

Lyles-Simpson Award
Recipient
2017



Joseph I. Gill, Jr.

JOSEPH I. GILL, JR

It is with great pleasure that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's *Lyles-Simpson Award* to Joseph I. Gill, Jr. This prestigious award is presented annually to an individual, agency, or organization which has contributed to the betterment of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico through significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement, or administrative activities. Joe and his wife, Helen, have been married for 57 years and they have one son, Joe. They currently reside in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Joe is a life-long resident of the Mississippi Gulf coast. He attended high school and college in Southern Mississippi and he began his working career with the City of Biloxi as a building official/program advisor. He was responsible for the Federal Housing and Development Program (HUD) budget and directed all construction for the city and enforced City Zoning Ordinances. His career in the marine fisheries arena began as the Chief of the Wetlands Division of the Mississippi Bureau of Marine Resources where he reviewed, inspected, formulated comments and recommended commission action on all proposed wetlands projects as well as enforced all wetlands laws, inspected and identified wetlands in compliance with the Coastal Wetlands Protection Law.

His next step up the ladder was as Deputy Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. He was responsible for developing legislation pertaining to environmental and seafood regulations; opening and closing of shrimp and oyster seasons; protection and enhancement of coastal tidal wetlands; supervising law enforcement activities and implementation of a coastal zone management program.

Several years later, he was named the Executive Director of the new Mississippi Department of Marine Resources where he supervised four divisions: Wetlands, Coastal Program, Fisheries, and Administrative Divisions as well as preparation of the Department's budget and development of contracts; development of ordinances for department management of state fisheries resources; legislation on various fisheries management agencies and managed the day-to-day operation of the Department.

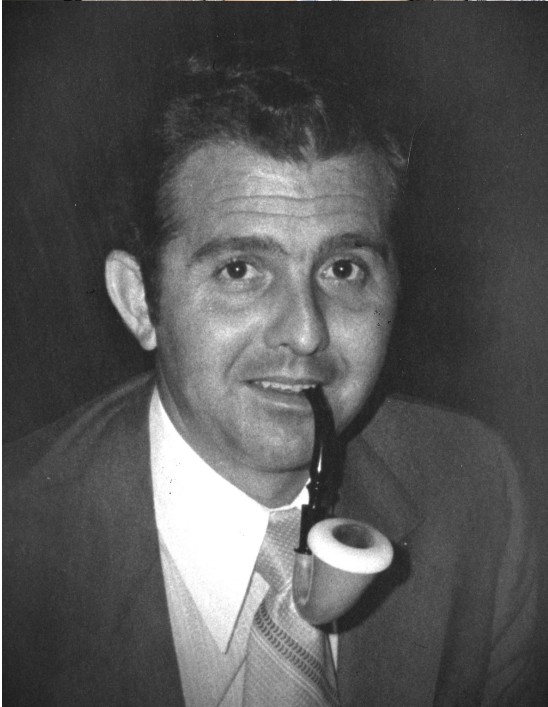
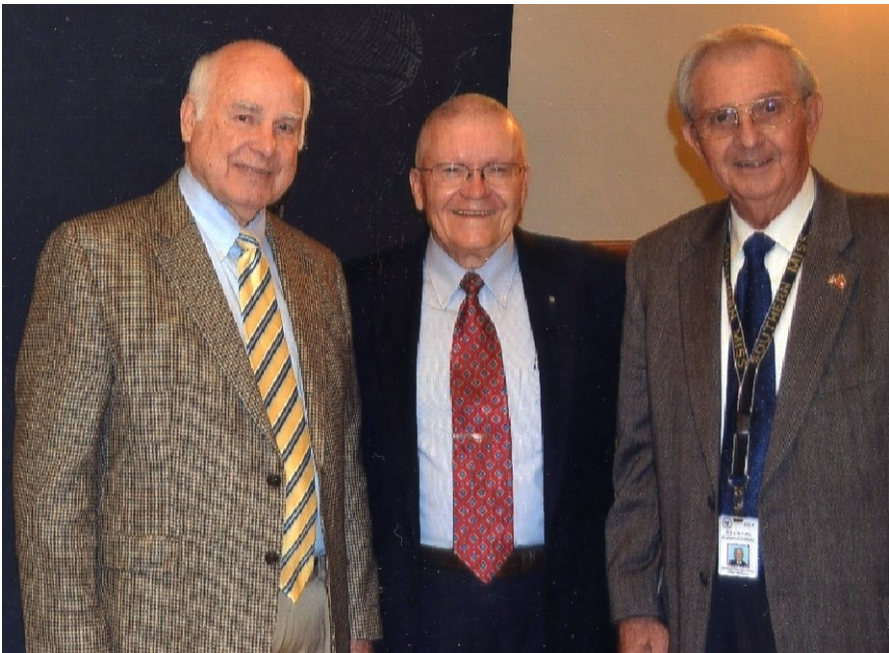
When he retired from the Department, he continued serving the marine resources by representing Ainsworth-MacAllan, Ltd. as their chief lobbyist and later as the CEO of Joe Gill Consulting, LLC where he represented a number of counties, cities, universities and other organizations.

