

*Lee R. Raymond  
Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Exxon Mobil Corporation  
Address to the Texas Business Hall of Fame Dinner  
Hilton Americas Hotel  
Dallas Texas  
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Thank you, Ray (Hunt).

I am honored to be inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame.

In the over 40 years I've been in the oil business, it has been my privilege to work with outstanding people – individuals with great character, grit, brains, and an utter determination to be the best.

Nowhere is that spirit more proudly on display than here in Texas.

So much of what we think of as great about the oil and gas business was conceived, born, and grew up here.

Much of the inspiration for today's industry still flows from Texas – as does much of the technology that drives the business and helps bring new energy supplies and a better life to people throughout the world.

All of humanity has been blessed by the contributions of the scientists and engineers whose hard work and dedication have made our energy supplies and prosperity possible.

The petroleum industry has brought immeasurable benefits to society – through the breakthroughs achieved in science and engineering, by raising living standards for the world's people, and in countless consumer products that have improved their lives.

The future of our industry holds many more hard challenges and exciting opportunities that we have not even considered as yet.

But as was true in the past, there can be little doubt that future generations will succeed in realizing those opportunities because of the outstanding quality of the people who work in the oil business.

This has always been the industry's edge – organizations brimming with talent, initiative, a passion for hard work, and vision.

So much of what we think of as great about Texas – and also America – has been made possible by the men and women who created and still work in the oil and gas business.

But even with all this, we have not yet seen our best days.

I have every confidence that our future will be better still – and that the great company, Jersey, Humble, Exxon and Exxon Mobil for which I have been privileged to work all my life will continue to be a vital part of the industry which will benefit civilization for generations to come.

And I would not be here tonight but for all of my colleagues who supported me so well for so many years.

To them, I owe eternal thanks.

As one who will always be proud to be called an oilman, I thank the Texas Business Hall of Fame for this great honor.

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