

**Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards**  
**Releases Names of Living Legends & Trail Blazers to Be Honored**

*Fifteen to be honored during February Event*

The [Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards](#), led by the passionate Pastor Larry Davies, has announced the names of the fifteen individuals that have blazed the trail and set the standards for gospel music over the nation. These individuals are teachers, preachers, singers, musicians, and administrators. They will be recognized throughout the award weekend of February 15-18, 2024, at various scheduled events. All events that weekend will be held at the Houston Hobby Marriott Hotel.

Gospel music has evolved over the years, since the days of Mary and Mary and Kirk Franklin, with thousands of gifted acts using their musical talent to spread the message of Christ. Independent artists have contributed immensely to the growth of the industry, making up a sizeable part of the market. Unfortunately, there are not enough platforms for such acts to show their craft and get appreciated. The case is not particularly different in the United States, which is where the Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards, as put together by Pastor Larry, is looking to make a difference.

There will be two categories of honorees at this event. The first is the Living Legends Award. The Living Legend Award is awarded to a man or a woman who has been in the gospel music industry over 40 years who has demonstrated progressive leadership in his or her perspective area of gospel music. His or her body of work has withstood the test of time and made a positive impact on the industry.

The second is the Trail Blazer Award. The Trail Blazer Award is awarded to a man or woman who has taken the lead in his or her perspective gospel music area and created opportunities for others to grow and excel as well. They may not be in the spotlight, but you are to see their handywork all over the finished products.

Nominations for these two awards were submitted to the founders and after examining the information provided, honorees were selected.

The Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards are honored to recognize the following individuals:

**Living Legends**

Mr. Robert Barnes	Birmingham, Alabama
Mr. Gary Givens	San Antonio, Texas
Mr. Donzell Hughes	Bossier City, Louisiana
Mr. Terry Jackson	Houston, Texas
Mr. Gerald "Doc" Lewis	Fresno, California
Mr. Victor McCray	Dallas, Texas
Professor Robert Simms	Houston, Texas
The Rising Stars	Eastover, South Carolina

### Trail Blazers

Bishop Bridgett Hill	Houston, Texas
Just Twynz: Erica Cooks	Bryan, Texas
Sherica Cooks Willis	Austin, Texas
Mr. Aldren McCullar	Dallas, Texas
Mrs. Neva Ford Nations	Gonzales, Texas
Emcee N.I.C.E.	Los Angeles, California
Mr. Vonzell Washington	Dallas, Texas

The award show weekend will begin on Thursday, February 15 with an afternoon opening ceremony and evening event to pay tribute to quartet music and the legends of the industry. Other activities for the event include a Morning Glory program and Power2Praise Educational Sessions to focus on the Business of the Music Industry, Artist Health and Wellness, Praise and Worship, Praise Dance and Mime Ministry, Ministers of Music & Pastor Coordination, and Women of Excellence. There will also be a Media Luncheon to include a new artist showcase as well as the Founder's Luncheon.

Winners will be announced at the award show on Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday evening. After the award show on Friday night, there will be a Christian Rap Show featuring local and state talent. The Red-Carpet Event will be on Saturday from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm before the award ceremony. The finale is ChoirMania. It will be at the hotel beginning at 4 pm on Sunday. Local churches as well as gospel choirs from across the country will participate in this celebration.

For more information about the Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards and to be a part of the initiative as a local or international sponsor as we as to provide media coverage, visit - [www.tgmea.org](http://www.tgmea.org).

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### Media Contact

Texas Gospel Music Excellence Awards	
Milton Wallace	Antoine Powell
940-368-4886	832-722-5498
<a href="mailto:miltonwallace@sbcglobal.net">miltonwallace@sbcglobal.net</a>	<a href="mailto:adphouston@gmail.com">adphouston@gmail.com</a>