Over the years, Joe has had numerous noteworthy accomplishments that include working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate the development of a joint application which allowed for a one-stop permitting program; Gulf Islands National Seashore to develop a dredged material disposal plan that created 12 acres of tidal marsh; Department of Environmental Quality to coordinate applications pertaining to water quality as well as served on the DEQ permit board; Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to enforce seafood regulations as it pertained to public health; National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate all Section 10 and 404 permit applications and developed mitigation plans for violations and/or major projects; and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop the Mississippi Coastal Management Program and its passage.

In addition, he served on numerous boards, councils and commissions including the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (22 years including stints as Second Vice-Chairman, First Vice-Chairman, and Chairman); Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council; Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference; Panel for Marine Stock Enhancement and Prioritization of Marine Finfish for Enhancement Research in the North Central Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi Tidelands Commission.

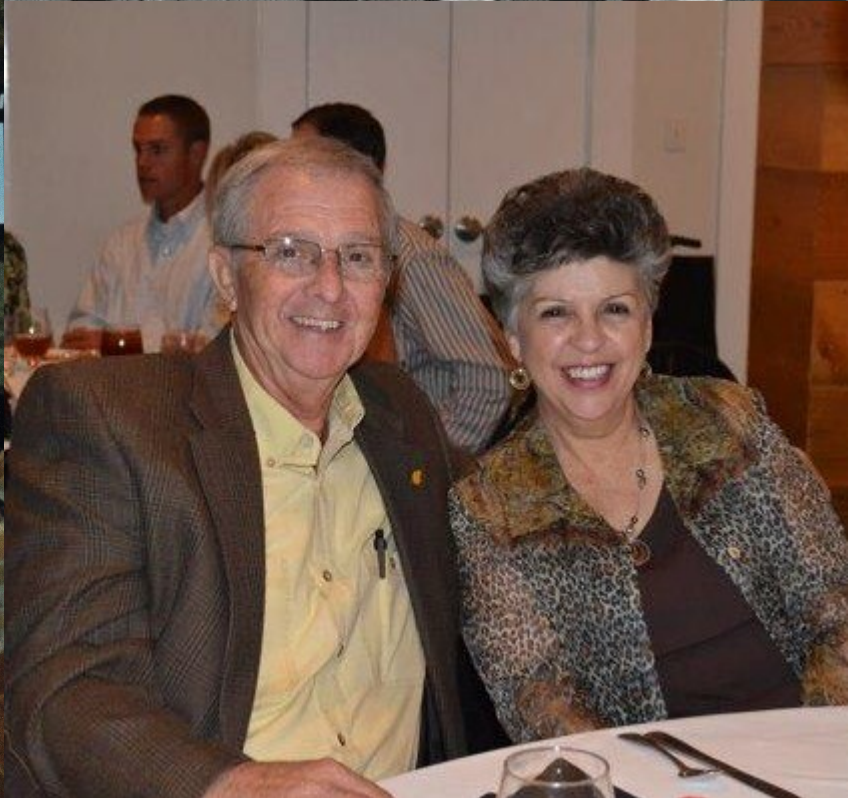
Throughout his career, Joe has been dedicated to the effective and responsible management and conservation of the marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico. His commitment has ensured that these resources will be enjoyed by generations to come. It is with great pride that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's *Lyles-Simpson Award* to such a worthy recipient.











Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Past Lyles-Simpson Award Recipients

<i>Charles H. Lyles</i>	1984
<i>Theodore B. Ford</i>	1985
<i>J.Y. Christmas</i>	1986
<i>John Breaux</i>	1987
<i>John Ray Nelson</i>	1988
<i>I.B. "Buck" Byrd</i>	1989
<i>Hugh A. Swingle</i>	1990
<i>John A. Mehos</i>	1991
<i>J. Burton Angelle</i>	1992
<i>Louis A. Villanova</i>	1993
<i>Theodore H. Shepard</i>	1994
<i>Edwin A. Joyce, Jr.</i>	1995
<i>Tommy D. Candies</i>	1996
<i>Walter M. Tatum</i>	1997
<i>Thomas L. Heffernan</i>	1998
<i>Trent Lott</i>	1999
<i>James M. Barkuloo</i>	2000
<i>Walter W. Fondren, III</i>	2001
<i>Jerald K. Waller</i>	2002
<i>Andrew J. Kemmerer</i>	2003
<i>Hal R. Osborn</i>	2004
<i>Leroy Kiffe</i>	2005
<i>Robert P. Jones</i>	2006
<i>Wayne E. Swingle</i>	2007
<i>Ralph Rayburn</i>	2008
<i>William S. "Corky" Perret</i>	2009
<i>Albert L. King</i>	2010
<i>Virginia A. Vail</i>	2011
<i>R. Vernon Minton</i>	2012
<i>Larry B. Simpson</i>	2013
<i>Michael C. Voisin</i>	2014
<i>Ellie Francisco Roche</i>	2015
<i>Michael S. Ray</i>	2016
