Acadiana has been blessed with leaders of vision and determination. The Times of Acadiana Business Hall of Fame celebrates them and their legacies.

By Judy Johnson
How do you define leadership?

As the last decade of the 21st century draws to a close, we are faced with a question that has been posed in many different forms throughout history: what is leadership? Is it the ability to inspire others, to lead them towards a common goal? Is it the capacity to enact change and to face challenges head-on? Or is it something else entirely?

Laureate Alcide Dominique

A central theme of many discussions about leadership is the idea of fortitude. Fortitude is the quality of facing hardship and adversity with courage and determination. It is the ability to persist in the face of challenge and to overcome obstacles.

"He taught me that you need fortitude in this world. Fortitude. He had it. He was one in a century."

— Bow Marit Pinto

The concept of fortitude is particularly relevant in today's world, where we are faced with a range of challenges, from the global pandemic to climate change and political unrest. These challenges require leaders who are able to inspire and guide their followers towards a common goal, and who are willing to face the difficulties that come with leadership.

In conclusion, leadership is a complex and multifaceted concept, and the definition of leadership will continue to evolve as we face new challenges and opportunities. However, one thing is clear: the ability to face hardship with courage and determination is a key element of what it means to be a leader.