

## **Biographical Information**

Amb. James C. Oberwetter, President of the Dallas Regional Chamber

James C. Oberwetter, was named President of the Dallas Regional Chamber in February of 2009. He directs the chamber staff in economic development activity for the region and leads the organization in setting public policy direction designed to maintain a healthy quality of life and business climate in North Texas.

Prior to service with the Chamber, President George W. Bush, personally selected James C. Oberwetter, in November 2003 to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. While there, until April of 2007, he utilized his public policy, political and business management experience to direct his team in a strategic repositioning of the U.S./Saudi relationship. He interacted frequently with the President, the Vice President, Secretaries Rice and Powell and numerous U.S. Cabinet Secretaries in accomplishing this task as well as the King, Crown Prince, and key Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

A Mission under continuous threat and one direct assault from Al Qaeda, he managed under crisis conditions. A State Department Inspector General's report said that by "using his superb managerial skills," the result was a "stellar performance... on top of every aspect of this complicated and sometime contentious (Saudi) relationship."

His insights on Saudi Arabia and the Middle East are in demand for lectures to business groups, professional and non-governmental organizations, colleges and universities including the Scowcroft Institute for International Studies, at the Bush School of Government and Public Service and the Houston Partnership's "America's Energy Future Presidential Summit."

Prior to his Ambassadorial service he was Senior Vice President of Hunt Consolidated, Inc., of Dallas where he advised the Chairman, Ray L. Hunt, and the Hunt family of companies including Hunt Oil Company, on governmental and public affairs strategies domestically and internationally.

During this time he gained deep understanding of the political, policy and civic processes at the local, state and national and international levels. He served as chairman, vice or co-chairman, director, senior advisor in numerous bipartisan city and school bond campaigns, campaigns for Mayors, statewide office holders, gubernatorial and Presidential campaigns in Texas.

His past civic service includes: chairman, Texas Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; chairman, City of Dallas Civil Service Commission; chairman, bipartisan City of Dallas Redistricting Committee; chairman of the Volunteer Center; vice chairman, Dallas Fort Worth World Affairs Council; executive committee, Dallas Metropolitan YMCA; board of the Greenhill School; chairman, Dallas Committee for Desegregation Implementation for which he received the honorary Lifetime Achievement Award of the Texas Parent Teacher Association. He was nominated for the U.S. Department of State, Cobb Award, for outstanding Ambassador of the year.

Prior to his work with Hunt he had served as press secretary to then Congressman George H. W. Bush and as special assistant to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

He was educated at the University of Texas at Austin, graduating in 1969 with a BJ degree from the School of Communications

He and his wife Anita make their home in Dallas. They have three grown children and belong to King of Glory Lutheran Church.