

# **Distinguished Friends of China Award**

## **Recipient**

**Year of 2006**

**Honorable Mayor Bill White, City of Houston**



Mayor White's leadership has brought the City together, as shown by the largest election margin in decades for a mayor of a major American city. He uses business practices every day at City Hall, aiming to bring Houstonians from different backgrounds together to get things done.

He aggressively attacked our community's most difficult challenges, such as investment in neighborhood drainage, reform of municipal pensions, holding the line on property taxes with rate cuts, attacking crime hot spots and even faster removal of stalled vehicles causing wrecks and blocking traffic on the freeways.

Americans witnessed Mayor White's hands-on management style when he helped lead Houston's competent and compassionate dealing with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In his second term, Mayor White has accelerated work with the private sector and

community organizations to revitalize our City's most neglected neighborhoods, enforce pollution laws, reducing the flooding impact of new developments, and raising high school graduation rates and encouraging more flexible working hours.

Before being overwhelmingly reelected as mayor for a second term, Mayor White built and served as Chief Executive Officer for one of the region's most successful diversified businesses. Previously he served as Deputy Secretary of Energy of the United States, where he diversified national energy supplies saving taxpayers billions of dollars with management reforms and worked on sensitive international issues involving nuclear energy. Earlier in his career, he helped build one of the nation's most successful law firms having graduated from the University of Texas School of Law and Harvard University achieving the highest academic honors.

This past July Mayor White led his first trade mission to the People's Republic of China along with leaders of major business, educational and cultural institutions. During the trade mission, he focused on developing business ties between Houston petrochemical and other industries with their counterparts in China and met with the Minister of Culture in recognition to develop a variety of relations between Houston and China, including an initiative to encourage more Chinese to visit Houston. Mayor White has also met with Ambassador Zhang Yishan and Chinese trade mission to Houston on a regular basis.

For decades Mayor White and his wife Andrea have helped lead numerous charitable and civic organizations, active and interested in international issues and US-Sino relations Mayor White Served as Chairman of the World Trade Division of the Greater Houston Partnership and Chairman of the World Affairs Council of Houston. The Whites have three teenagers and attend St. Luke's United Methodist Church.