

Bravo Award Script
Sept. 14, 2004
1:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Introduction: The Bravo Award is Houston's highest recognition program for city employees. This program recognizes staff who give extraordinary service to the city and community. Employees who receive the Bravo Award go above and beyond their job description sometimes under adverse or dangerous conditions. They also volunteer to help their community without compensation.

In addition to today's award, these recipients will be honored alongside the other 24 Bravo Award winners at the Oct. 16 Houston Aeros game. (Mayor White will drop the opening puck at the game.)

The latest employees to receive the Bravo Award are listed alphabetically:

- **Christine Gibson, Library,**
- **George Malveaux, Police Department, and**
- **Larry Stockham, Solid Waste Management**

First, we call Library's Christine Gibson

Christine Gibson must have supernatural powers. As the library's inventory management specialist, she often foresees and corrects potential problems with incoming audio/visual material before they become issues. When a grumpy co-worker gets near her, the worker is afflicted with a lighter, happier mood and enthusiastic outlook. Even the most difficult vendors calm down after talking to Ms. Gibson.

Because she is so well versed in library policy, Ms. Gibson has no trouble explaining the procedures to vendors, even when they're demanding to be paid for material they haven't shipped yet.

She gets everyone around her excited about the Combined Municipal Campaign. As a director of the Library's Perks program, she provides incentives for department employees to work more efficiently. She's also one of the major forces behind the occasional surprise breakfasts and lunches that break up the day and inspire dedication to the job.

Besides magically making the library a better place to work, she also makes her community a better place to live.

In 2001, Tropical Storm Allison filled Ms. Gibson's home with water, destroying her house and most of her possessions. But she was more concerned with others who needed help. She moved a wheelchair-bound woman to higher ground and also waded into floodwaters to retrieve an elderly man's heart medicine and medical records.

In her spare time, Ms. Gibson joins other city employees to repair the homes of elderly residents.

Because of her extraordinary vision and caring nature, we are proud to call Christine Gibson for a Bravo Award.

Next, we call George Malveaux of the Police Department

In 2002, HPD's missing assets of land, buildings and equipment was less than 1 percent of the department's total inventory. George Malveaux is a big reason for that.

As a systems accountant I, Mr. Malveaux is an asset sleuth. Telling him a piece of equipment is in HPD's inventory is not enough. He doesn't tally the item until he's found it.

Because the department's inventory is scattered among 141 locations and more than 400 rooms, the department's annual asset testing is a nine-month process requiring physical effort, dedication, and patience. Mr. Malveaux possesses all those traits.

He tirelessly leads his team as they locate, scan and count assets. When most other employees have left for the day, Mr. Malveaux returns to his office and processes the information.

He also helps his coworkers. For the budget office, he hunted down serial numbers and details of items lost to flooding for insurance claims. Mr. Malveaux declined a chance at a promotion because he believed a co-worker was more deserving. He's a model for other employees to emulate, according to HPD, which named him Police Week Civilian Employee of the Year in 2003.

But Mr. Malveaux doesn't leave his leadership at the office. In his free time, he guides others spiritually. He has worked as a counselor at Southwest Community Baptist Church and recently graduated from seminary school. He also serves as an assistant pastor at New Testament Christian Center and coordinated the church's prison ministry.

Because of his dedication to his job and to those around him – we proudly honor George Malveaux by presenting him with the Bravo Award.

Our third honoree is Larry Stockham, Solid Waste Management

Larry Stockham liked this morning's newspaper so much; he hopes to see it again. Same with that plastic Deja Blue bottle you bought from the vending machine yesterday. Mr. Stockham's passion is preserving the environment by making recycling easy.

Mr. Stockham is even willing to recycle himself. He recently moved to SWM's maintenance division, but his leadership of the Westpark Recycling Center, the Office Paper Recycling Program and the Neighborhood Recycling Drop-off Program won't be forgotten. Every day, Mr. Stockham answered questions from citizens and vendors about recycling and solid waste services. He has a talent for courteously and diplomatically resolving problems.

Mr. Stockham made sure the recycling center was the best it could be and that recycling customers were satisfied. If this meant he had to roll up his sleeves and get involved, that's what he did. He often replaced recycling bins in city buildings that had not been emptied by vendors.

As administration manager in the maintenance division, Mr. Stockham now oversees custodial staff, landscaping, safety, and facility repairs.

He has volunteered for too many special projects to list here. These include the Mayor's Adopt-a-School Program and the Mayor's Youth Activities Advisory Committee. He served on the Recycling Alliance of Texas Board of Directors and was project manager for the annual Recycling Handbook. The handbook was distributed as an insert in 650,000 copies of the Houston Chronicle.

For a passion to preserve the environment that goes beyond his paycheck, we proudly call Larry Stockham to receive a Bravo Award.