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**For immediate release**

**J.W. VARNER RECEIVES LIFE MEMBERSHIP FROM TEXAS GAS ASSOCIATION**

J.W. Varner, a senior professional in gas pipeline operations and engineering, and a partner in Harding Energy Partners, LLC, was awarded a Life Membership from the Texas Gas Association (TGA). The award was based on Varner's contributions to the industry and to the TGA. A former chairman of the TGA, Varner was instrumental in increasing the association's membership through the years.

The TGA first awarded a Life Membership in 1974, and J.W. Varner is the 23rd person to receive an award during those 35 years. The Texas Gas Association is composed of more than 100 Texas gas distribution and transmission companies, including representatives of both municipal and investor-owned systems. The membership also includes numerous master meter operators. Association members serve more than 99 percent of the gas distribution customers in the State of Texas. The membership also includes more than 120 associate members and more than 250 individual members.

In 2009, Varner was awarded a Life Membership from the Texas Gas Association (TGA). The award was based on Varner's contributions to the industry and to the TGA. A former chairman of the TGA, Varner was instrumental in increasing the association's membership. Varner has more than 35 years of experience in transmission, midstream gathering, treating and processing, acquisitions and divestitures, capital budgeting, contract negotiations and litigation settlement. During his career, Varner has directed activities of 500 employees and contractors for large intrastate gathering, processing and transmission operations that included 10,000 miles of pipeline, 500,000 horsepower in compression, and 12 processing plants.

Varner earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas and a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

