

William Howell and Herbert Fix Selected for SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

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William (Bill) Howell of Topanga (CA) and Herbert M. Fix of Daytona Beach Shores (FL) are being inducted into Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame during 2014 graduation ceremonies on the Weatherford campus.

Howell is a successful corporate real estate professional and Fix enjoyed a distinguished and decorated career in the United State Marine Corps.

Both Howell and Fix will be honored by SWOSU President Randy Beutler at the May 10 SWOSU Convocation on the Weatherford campus and will be the featured speakers. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at Milam Stadium on the SWOSU campus.

William (Bill) Howell is a 1975 graduate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. The corporate professional/principal has extensive experience in managing real estate, investment and corporate real estate companies.

Howell, a 1970 Carnegie High School graduate, is the founder and partner of HAI Advisors that initially was based in New York but is now in Los Angeles. HAI Advisors is a real estate advisory firm that specializes in a range of services such as asset management, acquisitions, receiverships, dispositions, construction and development, and underwriting for major companies, nationally-known development and portfolio owners, national law firms as well as high net worth individuals.

His company provides real estate services for a variety of assets including commercial, industrial, residential, resort and golf properties with combined total asset values in excess of several billion dollars.

Howell has served with a diverse group of hospitality, management, hotel, and investment groups from coast to coast and around the world. He is a member of many foundations and advisory boards, including: The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, The Tiger Woods Learning Centers, and the Seeing Eye Dog Foundation.

Howell and his wife, Deborah, reside in Topanga (CA). They have one son, Blake. He enjoys farm work at the family property in southern California as well as fishing, hiking and traveling with his family.

Colonel (Ret.) Herbert M. Fix enjoyed a long and successful career in the United States Marine Corps. Fix was awarded the Harmon International Aviator Trophy of the Year for 1975 by President Gerald Ford. The award has been given only to a select group of people with such people as Charles Lindbergh, Sen. Barry Goldwater, Thomas P. Stafford and other astronauts winning the award.

Fix was born and raised on a farm near Elk City, graduating from Merritt High School in 1952. He then attended SWOSU, graduating in 1956 with a degree in education with majors in biology and physical education and a minor in business.

Upon graduation, he joined the USMC to become a Marine Corps aviator. Upon completion of flight school, his duty stations included stops around the world. He retired as a USMC Colonel in 1982.

During his commission, he flew numerous aircraft and after transitioning into rotary wing aircraft, flew several different types of helicopters. His flying experience included flying on and off aircraft carriers USS Hancock, USS Ticonderoga, USS Enterprise and USS Midway. He was commanding officer of three squadrons—one Marine Air Control squadron and two CH-53 helicopter squadrons.

His personal decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star and numerous Air Medals awards. One of his biggest highlights occurred when he was commanding officer in Kaneohe, Hawaii, and his unit was deployed on short notice to assist in the Humanitarian Helicopter evacuation of Phomn Phenn, Cambodia and Saigon, South Vietnam. For his participation, Fix was awarded the Harmon International Aviator Trophy of the Year. The trophy is maintained in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.