



Texas State Rifle Association

*Protecting Our Constitution
Since 1919*

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The Texas State Rifle Association will host its 2020 Annual General Meeting in Waco on Saturday, February 29, at which it will announce to its membership the recipients of this year's Doc Brown Legislative Achievement Awards: State Representative Dennis Paul (R-Houston) and State Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola).

During the 86th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, Representative Paul and Senator Hughes authored and passed **House Bill 302** which prohibits “no firearms” clauses in residential leases and protects tenants’ rights to possess lawfully-owned firearms and ammunition in dwelling units and on manufactured home lots, and to transport their guns directly between their personal vehicles and these locations. Texas is the first state in the nation to pass such legislation. Representative Paul serves as Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety and Senator Hughes chairs the Senate State Affairs Committee.

"On behalf of TSRA members, I want to thank Senator Hughes and Representative Paul for their leadership in the fight to safeguard the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners during the 2019 session," said Texas State Rifle Association Legislative Director Mike Cox. "We congratulate them both on receiving our organization's highest award for legislative service."

The History of the Award

Dr. James T. Brown was TSRA’s lobbyist from 1980 until he formally retired in 2003. He became an NRA life member in 1962, became a life member of TSRA, and was a long-time member of Texas Gun Collectors Association. He was elected and for many years served on the NRA’s Board of Directors. Doc liked to hunt and described himself as a “passable” trap shooter but mostly Doc was an avid gun collector.

Doc believed the two most important bills which became law under his direct stewardship, passed during the 1985 Legislative Session. The first was SB 1187 by Senator James E. “Buster” Brown and Rep. Bob Leonard which prohibited cities and governmental entities from adopting firearm regulations more restrictive than state law. This legislation strengthened the Texas Constitution by adding language in statute to further clarify that only the Texas Legislature may regulate firearms, not local governmental entities. SB 1187 was landmark legislation, passed with a Democratic majority in both chambers, and signed by Governor Mark White.

Next, Doc was able to initiate and to help pass HB 1656 by Rep. Bill Messer to protect hunters and game animals from harassment and disruption during hunting season on private or public lands.

Governor White signed HB 1656.

Of course, Doc was involved and aggressively supported the movement to pass concealed handgun law in 1995.

Failing health led to Doc’s final retirement from Austin and from lobbying in 2003. Texas gun owners lost their best friend in Austin, Dr. James T. Brown, in 2008. TSRA gives the Doc Brown Legislator of the Year award in his memory.