



Media Contact:

Rachel Hedstrom

972-365-7741

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bates Named 'Citizen of the Year'

Oncor Area Manager honored as 'Best of Metrocrest'

ADDISON/CARROLLTON/FARMERS BRANCH, Texas – Feb. 7, 2017 – Jerry Bates, area manager for Oncor, has been named the Milburn Gravley Citizen of the Year by the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce. He will accept the award Friday, Feb. 24, at the Metrocrest Chamber's 48th Annual Awards Luncheon, an event open to the public.



"I couldn't believe it then, and I still can't believe it," said Bates, recalling the moment when he was informed by the Metrocrest Chamber that he was being named Citizen of the Year. "I knew Milburn Gravley, for whom the award is named, and I know what a great man he was. I also know what incredible people all of the 'Citizen of the Year' winners are. I am so honored to be among that group -- I'm humbled by it."

The Metrocrest Chamber's 2016 Milburn Gravley Citizen of the Year award is sponsored by PlainsCapital Bank. The award has been given annually to an outstanding resident of the Addison, Carrollton, or Farmers Branch areas since 1965. That person must have lived and/or worked in the Metrocrest area for at least five years, be active in the community, have high moral

standards, serve on the boards of civic organizations in the Metrocrest area, and be the unanimous choice of the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce Nominating Committee. The award is named for Milburn Gravley, former Carrollton city council member and mayor who served his community for more than 50 years.

"From the chamber's perspective, we find that all of our members benefit when they get to know someone like Jerry Bates," said Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce President Erin Carney. "Jerry embodies community spirit, humble leadership, and a brilliant sense of humor. Our communities are blessed to have him so involved, and we are proud to get to share in this moment with him."

Bates, a native of the Metrocrest area, is an area manager with Oncor, where he serves as the liaison for the company with the municipalities of Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Coppell and Irving. He has been with

Oncor for 33 years, beginning his career reading meters and gaining experience in various departments, including engineering, customer service, and large commercial and industrial. Bates puts all of that experience and background to work in his role assisting communities as area manager, a post he has held for the past 15 years.

“Jerry’s commitment to our customers is beyond reproach. Our pride in his work is underscored only by the dedication he shows to the vitality of the communities he serves,” said Oncor Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Mike Guyton. “I personally knew Mayor Gravley more than 30 years ago as manager in Farmers Branch, and I can’t think of anyone more deserving of the 2016 Milburn Gravley Citizen of the Year than Jerry Bates.”

Bates is a long-time volunteer and leader who is deeply committed to the Metrocrest area. He is on the board of directors for the Metrocrest Chamber and co-chairs the public policy committee; the board of directors of the Farmers Branch Chamber, where he chairs the governance committee; the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Rotary Club, where he serves as secretary and president-elect; and the board of trustees for Family Promise, where he serves as chair of the fundraising committee. Bates received the Achievement in Chamber Excellence (ACE) award from the Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce in 2015.

A project close to Bates’ heart is his service as a mentor at Farmers Branch Elementary School for the past 10 years. Visiting the schools each week during lunch, talking with the students, following them from their second-grade through fifth-grade years, and celebrating their graduations from fifth grade are all special moments to Bates. “It’s been very rewarding for me,” said Bates. He received the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers Honorary Life Membership Award in recognition of distinguished service to children and youth in 2009. “I’m very fortunate and blessed to work for a company like Oncor that allows and encourages its employees to be involved and give back to the communities we serve.”

Bates believes in the importance of local chambers to help grow, foster and support business and the communities they serve. “In any business, I think it’s extremely important to be involved in the chamber, because it gives you access to all kinds of people. For businesses small and large, the chamber has a lot of resources and it’s a great way to meet people. The Metrocrest Chamber is about supporting the community and business.”

The Citizen of the Year Award will be presented on Friday, Feb. 24, at the Metrocrest Chamber’s 48th Annual Awards Luncheon at the Crowne Plaza Dallas near the Galleria-Addison. Tickets are available by calling 469-587-0420 or by sending an email to info@metrocrestchamber.com. The Metrocrest Chamber will also present awards for Business of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, and Rising Stars in the community.

The purpose of the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce is to create economic prosperity for our members by providing programs, resources, and support that assist and benefit business, government and citizens resulting in a vibrant place to live and work. The Metrocrest Chamber offers numerous

networking opportunities throughout the year that provide its members the opportunity to engage prospective customers and promote awareness of their organization.

###