



Toby Keith named to OK Hall of Fame

— Transcript Staff

OKLAHOMA CITY — Norman resident Toby Keith is one of eight Oklahomans who have been selected for induction into the 80th class of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

He will join the cast of 613 individuals who have been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame since 1928.

“Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor Oklahomans can receive for their contributions to and representation of the state,” said Glen D. Johnson, a 2006 inductee and chairman of the board of the Oklahoma Heritage Association.

The other nominees to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame are: Clayton I. Bennett, Oklahoma City; Laverne native Jane Jayroe Gamble; David Kyle, Tulsa; Hoffman native Clara Luper; Aubrey K. McClendon, Oklahoma City; Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Durant; and Muskogee native Linda K. Twine.

Keith was born in Clinton. He received his first guitar at age 8, but didn’t turn to music full-time until 1984 when he played the honky-tonk circuit in Oklahoma and Texas with the band Easy Money.

Keith’s 1993 self-penned debut single “Should’ve Been a Cowboy” went to No. 1 on the charts to begin his career in earnest and became the most played single in the ’90s. Keith has sold 30 million CDs, and his new CD “Big Dog Daddy” is set for release June 12. He has 22 No. 1 singles and his current single “High Maintenance Woman” is headed to No. 1.

Keith has won numerous awards including The 50 Million Spins award from BMI. Other BMI recipients of this award include John Lennon, Elton John and The Bee Gees.

Keith stays busy spending time with children suffering from cancer or performing for our troops. He is on his fifth USO tour and frequently visits soldiers in hospitals. In 2004, he helped to found Ally’s House, where Oklahoman children with cancer can get help with medical bills, short-term housing, travel clothing, groceries and other needs, and in 2006, he founded the Toby Keith Foundation. Keith also contributes to Make-A-Wish Foundation, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the Salvation Army, among many other charities.

In 2005, Keith started his own record company, Show Dog Nashville. The same year, he opened “I Love This Bar & Grill” in Bricktown. He starred in the Paramount/CMT film Broken Bridges in 2006. The soundtrack for the movie made music history as the highest debut for an independent label.

He and his wife, Tricia, have three children, Shelley, Krystal and Stelen, and make their home in Norman.

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