



## **ROBERT E. RUSS AWARD DESCRIPTION & QUALIFICATIONS**

The Robert E. Russ Award recognizes one individual for outstanding contributions to the Ruston-Lincoln business community or overall economic development of the area, in honor of the founder of Ruston, Louisiana, Robert E. Russ. This award is one of the highest honors given by the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce (RLCOC) to an individual. Nominations will be accepted through December 18, 2024. The award will be presented at the Chamber's 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet on February 6, 2025. It is not required that the Russ Award be given every year.

### **Guidelines:**

- 1 This award will be open to any resident of Lincoln Parish, male or female. It is not required that this person be a member of the RLCOC.
- 2 The nominee cannot be a paid professional leader, an elected official who currently holds office, or a current member of the RLCOC Board of Directors.
- 3 The nominee must have made several contributions to the betterment of the business community.
- 4 An individual can be nominated in multiple and successive years but can only be honored by the award one time.
- 5 It is the selection committee's responsibility to critique and consider nominations and select a recipient based on the nominee's personal contributions toward business and/or economic advancement or development of this region in an outstanding manner during the year. However, the committee can take into account the activities of the individual over the last three years.

### **Past Recipients:**

1984 - Pam Love  
1985- John G. "Jack" Ritchie  
1986 - Floyd B. James  
1987 - William V. "Bill" Best  
1988 - Clarence E. Faulk, Jr.  
1989 - William A. Marbury, Jr.  
1990 - Hale R. Shadow  
1991 - Dr. Virgil Orr  
1992 - James Davison  
1993 - John E. Maxwell  
1994 - W.A.J. Lewis II  
1995 - Eddie Robinson  
1996 - Robbie Willard  
1997 - Lucius & Mildred McGehee

1998 - Walter Savage  
1999 - Dr. Daniel Reneau  
2000 - Travis Defreese  
2001 - Bill Cox  
2002 - Ruth Johnson  
2003 - O. L. Waltman & L. D.  
"Buddy" Napper  
2004 - Linda Graham  
2005 - John Shealy  
2006 - Bobby Price & John O'Neal  
2007 - John F. Emory, Sr.  
2008 - Tommy Folk  
2009 - Dr. Les Guice  
2010 - Benny Denny

2011 - Lynne Gnemi  
2012 - Wayne Parker  
2013 - Mayor Dan Hollingsworth  
2014 - Drake Mills  
2015 - Wilbert "Coach" Ellis  
2016 - Trott Hunt  
2017 - JN Walpole  
2018 - Kyle McDonald  
2019 - Mary Ann Woods  
2020 - Cathi Cox-Boniol  
2021 - Bill Hogan  
2022 - Danny and Ronny Graham  
2023 - Tom O'Neal

## 2024 Robert E. Russ Award Nomination Form

Return to the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce by Dec. 18, 2024.

Mail or bring to: 2111 North Trenton St., Ruston, LA 71270

Email: [marketing@rustonlincoln.org](mailto:marketing@rustonlincoln.org)

Nominee for Robert E. Russ Award: \_\_\_\_\_

Has this person lived in Lincoln Parish for more than a year? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you nominating this person?

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Examples of the nominee's outstanding contributions to the civic, business or cultural advancement or development of the region must be included.

These examples may be in the form of letters of recommendation, newspaper articles, etc. If you have this information, please submit it with this application for the nominating committee.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to put the spotlight on a deserving individual.

This nomination has been submitted by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_