

Excerpts from Remarks at the Tarleton-Central Texas Transition and Service Awards Reception, August 14, 2009

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I am delighted to be here today to celebrate the transition from Tarleton-Central Texas to Texas A&M University—Central Texas and to recognize and thank you for your service to Tarleton.

Ten years ago, we—the community, Tarleton and the Texas A&M System—set out on a journey—like explorers heading off to unknown worlds, with the purpose of providing a quality public education to the citizens of Central Texas.

Thanks to the focus, dedication and hard work of you and many other individuals, we have reached this exciting new place called Texas A&M University—Central Texas. I congratulate you on your efforts.

Several people joining us today have provided unwavering support or played an important part in this historic journey:

- Representative Aycock and his wife, Marie
- Dr. Lamar Johanson (1st Executive Director), and his wife Marilyn
- Dr. John Idoux (2nd Executive Director)
- Dr. Garry Ross, Interim President TAMU-CT
- General Robert Shoemaker and his wife, Tuke



Above (l to r): Representative Aycock, Dr. Lamar Johnson, TAMU-CT Interim President Dr. Garry Ross, Dr. John Idoux, Tarleton President F. Dominic Dottavio



Right: General and Mrs. Shoemaker

Many others brought us to this day. I want to thank Dr. Dennis McCabe, for his vision and leadership in reaching this goal.

The creation of Texas A&M University-Central Texas is the result of progress through partnership. For the past ten years, many have worked together to reach a common goal. We will continue to build on this already strong partnership so that we can best serve all of our students.

President Ross, as you cross the threshold of a new university, we want you to take something with you that represents the beginning of TAMU-CT's history. I am proud to present to you The Tarleton Gates. Above the Tarleton Alumni Association Door is the phrase—*The Gates are Always Open*. The Tarleton Gates are always open to you.

Another important part of today's celebration is to recognize your service to Tarleton. As many of you know, Tarleton recognizes 5, 10 and 15 years of service with a certificate and service pin. Today, there are two individuals who are completing 5 years of Tarleton Service.

- Albert Galbreth
- Gabriele Fischbacher

There is a special group of twenty employees, who were here on September 1, 1999 when Tarleton—Central Texas opened its doors and who are still here today. Your contributions to Tarleton and to the building of a new university are very much appreciated.

Steve Blum
Doug Dyer
Stacy Ferrell
Randall Florey
Jody Fry
Jim Fullingim
Larry Garner
Melinda Guthrie
Jerry Jones
John LaLone

Larry Larson
Barbara Lyon
Pauline Moseley
Richard Newberry
Theresa Newberry
Margaret Peters
David Roberts
Son Thai
Steve Vitucci
Mary Yeaman

This concludes our formal program. Thank you all for being here. Again, congratulations on a job well done.