

Public Citizen of the Year  
Jim McIngvale

Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale has always believed in God, country, family and hard work. A tireless powerhouse, Mack is usually found standing at the front desk of the original Gallery Furniture store on North Freeway, greeting every customer and overseeing the sales activities of the store, seven days a week. Mack is the hardest working person you will ever meet. He never stops moving and trying to get better, and his energy is infectious to all who come in contact with this Houston icon.

With only \$5,000 and a dream to build the world’s greatest furniture store, Mack started Gallery Furniture under tents on the side of the freeway over 30 years ago. To Mack, life is about lessons to be learned and opportunities to be seized. With his life’s motto, “Grateful for everything, entitled to nothing” directing his life, Mack has seen his dream grow and become a multi-million dollar enterprise employing over 400 great American workers and helping to create countless others through his commitment to selling furniture made in America.

While Mack’s promotions are well known, his philanthropy is legendary. He believes in ‘Capitalism with a Cause.’” He gives so much to the community, schools, universities and more because he firmly believes in working hard to do something positive with what you earn.

In fact, his philanthropy is as contagious as his passion for furniture. His work on special projects has helped to build the first Mobile Stroke Unit in the USA for patients in Houston and raise millions for the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund. As well as opening up showrooms to those displaced by flood waters and damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. When there’s a great charitable need, Mack and Gallery Furniture are usually the first to respond, if not spearhead the effort.

Anyone who’s ever worked for or with Mack knows that he builds his business and performs his acts of charity not for recognition, but to benefit the community at large. Mack has a huge heart and is focused on helping Houston become the greatest city in America. Mack is one of Houston’s most recognized citizens and has touched the lives of countless Houstonians in a positive way.