



National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service

Public Meeting – Waco, Tx

Thursday, July 19, 2018

Dewey Community Center | Meeting Room

925 North 9th Street, Waco, TX 76707

#Inspire2Serve

6:30-6:40pm **Opening Remarks**

Introduction: *Joe Heck*, Chairman

6:40-6:45pm **Featured Speaker**

Senator Brian Birdwell, District 22

6:45-7:20pm **“How the Faith Community Meets Critical Service Needs”**

Moderator: *Janine Davidson*, Commissioner

Panelists:

- *Elizabeth Darling*, president and CEO, OneStar Foundation
- *Jimmy Dorrell*, founder and president, Mission Waco, Mission World
- *Sean Jones*, youth pastor, Antioch Community Church

7:20-8:00 pm **Q&A and Public Comments**

The Commission’s work includes understanding why people serve, why people may choose not to serve, review of the military selective service process, and recommending ways to increase the number of Americans in military, national, and public service. The Commission is actively seeking input from the public and invites you to join the conversation. Share your thoughts at: www.inspire2serve.gov.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Brian Birdwell, *Senator, District 22*

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Brian Birdwell is a conservative Republican proudly representing Texas Senate District 22. Brian was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army and served in training deployments and two operational deployments. In 1990, he deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for Exceptional Meritorious Achievement. He also deployed to Central America to execute humanitarian relief operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. In 2001, Brian was serving on the Department of the Army staff at the Pentagon as the military aide to the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. On September 11, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed just yards away from his Pentagon office, Brian was critically wounded and severely burned. Following 39 operations, months of hospitalization and numerous skin grafts, Brian has made a miraculous recovery. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received that day. Upon retirement in July 2004, he was awarded the Legion of Merit. From 2004 to 2017, Brian and his wife, Mel, operated Face the Fire Ministries, a non-profit organization to support critical-burn survivors and wounded service-members and their families. They also jointly authored *Refined by Fire: A Family's Triumph of Love and Faith*, which chronicles their life-changing ordeal.



Elizabeth Darling, *President and CEO of OneStar Foundation*

Elizabeth Darling is a highly accomplished public service leader. She has a broad background in public policy, community development and social service delivery at the local, state and federal levels, and was named to the 2014, 2015 and 2016 NonProfit Times Power and Influence Top 50. Before coming to OneStar, Elizabeth was CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) where she managed all of CNCS' national programs, including AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. Elizabeth previously served as Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Resources. She also was the Founding Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She coordinated the department's efforts to identify and remove barriers to the participation of faith-based/community groups in accessing federal funds. Elizabeth is a graduate of Baylor University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary in Education. She holds a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management; was credentialed as a Certified Association Executive; and received the designation of Certified Fund Raising Executive.



Jimmy Dorrell, *Founder and President of Mission Waco, Mission World*



Jimmy Dorrell is founder and president of Mission Waco, Mission World who previously served as former executive director for 25 years. He attended Baylor University where he majored in religion. He graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with an MDiv in 1978 and received his MA in Environmental Studies from Baylor in 1993. In 2001, he received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Dorrell is pastor of Church Under the Bridge and teaches classes at Baylor University and Truett Seminary in Waco. He has served on many boards including Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council, Parents as Teachers, Compassion Ministries of Waco, Waco Tribune Herald Board of Contributors, Census 2000 Special Housing Subcommittee Chair and the president emeritus of the Texas

Christian Community Development Network. After receiving his degree from seminary in 1978, he and his wife Janet moved into the North Waco neighborhood where they began their call to incarnational ministry, to live among the poor and help bring "good news" through relationships and empowerment opportunities. His passion for the poor and mobilizing the middle-class to become involved in the lives of the poor became the strategy for Mission Waco that continues today.

Sean Jones, *Youth Pastor at Antioch Community Church*



Sean Jones is from Cypress, Texas. His parents were both immigrants, from Trinidad and Tobago. He attended Stephen F. Austin University with the intention of becoming a band director, but ended up discovering a passion for youth ministry. He has been a youth pastor for 25 years and loves investing in middle school and high school students. Sean had many challenges and obstacles growing up, and one of his favorite things to do is to come alongside students and remind that with God anything is possible! Sean and his wife, Shannon, are currently youth pastors at Antioch Community Church in Waco, Texas. They have 5 amazing kids, ranging in age from 12 to 20. He enjoys coaching his kids' sports, watching college football and eating BBQ.