



NEWS RELEASE

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Reed



Dulaney



Host



Chaney

Reed Elected 2010-2011 MEC chair

JACKSON, Miss. – Jack Reed, Jr., Mayor of Tupelo, has been elected as the 2010-2011 Chair of the Mississippi Economic Council – The State Chamber of Commerce.

Reed, a Tupelo native, was elected mayor in 2009. He is also president of R.W. Reed Company, the parent company of Reed's Department Store. His father, Jack Reed, Sr., served as MEC Chair in 1963-64.

Tommy Dulaney, president & CEO of Structural Steel Services, Inc., was elected as the 2011-2012 MEC Chair. Jerry Host, president and COO of Trustmark National Bank, has been elected as the 2012-13 MEC Chair. Carl Chaney, president and CEO of Hancock Holding Company and Hancock Bank, was elected as Treasurer.

Reed said MEC continues to be an organization that understands the importance of accepting the challenges facing Mississippi and working to improve the state's business climate and quality of life.

"I had seen what a positive influence MEC had been in the 1960s, when my father and his generation of business leaders stepped forward and were the voice of reason and morality during those turbulent times," Reed said. "Today, MEC is both the powerful voice of business as we work to provide jobs for our fellow Mississippians and an enlightened collection of civic-minded citizens who recognize that increasing the value of Mississippi's human assets absolutely increases the value of Mississippi's financial assets."

An honors graduate of the Tupelo Public School system, Reed received his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and earned a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. Prior to joining Reed's, he practiced law at the firm of Mitchell, McNutt & Bush from 1976 to 1980.

Reed was instrumental in the work of MEC's Leadership Mississippi Alumni Association, which helped pass the Education Reform Act in 1982 that instituted public kindergarten in Mississippi. He is Past Chair and a Director of the Community Development Foundation and served as Past Chair for the United Way of Northeast Mississippi. Reed and his wife, Lisa, were named Northeast Habitat for Humanity Outstanding Volunteers and Big Brothers/Big Sisters Outstanding Volunteers. The couple actively volunteers for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and in 2005 they were chosen as JDRF's International Volunteers of the Year.

Dulaney founded Structural Steel in 1975. He is currently serving on the board of directors for Meridian Community College, Meridian Community College Foundation, The Riley Foundation, Meridian Little Theatre, Hope Village for Children, Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center, the Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development and the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation.

Host, who was MEC Treasurer from 2008-2010, serves as a Director on the Boards of Trustmark National Bank and Trustmark Corporation. He is also a Director on the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, New Orleans Branch Board and Board of Directors of the Mississippi Bankers Association. Host is past chairman of the Mississippi Museum of Art Board and currently serves on the executive committee. He is the past director for the Mississippi Chapter of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He volunteers with Stewpot Community Services and Habitat for Humanity.

Chaney is a member of the Mississippi Bankers Association Board of Directors and serves as treasurer and chairman elect. He is also a member of the American Bankers Association, the Florida and Louisiana Bankers Associations, the American Bar Association and the Mississippi State Bar. Chaney is a member of the boards of directors of the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation and the Gulf Coast Business Council. He is active in many community activities, including the Gulf Coast Carnival Association and the American Heart Association.

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ABOUT MEC: The Mississippi Economic Council has been the voice of Mississippi business since 1949. MEC deals with broad issues that relate to businesses through advocacy, research, resources and leadership. MEC has more than 8,000 members from more than 1,000 member firms in 2,400 locations throughout Mississippi. For more information, go to www.mec.ms