



TEXAS CLASSROOM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Melissa Korpi (512) 477-9415

H-E-B Chairman/CEO named TCTA Friend of Education

AUSTIN – Charles Butt of San Antonio, chairman and chief executive officer of H-E-B, has been selected as the Texas Classroom Teachers Association 2008-09 Friend of Education in the private citizen category. TCTA presents the award annually to honor an individual who has shown extraordinary commitment to public education in Texas. Founded in 1927, TCTA is an independent, nonunion association for Texas teaching professionals and serves 50,000 members across the state.

Mr. Butt was selected for the Friend of Education award based on a nomination submitted by the Northside Classroom Teachers Association, a local affiliate of the statewide TCTA. The Friend of Education awards have been presented since 1976. Recipients must be judged to be true friends of education, educators and students as demonstrated by their leadership, actions and support.

In nominating Mr. Butt for the award, the Northside CTA praised his many contributions to education, including his development of the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards Program, which has awarded \$3 million to 773 educators and 155 schools and districts since its creation in 2002. He was also commended for his key role in the establishment of Raise Your Hand Texas, which has become one of the top advocates for public

education in Texas. "This quiet, thoughtful man reaches out to the education community and uses the resources at hand to support children across the state of Texas. There is no better way to foster growth than to touch education. From his unassuming visits to the public hearings of the State Accountability Committee to his leadership at the H-E-B Excellence in Teaching Awards ceremonies, his actions are evidence that he understands education and who the key players are," the CTA nomination stated.

Mr. Butt became president of the family business in 1971 and now serves as chairman and chief executive officer. Since he took the helm in 1971, sales have increased from \$250 million to \$15 billion in 2008, and today H-E-B serves families in Texas and Mexico with more than 300 stores and 75,000 employees. H-E-B has a strong tradition of supporting the communities it serves by donating 5 percent of its pre-tax earnings to public and charitable programs.

TCTA will honor Mr. Butt on February 6, 2009, during the opening session of the association's annual convention in Austin. Texas State Rep. Rob Eissler (R-The Woodlands), recipient of TCTA's Friend of Education award in the public official category, also will be honored. Educators from across the state will participate in professional development seminars, elect TCTA leaders for statewide and district positions, review and vote on the association's 2009 legislative program and adopt policy positions on many current education issues.