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Oklahoma Hall of Fame welcomes seven inductees

BY BRIAN SARGENT Comments  0

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This year's Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductees, from left, Marlin "Ike" Glass Jr., Lee Roy Selmon, Polly Nichols, C. Kendric Fergeson, Regina Tisdale accepting for Wayman Tisdale posthumously, Steven W. Taylor and V. Burns Hargis are seen Thursday at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa. PHOTO BY MICHAEL WYKEM, TULSA WORLD

TULSA — Six men and one woman were inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on Thursday.

The seven inductees were honored during the 82nd Oklahoma Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet in Tulsa.

So far, 628 people have been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame since 1928.

C. Kendric Fergeson

Fergeson is the chairman of the National Bank of Commerce in Altus. He is active in the banking profession as well as the arts. Fergeson is chairman of Creative Oklahoma and the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics Foundation, and he's a member of

the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority and the Native American Cultural and Education Authority. He is the national treasurer for Americans for the Arts.

In the past, Ferguson has served as chairman of the American Bankers Association, the Oklahoma Bankers Association, the Oklahoma State Chamber, the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and Oklahoma Academy. He also has served on several boards, such as for the Oklahoma Arts Council, the Oklahoma Arts Institute, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, Quartz Mountain Music Festival and the Shortgrass Arts and Humanities Council.

"I'm a native Texan but moved to Oklahoma so I'm an Oklahoman by choice. It's meant a lot to me that Oklahoma is so open and willing to share this great state with all of us," Ferguson said. "To me, this is probably the most prestigious one (award) in the whole state. This is a statewide award. It's not just because I'm the local banker. It's not just because I volunteer for local arts organizations. It's thanks for the work you do."

Marlin 'Ike' Glass Jr.

Glass owns Glass Trucking in Newkirk. Glass is active in promoting education and transportation throughout Oklahoma.

He has served on the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education since 1997. He served as president of the Newkirk School Board and president of the Oklahoma State University Alumni Association. Gov. Frank Keating appointed Glass to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in 1997, and Gov. Brad Henry reappointed him in 2007. Glass served with the Oklahoma Transportation Center, the Governor's Conference on Small Business, the Oklahoma Trucking Association and the State Chamber of Commerce.

"My induction is not due to anything I did myself. Mine is all due to people I worked with and people I've known. It's just a great honor," Glass said. "Without a good faith there are a lot of things I would have never gotten through."

V. Burns Hargis

Hargis is the 18th president of Oklahoma State University. Before becoming president of OSU in 2007, Hargis was vice chairman of Bank of Oklahoma. He also practiced law for 28 years in Oklahoma City.

Hargis is the former president of the Oklahoma County Bar Association and the Oklahoma Bar Foundation. He is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Hargis was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor of Oklahoma in 1990. Hargis served on the state Election Board, the Oklahoma Constitutional Revision Commission and the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services. Hargis was the first chairman of the Oklahoma Creativity Project.

"I really see it as a celebration more of Oklahoma. I am incredibly flattered, humbled. That's not false modesty," Hargis said. "This is a big state. So many great things have been accomplished by so many people. To just pick out a few is difficult. I hope to be able to live up to it (the award). I hope I give it its due."

Polly Nichols

Nichols is a community volunteer and philanthropist who has been involved with more than 20 organizations. Nichols survived the Oklahoma City bombing, and then she co-chaired the fundraising drive to build the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. Nichols is a member of the museum board of trustees and co-chairman of the first Reflections of Hope event for the memorial.

Nichols has served with the Oklahoma City Junior League, Science Museum Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits. Nichols helped found the Juliette Low Leadership Society Luncheon for Girl Scouts-Western Oklahoma. Nichols has co-chaired the Allied Arts fund drive. Nichols and her husband, Larry, co-chaired the 2007 United Way fund drive.

In addition to her volunteer experience, Nichols served as executive director of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence.

She serves on the boards of Integris Baptist Medical Center operations, the United Way of Central Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma Foundation.

"I look on this an affirmation of what we've done, not a pinnacle," Nichols said. "It's a springboard for me and other nonprofit organizations for what we can do in the future. I think it's a real call to action. This is an honor and a recognition for the nonprofit sector. It's not a recognition for me. I'm very interested in us building a statewide alliance of nonprofits. I think this is a perfect foundation to do that."

Lee Roy Selmon

Selmon and his two brothers played defense for the University of Oklahoma football team, most notably during the national championship years of 1974 and 1975. In 1995, he became the first OU player to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Selmon was a National Football Foundation National Scholar and an All-American while he played for OU. He also earned the Vince Lombardi Award and the Outland Trophy Award. He also was inducted into the GTE Academic Hall of Fame. Selmon was the first player selected in the 1976 NFL draft; he was the first ever draft pick of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers franchise. He was selected to the Pro-Bowl six times. After his career in professional football, Selmon worked in the banking industry and then

became athletic director for the University of South Florida.

"I believe these types of awards aren't about the person. It's about good fortunes and the so many wonderful people in your life," Selmon said. "I truly believe that we do not succeed or accomplish anything totally on our own. Somebody is always there helping you."

Steven W. Taylor

Taylor is vice-chief justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. He spent four years of active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps.

In 1977, Taylor became the youngest judge in the U.S. armed forces and was promoted to the rank of major. In 1982, Taylor became the youngest mayor of McAlester.

Taylor was a trial judge for more than 20 years and presided over more than 500 jury trials, including the Terry Nichols case after the Oklahoma City bombing. In 2004, Taylor was appointed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

"My first reaction when I heard about it and my continued reaction is that I plan on living the rest of my life to earn this," Taylor said. "I am unsure whether I deserve it. Now the job I've got to do is spend the rest of my life earning it. It's a humbling thing. I grew up in McAlester, spent my life in Oklahoma. I love this state. It's the biggest honor I have ever received."

Wayman Tisdale

Tisdale was known for his skills as a basketball player and jazz musician. He died May 15, a month after he learned he would be inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. During his three basketball seasons at the University of Oklahoma, Tisdale was named the Big Eight Conference player of the year and a first-team All-American three times. He was the first freshman to be named a first-team All-American.

Tisdale played in the NBA for 12 seasons for the Indiana Pacers, the Sacramento Kings and the Phoenix Suns.

Tisdale was a member of the U.S. Olympic team that won gold in the 1984 games. Tisdale also was an award-winning jazz musician. Several of his albums broke the top 10 on the Billboard charts.

He learned he had cancer in February 2007 after breaking his leg. His leg was amputated in August of that year. He formed the Wayman Tisdale Foundation to support cancer patients and amputees.


Tisdale died of cancer at St. John Medical Center in Tulsa, his hometown. He was 44.

"I think it's incredible when I look at the people being inducted alongside of him. Because as far as the state goes, it's one of the highest honors you can get," said Regina Tisdale, Wayman Tisdale's widow. "I'm honored that my husband meant so much to so many people. I knew what he meant to me. For other people to recognize him for who he is, I think is great."


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