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DAVID TAFFET TO RECEIVE KUCHLING HUMANITARIAN AWARD
AT 32nd ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER

DALLAS JOURNALIST IS KNOWN FOR HIS WIDE-RANGING
LEADERSHIP IN LGBT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

DALLAS — (July 1, 2013) — Dallas Voice writer and community leader David Taffet will receive this year’s Kuchling Humanitarian Award, co-chairs of the 2013 Black Tie Dinner announced today. The award will be presented as part of the 32nd annual event benefiting North Texas LGBT supportive organizations and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. This year’s dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2nd, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

The Kuchling Humanitarian Award, presented each year at Black Tie Dinner, is given to individuals who have made extraordinary gifts of their time and talents on behalf of the LGBT community. The award is named in honor of the late Raymond Kuchling, a leading activist in Dallas’ LGBT community, former manager of economic development for the City of Dallas, and an original founder of the organization that became Black Tie Dinner Inc.

“It will be an honor to present the prestigious Kuchling Humanitarian Award to this outstanding community volunteer at the Dinner,” Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Mitzi Lemons said. “David Taffet is an unsung hero in the North Texas LGBT community. Relying on his deep moral and ethical standards, he participates and leads simply because he believes it is the right thing to do.”

“Through his untiring work at the Dallas Voice, David is able to give recognition and a voice to the Dallas-Fort Worth LGBT community,” Lemons said. “His work as a journalist undoubtedly has helped to shape the story of our movement, both locally and across Texas.”

In 1989, Taffet began as a contributing writer for the then-new Dallas Voice. Since that early freelancing stint, he has joined the staff as a full-time news reporter and today is the longest-serving staff member.

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In the early 1990s, Taffet served on the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance board, helping guide the organization’s nonpartisan efforts to inform Dallas political leaders on the issues facing the community and to educate LGBT voters on the positions of local candidates.

Taffet served for more than a decade on the board of Resource Center Dallas and its predecessor, the Foundation for Human Understanding. He played a vital role in building the center into one of the primary LGBT and HIV/AIDS service organization in North Texas. Thanks to his pioneering work, today more than 50,000 people are served each year by RCD programs and services.

In addition, Taffet was a founding board member of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and was a founding board member of Beth El Binah, where he has been a leader for more than 20 years.

In 1990, he took on the role of primary host of Lambda Weekly LGBT radio talk show, the longest-running radio program of its kind anywhere. The weekly show highlights community news and events while giving LGBT leaders and opinion-shapers a platform to reach a wider audience. He even hosts a polka show on KNON — simply because someone needed to do it.

“David Taffet is the kind of person who never seeks the limelight, but is always doing something, both professionally and personally, for the community,” said Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Ken Morris. “In short: David is doing whatever needs to be done to move our cause forward, and we feel he is most deserving of the Kuchling Humanitarian Award.”

About Black Tie Dinner
Black Tie Dinner is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender supportive organizations serving North Texas through a premier event of empowerment, education and entertainment in partnership with the community.

Since 1982, the nation's largest LGBT fundraising dinner has grown and prospered in a supportive environment. The evolution of our community is reflected in the yearly increases that beneficiaries have received.

The first dinner produced a $6,000 donation to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, and has grown to distribute more than $17 million to national and local beneficiaries. Black Tie Dinner continues to be the most successful dinner in the country supporting the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and is the only dinner also benefiting local beneficiaries.

The event has headlined local and national celebrities and leaders such as Marlee Matlin, Maya Angelou, Geena Davis, Lily Tomlin, Martin Sheen, Gavin Newsom and U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin.

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For more information about the Black Tie Dinner or this year’s event, visit www.blacktie.org or call 972-733-9200, ext. 1.

Previous winners of the Kuchling Humanitarian Award:

- John Thomas, 1983
- James Richard Weaver, Jr., 1984
- Donald Floyd Baker, 1985
- William Harvey Nelson, Jr., 1986
- Michael David Grossman, 1987
- Michael Raymond Merdian, 1988
- Charlotte Taft, 1989
- William Warren Waybourn, 1990
- Vivienne Armstrong / Louis Young & Raymond Maurice Kuchling, 1991
- Lory Huit-Masters & Reed Dana Hunsdorfer, 1992
- Mica England & Randolph Terrell, 1993
- Carolyn Dunbar & Carl Parker, 1994
- Deb Elder & Don McCleary, 1995
- Alan Levi & Barbara O’Brien, 1996
- Kathy Bowser & Richard Peeples, 1997
- Carolyn Hall / Candy Marcum & Jack Evans / George Harris, 1998
- Cece Cox & Jack Pettit, 1999
- The Honorable Haryette Ehrhardt – Texas State Representative, 2000
- Larry Pease, 2001
- Becky Thompson, 2002
- C. Michael Toole, 2003
- Lee Taft, 2004
- Christine Jarosz, 2005
- Jay Oppenheimer, 2006
- Roger Wedell, 2007
- Phil Johnson and Rebecca Covell, 2008
- Steve Atkinson, 2009
- Reverend Carol A. West, 2010
- Chet Flake and Bud Knight (posthumously), 2011
- Lucilo Peña, 2012

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