

## Introduction of Josh Morriss:

Since 2002, Josh Morriss has served as Chief Justice of Texas' Sixth District Court of Appeals serving northeast Texas from its headquarters in Texarkana. Under Judge Morriss' leadership, the 6th Court consistently exercises conservative judicial restraint and is noted for its responsible efficiency. In the last two fiscal years (201516), in a time of high productivity among the Texas appellate courts in general, Texarkana finished 1<sup>st</sup> among the 14 courts of appeals in 6 of the 7 performance measures that can be ranked—in the number and relative youth of pending cases and in the promptness in deciding them.

A native of Texarkana, Judge Morriss has been married to his best friend Diana for 43+ years. They have 3 married daughters, and 10 grandchildren, who all live in the Texarkana area. The Morrisses are active in the worship ministry at Fellowship Bible Church of Texarkana and own and operate the historically restored events facility in downtown Texarkana, The Silvermoon on Broad.

Morriss researched and wrote "A Standing Miracle" and has been presenting this historically accurate piece area-wide since 1995. The stories told in "A Standing Miracle" actually happened; only the scene is imagined.

*[Then, please have someone light the candle on Washington's desk.]*

The time is March 4, 1797. We find ourselves in the President's office in Philadelphia. John Adams is about to be inaugurated the second President under the Constitution—the first "constitutional" transfer of power. As the last few minutes of George Washington's presidency tick away, Washington delivers a vital message about freedom.