

INDUCTEE

WILLIAM E. HOUSTON

Graduated. . . .1974
Married.Eleanor Young Houston
Child John Oichiro Solove Houston
Step Children. Kate Young Crowder, Jackson Young Crowder
Resides Springfield, VA & Washington, DC

As a member of Key Club, an organization sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Gahanna, Bill was learning leadership and organization from the businessmen of Gahanna while he was a student at Gahanna Lincoln High School.. He went on to hone those skills after his 1974 graduation.

Bill entered the Ohio State University in the Naval ROTC program, graduating in 1978 and going on active duty with the United States Navy and Reserves through 1989. He graduated with his Juris Doctor degree from the law school at American University in Washington D.C. in 1987. By 1989 Houston became the staff assistant to the Under Secretary of the Navy. He was responsible for advising the Chief of Naval Operations, Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of Defense in matters of political and military affairs.

Within ten months, Houston quickly progressed to the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary, Territorial & International Affairs in the Department of Interior. His duties included administering nearly one-half billion dollars yearly in appropriated federal funds, supervising nearly 50 people including judges, special prosecutors and field representatives throughout the Pacific and representing the Secretary of the Interior on a variety of issues including Antarctic and international tourism. He testified on Capitol Hill for the Department of Interior on a variety of issues and traveled extensively throughout the Pacific Rim.

From January 1993 until 2007, Houston served as president of TGH Enterprises, consulting on international trade and political affairs primarily in Asia and the Pacific Rim. His clients included groups such as the International Tax and Investment Center, Japanese Embassy, Vietnamese business concerns, the John Hancock Company and others. In 1995, Bill became a partner in the legal firm, Dalton, Dalton & Houston, P.C. in Washington, D.C., representing special education students at all levels including administrative hearings, Federal and state courts as well as the United States Supreme Court. Bill often lectures on educational issues as an extension of this involvement.

In June 2007 Bill Houston became the Director in the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, responsible for coordinating the legislative agenda for the Bureau of Industry and Security in the Department of Commerce. He directs the outreach efforts for the Bureau, including the public, the press and other governmental agencies, federal, state, and local.

Bill holds at least six bar memberships and has been a member of many military and veterans' organizations: the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Japanese American Veterans Association and the Association of Naval Aviation. He has received the William Oxley Thompson Award for outstanding achievement by an OSU alumnus, two Naval Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Navy Expeditionary Medal and more.

In November of 2007, Bill returned to Gahanna as a guest speaker at the GLHS Veterans Memorial ceremony where his brother, John Houston, class of 1969, is memorialized for giving his life for freedom. Social studies teacher, Jerry Englehart says, "Bill's a true friend to our school district and graciously volunteers his time and energies. He has truly become the social studies link to Washington, D.C. and to our government staff—he is our Washington insider."