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For Immediate Release

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Three TPPB board members retire, leaving path of success for new generation to carry forward

LUBBOCK, Texas (March 9, 2012) – The [Texas Peanut Producers Board](#) is saying goodbye to three dedicated, longtime directors with 100 years of combined service to the state’s board as they retire from their long-held positions. Ted Higginbottom of Seminole, Billy Shannon of Quitaque and Clifton Stacy of Pearsall leave behind them a well paved path of commitment, hard work and many accomplishments for the Texas peanut industry.

“I have enjoyed being on the board,” Stacy, who served on TPPB for approximately 30 years, said. “I decided it was time to hand the reins to someone new, so they could help the board meet the needs of the state’s peanut industry.”

These three men have dedicated countless hours serving on a myriad of committees and holding numerous offices within the organization, all while maintaining their individual farming operations and staying active stewards of their communities.

These directors have seen the state’s peanut industry through many challenges and hurdles, and worked to ensure peanuts are a viable, profitable crop for Texas producers.

“Since Texas is such a large state, each peanut producing region has different concerns,” Shannon said, looking back on his 37 years as a TPPB director. “The peanut board works to recognize these differences and keep them in consideration when making important decisions on research and promotion to benefit the state’s producers.”

There have been a number of changes in the state peanut industry since these directors first served on the board. It is because of the diligence of members such as Higginbottom, Shannon and Stacy that TPPB has adapted with these changes, appropriately representing the state’s peanut industry, while maintaining very active research and promotional programs.

“Everyone listened to the needs of peanut farmers, which shows the quality of people serving as directors,” Higginbottom said, reflecting on his 33 years of service. “The board members put their individual needs aside and looked at the overall picture, which is to help peanut producers in Texas.”

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*Retiring TPPB directors
Add one*

TPPB Executive Director Shelly Nutt said the directors volunteer their time and efforts to serve for the greater good of the industry.

“I’m blessed to work with 12 directors with hearts of service and true passion for what they do – growing food to feed the world,” Nutt added.

Nutt’s thoughts shine true even as these directors step down from their positions. When asked what his greatest accomplishment was, Shannon humbly stated, “Throughout serving on the board, I hope I’ve helped the peanut farmers in the state somehow.”

“These three men and their fellow directors have worked diligently to ensure Texas peanuts have prominent visibility, not only within the agricultural industry, but with Texas consumers,” Nutt said.

TPPB Chairman Larry Don Womack of DeLeon said the board has often looked to these three individuals’ extensive experience and valuable insight for their input on numerous matters impacting the peanut industry.

“Ted, Billy and Clifton have represented Texas and Texas peanut farmers with their best interests at heart,” Womack said. “They will be missed greatly in the roles they’ve filled as active and respected leaders in our industry.”

Though these directors are leaving their roles as peanut leaders in an official capacity, their impact on the state’s peanut industry will always be felt. They have left a legacy with big shoes to fill, but each said they felt confident in the next generation’s ability to surpass the already high standards of TPPB.

“I think we will have a vibrant peanut industry in Texas for many years to come,” Higginbottom concluded.

TPPB thanks Higginbottom, Shannon and Stacy for their distinguished service, guidance, devotion and friendship. They will be long remembered.

These board members will be recognized for their service at the next TPPB board meeting on March 22 in Lubbock, Texas. The three new TPPB directors will be sworn in at that time.

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The Texas Peanut Producers Board is a state-wide board funded by a voluntary checkoff program. TPPB is responsible for coordinating peanut research, promotion and marketing programs. For more information, visit www.TexasPeanutBoard.com or contact TPPB Communications Director Stephanie Pruitt at stephanie@texaspeanutboard.com.