



ROBERT E. RUSS AWARD DESCRIPTION & QUALIFICATIONS

The Robert E. Russ Award recognizes one individual for outstanding contributions to the Ruston-Lincoln business community or overall economic development of the area, in honor of the founder of Ruston, Louisiana, Robert E. Russ. This award is one of the highest honors given by the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce (RLCOC) to an individual. Nominations will be accepted through November 30, 2026. The award will be presented at the Chamber's 107th Annual Banquet on February 11, 2027.

Guidelines:

- 1 This award will be open to any resident of Lincoln Parish, male or female. It is not required that this person be a member of the RLCOC.
- 2 The nominee cannot be a paid professional leader, an elected official who currently holds office, or a current member of the RLCOC Board of Directors.
- 3 The nominee must have made several contributions to the betterment of the business community.
- 4 An individual can be nominated in multiple and successive years but can only be honored by the award one time.
- 5 It is the selection committee's responsibility to critique and consider nominations and select a recipient based on the nominee's personal contributions toward business and/or economic advancement or development of this region in an outstanding manner.
- 6 It is not required that the Russ Award be given every year.

Past Recipients:

1988 - Clarence E. Faulk, Jr.	1998 - Walter Savage	2011 - Lynne Gnemi
1989 - William A. Marbury, Jr.	1999 - Dr. Daniel Reneau	2012 - Wayne Parker
1990 - Hale R. Shadow	2000 - Travis Defreese	2013 - Mayor Dan Hollingsworth
1991 - Dr. Virgil Orr	2001 - Bill Cox	2014 - Drake Mills
1992 - James Davison	2002 - Ruth Johnson	2015 - Wilbert "Coach" Ellis
1993 - John E. Maxwell	2003 - O. L. Waltman & L. D. "Buddy" Napper	2016 - Trott Hunt
1994 - W.A.J. Lewis II	2004 - Linda Graham	2017 - JN Walpole
1995 - Eddie Robinson	2005 - John Shealy	2018 - Kyle McDonald
1996 - Robbie Willard	2006 - Bobby Price & John O'Neal	2019 - Mary Ann Woods
1997 - Lucius & Mildred McGehee	2007 - John F. Emory, Sr.	2020 - Cathi Cox-Boniol
	2008 - Tommy Folk	2021 - Bill Hogan
	2009 - Dr. Les Guice	2022 - Danny and Ronny
	2010 - Benny Denny	2023 - Tom O'Neal
		2024 -Russell Woodard

2026 Robert E. Russ Award Nomination Form

Return to the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce by November 30, 2026.

Mail or bring to: 2111 North Trenton St., Ruston, LA 71270

Email: marketing@rustonlincoln.org

Nominee for Robert E. Russ Award: _____

Has this person lived in Lincoln Parish for more than a year? _____

Why are you nominating this person?

Examples of the nominee's outstanding contributions to the civic, business or cultural advancement or development of the region must be included. These examples may be in the form of letters of recommendation, newspaper articles, etc. If you have this information, please submit it with this application for the nominating committee.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to put the spotlight on a deserving individual.

This nomination has been submitted by:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____