

# NEWS RELEASE

**HOLD FOR RELEASE**

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**Texas State Aquarium™**

PO Box 331307  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78404  
(512) 881-8220

**FOUR PROMINENT TEXANS**

**CO-CHAIR TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM COMMITTEE**

John Dorn, President of the Corpus Christi Aquarium Association, announced today that Ambassador Anne Armstrong, Vice President George Bush, Dr. Hector P. Garcia and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson have accepted invitations to co-chair the statewide Advisory Committee being formed to aid the fund-raising drive for the TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM.

The committee will include 15 to 20 other prominent Texans, to be announced at a later date. All of the Advisory Committee members will be from or have ties to Corpus Christi or South Texas.

The TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM was designated the "Official Aquarium of Texas" by the 69th Texas Legislature in the spring of 1985 and will be located on the downtown bayfront of Corpus Christi. It will be built by the Corpus Christi Aquarium Association, a non-profit corporation, and construction and operating expenses will be funded entirely by private donations. To date, \$2,500,000 of the \$10,000,000 goal has already been raised.

According to Dorn, the CCAA Board of Trustees is honored to have such prominent Texans lend their support to this ambitious and long-awaited project.

Ambassador Anne Armstrong, a prominent civic leader, currently serves on a variety of national boards and commissions. She is a former Ambassador to Great Britain and was a counselor to the President of the United States. She is a long time resident of South Texas at the Armstrong Ranch in Kenedy County.

Vice President George Bush first came to Texas as a young Naval Aviation Cadet stationed at CCNAS. When he received his wings and Commission here at age eighteen, he was the youngest commissioned pilot in the Navy. After the war, he returned to make his home in Texas, where he entered the oil business and later politics.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, long time resident of Corpus Christi, has a long and distinguished record championing equal rights for our Hispanic citizens. He was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1984 by President Reagan.

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson spent many of her summers in this area in the 1930's when Mr. Johnson was the Administrative aide to the late Congressman Richard M. Kleberg. Both as First Lady and later as a private citizen, she has worked tirelessly for beautification of our public lands.

Each of the four is expected to make at least one personal appearance at a TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM function later in 1986.

With the support of citizens throughout Texas, the TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM will not be just an attraction for local citizens and tourists. It will serve as a primary research center and educational facility for Texas students of all ages. The TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM will be the largest aquarium of its kind anywhere on the Gulf Coast and will exhibit underwater creatures exclusively from the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Deana Sutherland 881-8220

Delisa Barbee 883-9771