

Sulphur Bluff Masonic Lodge #246 honors Robert Newsom with Community Builder award

Written by From Staff Reports
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Sulphur Bluff Masonic Lodge #246 will honor a life-long Hopkins County resident for his contributions to the community.

The lodge Saturday, April 8, will present the Community Builder Award to Robert Newsom. The Community Builder Award is presented to a non-member of the Masonic fraternity who has been deemed by Masons for contributions made to the community.

"I am honored to be considered for such an award. I am certainly overwhelmed by the kindness of the people of Sulphur Bluff Masonic Lodge in considering me for this award. I don't know why they picked me," Newsom said.

"Judge Newsom is a life-long resident of Hopkins County and has served this county well over his life span," said Wade Bartley on behalf of SB Masonic Lodge #246.

Newsom currently serves as pastor of Sulphur Bluff Baptist Church and was appointed by the Commissioners' Court to serve as Hopkins County Judge. He is finishing out the unexpired term of Chris Brown, who this year vacated the seat to assume the reigns as Ark-Tex Council of

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Governments .

Newsom was elected several terms as the 8th Judicial District Judge, serving from 1997-2012.

His service to the legal system began as a law enforcement officer. He was a deputy for Hopkins County Sheriff's Office from 1981 to 1983, then served as a patrolman with Sulphur Springs Police Department from 1983 to 1984.

In 1986, Newsom earned his doctor of jurisprudence from Texas Tech School of Law. From 1987 to 1992, he served as an assistant district attorney for the 8th Judicial District Attorney's office. He served as Hopkins County Attorney from 1993 to 1996, then was elected judge for the 8th Judicial District.

Newsom, after graduating from Sulphur Springs High School in 1970, went on to what is now Texas A&M Commerce, where he obtain a bachelor of science in 1974. From 1976-1984 he was part of the community as a dairy farmer.

Robert Newsom has been married for 42 years to wife Robbie, who he often notes is his best friend. They have two sons and daughters-in-law, Joel and Amy Newsom and Jonathan and Maci Newsom; and eight grandchildren.

Sulphur Bluff Masons invite the community to meet and congratulate Newsom Saturday, April 8, during a beans and cornbread supper which starts at 6 p.m. at Sulphur Bluff Community Center. Lodge #246 will be presenting the Community Builder Award to Newsom at the event.