

# 2014 Freedom Fund Dinner Speaker

## State Representative Sylvester Turner



**Representative Sylvester Turner was raised in the Acres Homes community in northwest Houston. He attended the University of Houston and Harvard Law School before joining the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski. He later founded the Houston law firm of Barnes & Turner in 1983. Representative Turner was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1988 to serve the people of House District 139 in Harris County.**

**Representative Turner has served more than 24 years in the Texas House of Representatives. He is a member of the Legislative Budget Board; Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee; Chair of the Subcommittee on Articles 1, 4 and 5 (General Government, Judiciary, Public Safety and Criminal Justice); and a member of the House State Affairs Committee. He also chairs both the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and the Greater Houston Area Legislative Delegation.**

**Representative Turner has received numerous awards and honors during his 25 years in the House. Following the 83rd Regular Session, Capitol Inside named him the “Most Valuable Player in the Texas House.” Noting that Turner’s leadership role in budget negotiations preserved crucial funding for future water needs and public school money, Capitol Inside praised him for delivering “what very well might have been the greatest performance by a state legislator on either side of the aisle in modern Texas history.” Texas political blog Texpatriate named Representative Turner one of the “Best Members of the House,” calling him the “secret ace-in-the-hole when it came to budget and water negotiations” during the regular session. In July, the Court-appointed Special**

**Advocate Association (CASA) honored Representative Turner as one of its “13 Big Voices for Little Texans in 2013.” In August 2013, Turner received the Humanitarian Award at the national conference of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and most recently received the 2013 Legislative Leadership Award from AARP honoring him for his leadership in ensuring Texans receive electricity assistance funds originally intended for them.**

**Representative Turner is a member of Brookhollow Baptist Church. He is the proud father of Ashley Paige Turner, a graduate of University of Texas at San Antonio and Texas Woman’s University.**