

**Small Business Week Awards Luncheon
May 12, 2008**

**Remarks by
Jeff Moseley
President and CEO
Greater Houston Partnership**

“What you may not know about John Hofmeister”

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and congratulations to today's honorees.

It brings me great pleasure to introduce today's keynote speaker, John Hofmeister.

As most of you probably already know, John Hofmeister is the president of Shell Oil Company, the U.S. arm of Royal Dutch Shell. He joined Shell in 1997 as Group Human Resource Director of the Shell Group, based in The Netherlands, after serving in leadership positions at General Electric, Northern Telecom and what is now Honeywell International.

You may have also heard that he's going to retire on June 1 after just three years at the helm. But let me tell you a few things about John that you might not know:

John guided Shell Oil with a steady hand and calm head through the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, only five months after becoming president.

Like most other oil companies, Shell faced the enormous task of repairing its ravaged oil and gas platforms, refineries and other processing facilities. John was undaunted by the challenge. In his positive, no-nonsense way, he simply led.

When consumer outrage spiked along with gasoline prices as our country's energy infrastructure was being repaired, John Hofmeister was equally undaunted.

In a bold and ambitious move unmatched by his counterparts, he embarked on a 50-state tour to explain the industry's case and talk about future energy demand, global warming and the environment.

I'm sure quite a few consumers were surprised to find a Big Oil executive agreeing with them about the need to have our government pragmatically address our reliance on foreign oil, global warming and air quality. But, that's John's way – he's a leader.

You may also know that John served as chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership last year. What you probably don't know is that his tenure marked one of the most productive years in the Partnership's history. In another ambitious move, he challenged our board to commit to taking the lead in the dialogue on our country's current energy issues. The result – the *America's Energy Future: Houston's Presidential Summit*SM – was one of the most successful and meaningful undertakings the Partnership has ever produced.

Under John's guidance, the Greater Houston Partnership met new records for membership, recognition and accomplishments.

And, while he was guiding the future of Houston business and economic development, he was also serving as chairman of the National Urban League. And that organization had a record-breaking year, too.

Let me tell you, he's the only person I know who could keep the schedule he does.

In addition to regular meetings with members of Congress, his 50-state tour, frequent media interviews, his many volunteer efforts and a rather large company to run, John still found time to represent Houston business on world trade missions and give off his time to many worthy volunteer causes.

John Hofmeister reminds me of another great Houstonian, a man with the vision to build a profitable business and establish the Texas Medical Center – M.D. Anderson.

In 1936, Monroe D. Anderson was looking back over his long, fruitful life and pondering what to do with his wealth after he died. He took \$19 million, recruited some trustees, and established the M.D. Anderson Foundation. By 1943, the Medical Center was established and growing, and our entire community continues to benefit from his vision.

That combination of business acumen, community spirit and ability to lead and motivate is what I personally experienced working with John Hofmeister. I'm sure others do, too.

He sees the leading issues of our day, takes action and leads the way. He's not loud or brash about it. He just gets in there, marshals his resources and takes care of business.

I can think of no better example for any business leader, large or small, to follow. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming to the podium John Hofmeister.