



**Thomas R. Craddick**  
**1943 -**  
**Inducted 2013**

Tom Craddick was born in Beloit, Wisconsin. His family moved to Midland in 1951 and he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Texas Tech University. In 1968, at the age of 25, Craddick first sought election to represent Midland in the Texas House of Representatives—and won. During his tenure, he served on multiple legislative committees responsible for monitoring and addressing oil and gas industry matters. He also worked to promote tax incentives for enhanced oil production, to produce high cost and unconventional natural gas resources, and to promote oil and gas production where excess produced water threatened economic production of oil and gas reserves. In 1975, he was named chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, the first Republican to have chaired a Texas legislative committee in more than a century. Craddick then made state history in 2003 when he became the first Republican Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives in more than 130 years. He served in that capacity for six years.