In December 1838, Mirabeau B. Lamar, a Mason, became president of the Republic of Texas and distinguished himself as the “Father of Texas Education” for his support of a public school system. In his first address to the Congress, he pleaded for the creation of a public school system in Texas. He declared, “If we desire to establish a republican government upon a broad and permanent basis, it will become our duty to adopt a comprehensive and well regulated system of mental and moral culture.”

He proposed the set aside of public lands for the creation of a permanent endowment to support public education. His educational views met with the approval of Congress and provisions were made for public education. Congress set aside three leagues (13,285 acres) of land in each county to support primary schools and an additional fifty leagues (221,420 acres) to support two colleges in 1839. In 1840, Congress set aside an additional league for the support of county schools. In addition, they made provisions for the certification of teachers. Once again, many of these legislators were Masons.

While these acts were important in the establishment of public education in Texas, the lasting impact was in the creation of a permanent endowment for the support of public education that lives to this day. Furthermore, Texas was the first state to give state aid to education. In 1854, the State legislature established a permanent school fund and an available school fund to finance the education of the youth of Texas. The “school lands” of Texas continue to provide revenue to the permanent endowment and support common education in Texas and supplement the property taxes dedicated to the school systems.
COMMUNITY AWARDS NIGHT

630PM Dinner
730PM Opening of Public Lodge
  Aaron Wayne Tyksinski, Worshipful Master
Opening Prayer
  Randy Roland Whitaker PM, Chaplain
Pledge of Allegiance to U.S. and Texas Flags
  Aaron Wayne Tyksinski, Worshipful Master
735PM Scholarship Awards
  David Carl Berndt, Junior Warden
800PM Teachers of the Year
  David Carl Berndt, Junior Warden
820PM Community Builder Award
  David Carl Berndt, Junior Warden
850PM Announcements & Final Thoughts
  Aaron Wayne Tyksinski, Worshipful Master
855PM Benediction
  Randy Roland Whitaker PM, Chaplain

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
- Linh Phoung Ngo
  Alief Taylor High School
- James Rhodes
  Fort Bend Travis High School
- Kashaf Fatima
  Alief Taylor High School
- An Nguyen
  Fort Bend Travis High School
- Duy Dinh
  Alief Hastings High School

TEACHER HONORARIUMS
- Stephanie Clayton
  Fort Bend Independent School District
- Jessika Hearne
  Fort Bend Independent School District
- Priscilla Cuellar
  Alief Independent School District
- Bresean Crockrell
  Alief Independent School District
- Carolina Sievers
  Stafford Municipal School District
- Martina Judge
  Stafford Municipal School District

COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD
- Jerrie Kammerman
  Principal, Missouri City Middle School
  Fort Bend Independent School District