

Lee M. Thomas

Retired Chairman and CEO, *Rayonier*

Director: *DowDupont, Regal Entertainment*

Lee Thomas used his keen regulatory and business expertise to help thwart takeover attempts at both Airgas and Dupont, rolling up his sleeves when called upon to get tough jobs done and top results for all stakeholders.

“Lee’s experience is as rich and deep as any board member anywhere. At Airgas, his was always a strong and confident voice at the table when decisive action was needed,” says fellow Airgas director Paula Sneed.

“He doesn’t need a title or a formal role to be a leader. He walks into a room and people recognize him as a wise elder statesman,” says fellow DowDupont director Lois Juliber. “Lee’s temperament and gravitas were critical to the board’s surviving the hostile takeover threat and negotiating the ultimate friendly sale of the company four years later.”

“Lee is both a Southern gentleman and a tenacious tiger. He clearly cared deeply about the future of Airgas and the outcome for its stakeholders, says Peter McCausland, the company’s founder and chairman until the sale of Airgas to Air Liquide in 2016.

Career Highlights

- Chairman and CEO, Rayonier (2007 – 2012)
- President and COO, Georgia Pacific (1993 – 2005)
- Chairman and CEO, Law Companies Environmental Group
- Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (until 2011)
- Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency (1985 – 1989)
- Executive Deputy Director for State and Local Programs, Federal Emergency Management Agency (1981 – 1985)
- Director of the Division of Public Safety Programs for the Governor of South Carolina (1972 – 1981)
- Prior directorship: Airgas