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Galveston County, TX

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Galveston County Auditor Recognized as One of the Top Auditors in Texas

Receives Distinguished Leadership Award by Texas Association of County
Auditors

December 12, 2013

GALVESTON, TX – Highlighting the Fall Conference of the Texas Association of County Auditors held in Abilene this past October was the presentation of the Texas Association of County Auditors' most prestigious individual award, the Jerry Ware Leadership Award, to Randall Rice CPA, Galveston County Auditor. Mr. Rice was appointed July 1 of this year by the District Judges of Galveston County as the Galveston County Auditor, after twelve years with Collin County as First Assistant County Auditor.

In her remarks, Ellen Friar, Ward County Auditor and the 2012-2013 President of the Texas Association of County Auditors, stated “Of the two hundred fifty-four counties in the great state of Texas, only one hundred ninety-nine are blessed to have a County Auditor there to assist them.” County auditors are the chief financial officer of the county; they fill a unique role in Texas counties. The office of County Auditor was established by the legislature in 1905 to see to the strict enforcement of the laws governing county finances. County Auditors are appointed by the District Judges of each county to ensure their independence from the political process.

“Choosing just one person to receive this award is not easy,” said Friar. In her presentation, Ms. Friar described Jerry Ware as one who exemplified what it is to serve, displaying professionalism, leadership, self-discipline, ethics, loyalty, friendship, faith, compassion, and courage. Ms. Friar noted the Association was honoring “a person who has shown all of these qualities in their service to their county and to the Texas Association of County Auditors.”

Ms. Friar stated that Rice was chosen because he always has been willing to share research and knowledge with anyone who requested assistance. When called upon by the Association, he always was available to teach at the TACA Annual Auditors Institute and at regional training conferences. Mr. Rice “played a key role in implementing new Governmental Accounting Standards and in researching legal statutes, attorney general

opinions, collection of special fees, and restrictions on expenditure of special fees. He is always at the forefront about any new financial information or technology, always willing to share his knowledge with others.”

In speaking with others about this person, they said Mr. Rice was “not afraid to sacrifice himself or his reputation for the benefit of the County Auditor’s Office.” Ms. Friar stated, “It is not uncommon for him to work in his spare time on projects affecting the County Auditor Office.”

Mr. Rice, a Beaumont native, holds a BBA with a major in Accounting from Lamar University. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a certified County Investment Officer as designated by the Texas Association of Counties. Mr. Rice is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In addition to being a CPA and CIO, he holds professional designations as a Certified Information Technology Professional, Certified Information Systems Auditor, Certified Business Manager, Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Accountants, and Chartered Global Management Accountant.

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