



Keynote Speaker



Paul Hilliard is the President of Badger Oil Corporation. A Wisconsin native, Hilliard has been an independent operator and owner of Badger Oil Corporation since 1955. He is the recipient of the Leaders In Philanthropy Award, Lafayette Civic Cup, and Horatio Alger Award. He and his late wife, Lulu, contributed \$5 million dollars in seed money to start the Paul and Lulu Hilliard Art Museum at UL-Lafayette. The keynote speaker is proudly sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana.

Paul Hilliard, a veteran of WWII, lives in Lafayette where he is a veteran of independent oil and gas exploration. In 1943, 17-year-old Paul left the farm and high school and joined the USMC. After training, he flew 45 missions in the Solomons, Bismarcks and Philippines as a radioman/gunner in SBD “Dauntless” dive bombers. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with six gold stars.

Discharged in 1946, Paul spent undergraduate study at the University of Wisconsin and Syracuse. He graduated from University of Texas School of Law in 1951 and joined Chevron in their New Orleans operations. After three years, Paul moved to Lafayette with H.L. Hunt but quickly felt independent oil and gas exploration suited him best and founded Badger Oil Corporation. He has served as president of the Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association and chairman of the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

Paul joined The National World War II Museum’s Board of Trustees in 2006 and in June 2018 was named Chairman of the Board of Trustees. His passion is aircraft, and he has funded the acquisition of extraordinary artifacts including the C-47 aircraft, a B-25 “Mitchell” bomber, a P-40 “Flying Tiger,” an SBD “Dauntless” Dive Bomber, a Stuart M2A1 tank, and several pieces of artillery.

Paul has been honored with the national Horatio Alger Award and the CIRCLE OF HONOR award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.