

# Lifetime Achievement Award

Please attach this form to your one-page nomination for AAPL Lifetime Achievement Award summarizing: **1) Demonstrated Leadership; 2) Integrity; 3) Contribution to Profession; 4) Contribution to Industry and; 5) Contribution to Community** for nominee's entire land career. Active Members and Retired Active Members may be considered for this award. Current Executive Committee members may not be submitted, and self-nominations will not be considered. Photograph (or negative) of the nominee should be attached to the entry.

NAME OF NOMINEE: Roger Soape, CPL

LOCAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATION: Houston Association of Professional Landmen

NOMINATED BY: Houston Association of Professional Landmen

## 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award – Roger A. Soape

Anyone who has been involved with the AAPL knows instinctively that Roger Soape epitomizes the landman that the Lifetime Achievement Award is intended to recognize. For those not familiar with Roger and his contributions, a brief accounting included below:

R.A. Soape and Associates has been mentoring many young landmen and helping them mature in the profession since 1980, with many going on to start their own businesses or become senior managers at exploration companies.

What follows is a list of most of his contributions to the land profession and to some personal volunteer endeavors. Roger is proudest of the AAPL accomplishments related to the Educational Foundation and Tax Issues, and the rewarding personal involvement he has enjoyed with the West Endowment and Canine Companions for Independence.

As 2014-15 AAPL President, Roger pushed to significantly boost the funding of the Educational Foundation. For one thing, this step allowed AAPL to do much more in the way of tuition assistance to allow members to take greater advantage of educational seminars and professional development courses. And while not contemplated at the time, the broad governing documents and greater funding enabled AAPL to provide substantial financial relief to members impacted by Hurricane Harvey and other natural disasters. In a sort of perfect symmetry, he considers it a privilege to have been able to serve on the Disaster Relief Task Force in Harvey's aftermath. He found this work to be heartbreaking but also very gratifying, as one can imagine.

On the Tax Issues front, He co-founded AAPL's Committee to educate AAPL members on independent contractor best-practices. The work evolved into helping members who found themselves in the crosshairs of the IRS and state workforce agencies, or on the receiving end of adverse state sales tax and franchise (margin) tax initiatives. The committee was able to steer members in-need to legal and accounting resources to aid them. In one instance, he was able to arrange and attend a meeting with the Texas Comptroller's office to blunt the assessment of sales taxes on land work. The individual landmen who were targeted were most grateful for AAPL's response. The committee also gained legislative relief in several states clarifying that independent landmen were to be treated as independent contractors for employment purposes but perhaps the pinnacle achievement of the group's efforts was the passage in 2013 of Texas House Bill 500 which garnered millions of dollars in franchise tax relief for Texas land services providers. Roger spent many hours courting legislators and providing testimony in support of House Bill 500, so naturally felt great satisfaction at its passage.

As to the personal achievements of which he is most proud, six years (to date) as a Director of the West Endowment stand out. The West Endowment donates money in response to grant requests by charities and other non-profit organizations. The Endowment's Directors are encouraged to seek out worthwhile causes and shepherd them through the donation process. Notable causes for Roger include Brookwood Community (meaningful living for adults with developmental challenges), Guide Dogs of Texas (for the blind) and Lone Star Flight Museum (aviation achievement and education). It is a rare privilege which Roger enjoys very much.

Another cause where Roger feels he has made a meaningful contribution is Canine Companions for Independence, particularly in the area of assistance dogs for disabled military veterans. Friends steered him to CCI when his first Labrador retriever died in an accident. Roger volunteered with CCI even before NAPE selected CCI as one of its supported veterans' charities, hosting disabled veterans and their service dogs in their home, setting up fundraising and educational events in San Antonio, Austin, Dripping Springs, Fort Worth and Houston. According to Roger, "Witnessing the miracle of a highly skilled service dog paired with and loyal to a disabled combat veteran makes me smile and cry and the same time."

We are proud to call Roger a fellow HAPL member and believe he is very deserving of this recognition.

