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Errol McKoy Inducted into IAFE Hall of Fame

LAS VEGAS, NV — November 30, 2015 — Today at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) 125th Annual Convention, Errol McKoy, retired president of the State Fair of Texas in Dallas, was inducted into the IAFE Hall of Fame. The IAFE Convention is taking place Nov. 29 through Dec. 2, at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev. The highest honor bestowed by the IAFE, the Hall of Fame Award is presented annually in recognition of an individual's distinguished achievement in, or contribution to, the fair industry.

McKoy served as president of the State Fair of Texas from 1988 to 2014. During his tenure, the fair ranked consistently as one of the most attended fairs in North America and grew from 17 to 24 days with annual gross revenues more than tripling. He oversaw numerous grounds improvements including a \$50 million renovation of the Cotton Bowl stadium. Under his leadership, Texas SkyWay, an aerial tract that gives fairgoers expansive views of the grounds, opened in 2007, and the historic Texas Star Ferris Wheel was converted to LED lights in 2008.

Raised in Tulsa, Okla., McKoy attended Northeastern State University, where he received a degree in Economics. After graduation, he was selected by the Six Flags Corporation to run the Lake Amusement Area of the New York World's Fair. In 1966, he was transferred to Atlanta to head up the Human Resources Department of the new start-up theme park. By 1969, he was promoted to general manager at the age of 26, making him the youngest person to ever serve as GM over a theme park. Over the next 23 years, he managed Six Flags Over Georgia, Six Flags Over Texas, and, during the final four years, served as executive vice president of Six Flags Corporation.

When McKoy became a leader of the State Fair of Texas, he began serving as a leader in the IAFE. He has served on numerous IAFE committees including the Nominating, Spring Management Conference, Industry Relations, and Awards Committees. He received his Certified Fair Executive designation in 2004. In 2008, McKoy personally committed to fund 20, \$500 Institute of Fair Management scholarships for each the next 10 years. Over his 50-year career, 26 individuals that worked for McKoy have gone on to be general managers of amusement parks or fairs across the United States.

McKoy serves on the boards of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association and the Greater DFW Sports Commission. He is also a member of the Industrial Designers Society of America and holds six U.S. patents, as well as Swiss and German patents, on amusement park rides he has invented.

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The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), based in Springfield, Mo., is a voluntary, nonprofit corporation, serving state, provincial, regional, and county agricultural fairs, shows, exhibitions, and expositions. Its associate members include state and provincial associations of fairs, non-agricultural expositions and festivals, associations, corporations, and individuals engaged in providing products and services to its members, all of whom are interested in the improvement of fairs, shows, expositions, and allied fields.