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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **LONGTIME HARRIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT JACK MCCOWN TO RETIRE OCT. 31**

*Supervised More Than \$1 Billion In County Spending Each Year*

Not too many people can spend more than \$1.2 billion a year and still be considered “tight with a buck,” but then not too many people go shopping on behalf of 4 million people, either.

Jack McCown, the man who has overseen the purchase of all supplies, materials, equipment and services for Harris County, the Harris County Hospital District and numerous related agencies since 1985, will retire in October after 23 years.

“Jack McCown is one of those people who work long and hard to do the right thing for taxpayers and never really get the credit they deserve,” said District Judge Brian Rains, the chairman of the Purchasing Agent Board to which McCown answers. “I can speak for my colleagues on the board in saying that we always knew we could rely on Jack and his department to conduct the county’s business with skill, honesty and great integrity.”

As purchasing agent, McCown, 66, of El Lago, negotiated contracts, bought equipment and supervised a staff of 75 people who ensured that county taxpayers always got the best product at the best price while always complying with often complicated state and federal laws.

A retired lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions as a helicopter pilot during combat in Vietnam, McCown said he plans to travel with his wife, Jan, spend more time with their grandchildren, and take longer walks with his dog, Kaiser.

McCown will be replaced by Kelly E. Johnson, the county’s current assistant purchasing agent.