

Economics Arkansas Formally Invites You To The

# LEADERSHIP IN FREE ENTERPRISE AWARDS LUNCHEON

2026 LIFE Award Honorees

**Walter E. Hussman, Jr.**

Chairman  
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Chairman  
WEHCO Media, Inc.

**R. Madison Murphy**

Chairman  
Murphy USA, Inc.

President  
The Murphy Foundation

Co-Founder  
Presqu'île Winery

**Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Little Rock

**HONORING ARKANSAS ECONOMIC LEADERS**

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW**

Sponsors who commit by July 31<sup>st</sup> will be listed in mailed invitation.



Economics Arkansas

# About Our Honorees



## WALTER E. HUSSMAN, JR.

Chairman, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette; Chairman WEHCO Media, Inc.

Walter E. Hussman, Jr. is Chairman of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and Chairman of WEHCO Media. A third-generation newspaperman and media leader, Hussman spent decades guiding the growth of one of the nation's most respected family-owned media companies while championing free enterprise and a free press. The recipient of numerous honors for his leadership in journalism, business, and public service, Hussman has devoted his time and talents to advancing education, supporting youth development programs, and strengthening civic life in Arkansas. His contributions to journalism, business, and community leadership have left an indelible mark on the state and beyond.

## R. MADISON MURPHY

Chairman, Murphy USA, Inc.; President, The Murphy Foundation; Co-Founder, Presqu'ile Winery

R. Madison Murphy is Chairman of Murphy USA, President of The Murphy Foundation, and owner of The Sumac Company, a diversified business with timber, real estate, and agricultural operations. He is also co-founder of Presqu'ile Winery. Over a career spanning more than 45 years, Murphy has provided leadership to major public companies while helping shape economic development and philanthropy across Arkansas. His service as Chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission, Chairman of the Hendrix College Board of Trustees, and leader of numerous civic initiatives reflects a lifelong commitment to entrepreneurship, stewardship, and community leadership.



### Past Honorees (2012 - 2025)

Ed Clifford

Joe Ford

Asa Hutchinson

Charles Morgan

Northwest Arkansas Council

Warren Stephens

Kenneth Pat Wilson

Mike Duke

Scott Ford

Sissy Jones

Don Munro

Winthrop Rockefeller

Dave Stickler

Michael Wilson

First Security Bank

George Family

Tommy May

Charles H. Murphy, Jr.

Shelley Simpson

Don Tyson

Robert Young

Dr. Arch Ford

J.B. & Johnelle Hunt

Jimmy Moses

Charles Nabholz

Simmons Family

Sam M. Walton

## 2026 LIFE Awards Luncheon

# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Leadership in Free Enterprise Award honors exceptional leaders who have made lasting contributions to Arkansas through business success, innovation, and service. Sponsorship provides a unique opportunity to celebrate these achievements alongside influential business, civic, and community leaders while showcasing your organization's support for free enterprise and economic growth.

Benefits & Opportunities	Free Enterprise Society \$20,000	Bessie B. Moore Hero \$10,000	Platinum \$5,000	Gold \$2,500	Silver \$1,250	Bronze \$1,000
Reserved Seats (*Preferred)	*16	*8	*8	8	8	No Seats
Mentioned in media promotion	✓	✓				
Recognition by emcee on stage	✓	✓				
Recognition in email communications	✓	✓	✓			
Logo featured in program & materials	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Recognition in event program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12-month linked recognition on EA website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social media recognition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Listed in pre-event slideshow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Sponsors who commit by July 31<sup>st</sup> will be listed in mailed invitation.**

## Thank You To Our Event Committee

Thank you to our LIFE Awards event committee for their leadership and support.

**Patrick Wilson**, Committee Chair  
*Partner/Attorney, Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP*

**The Honorable Jim Andrews**  
*Former Judge and Managing Member, Andrews Law Firm, PLLC*

**Jason Chacko**  
*Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley*

**Stephen Lane**  
*Vice President, Clark Contractors, LLC*

**Holly Lenderman**  
*VP of Marketing & Communications, Stephens Inc.*

**Eric Munson**  
*SVP, Government and Institutional Banking, Bank OZK*

**Randy Zook**  
*President & CEO, Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce*

# Sponsorship Commitment Return Form

**Please return form by mail or by emailing [kathleen@economicsarkansas.org](mailto:kathleen@economicsarkansas.org).** Please send attendee names by October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to ensure a smooth check-in process. A "Know Before You Go" information sheet will be sent to your sponsorship contact prior to the luncheon.

## SELECT YOUR SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$20,000</b><br><i>Free Enterprise Society</i>                                | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$10,000</b><br><i>Bessie B. Moore Hero</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$5,000</b><br><i>Platinum</i>          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$2,500</b><br><i>Gold</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$1,250</b><br><i>Silver</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$1,000</b><br><i>Bronze</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$125</b> Per Ticket<br>How many? _____ |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am unable to attend but would like to make an honorary gift recognizing: _____ |   |   |  |

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Sponsor Name

As it should appear in the program and on event signage

### Address

### City

### State

### ZIP

### Sponsorship Contact(s)

Please list all that should be included on event communications with EA staff

### Email

### Phone

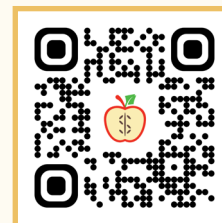
### Billing Contact

### Email

If different from above

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Send Invoice**  
*Unless otherwise noted, invoices will be sent immediately*
- Check**  
*Payable to Economics Arkansas, PO Box 3447, Little Rock, AR 72203*
- Secure Payment by Credit Card**  
*Call us at 501-682-4230, scan the QR code or visit [www.EconomicsArkansas.org](http://www.EconomicsArkansas.org)*



## Questions?

Contact Kathleen Lawson at 501-682-4349, or email at [kathleen@economicsarkansas.org](mailto:kathleen@economicsarkansas.org).

# Economics Arkansas Board of Directors

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We gratefully acknowledge the leadership of our Board of Directors, whose guidance strengthens our mission and impact across the state.

## Executive Committee

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*Vice Chair*

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*Posthumous*

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*\*Active Lifetime Board Member*





**Economics Arkansas**

EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE



DOUBLETREE  
by Hilton™

**ADDRESS** 424 W Markham Street, Little Rock, AR 72201

**EVENT TIME** 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**DATE** Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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## About Economics Arkansas

Economics Arkansas equips PreK–12 schools with standards-based resources and professional development to teach economics, personal finance, and the free enterprise system through practical and inspiring methods. Our vision is for Arkansas students to confidently apply this knowledge to thrive in school, in work, and in life.

*The Leadership in Free Enterprise Award supports this mission by bringing together business, civic, and community leaders to recognize those whose accomplishments exemplify the power of entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic opportunity.*

  [EconomicsArkansas.org](https://www.EconomicsArkansas.org)