessel D. Stelling, Jr.  
Larry D. Thompson

### Chairmen Emeriti

Robert L. Brown, Jr.  
Walter M. "Sonny" Deriso, Jr.  
Vincent J. Dooley  
Kay T. Hightower  
Thomas M. Holder  
Robert S. Jepson, Jr.  
Bill Jones III  
Donald Kole  
Grace Greer Phillips  
Lisa L. White

## LOCATIONS

### JEPSON HOUSE EDUCATION CENTER

Savannah Headquarters  
*(by appointment)*  
104 W. Gaston Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

Tel 912.651.2125  
Toll Free 877.424.4789

---

### RESEARCH CENTER

501 Whitaker Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

Tel 912.651.2128  
Toll Free 877.424.4789

---

### ATLANTA OFFICE

*(by appointment)*  
One Baltimore Place NW, Suite G300  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Tel 404.382.5410

---

**GEORGIAHISTORY.COM**

The seal of the Georgia Historical Society is partially visible in the bottom left corner. It features a circular design with the Latin motto "E PLURIBUS UNUM" at the top and "SOCIETY" at the bottom. The central image depicts a figure holding a torch and a scroll, surrounded by other symbols.

**GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**