



OKLAHOMA HERITAGE Association  
GAYLORD-PICKENS Museum

# HERITAGE TIMES

Telling Oklahoma's Story Through Its People

GENEROSITY • INDIVIDUALISM • OPTIMISM • PERSEVERANCE • PIONEER SPIRIT

In **Lesson 9** students will explore the contributions of the 2008 Oklahoma Hall of Fame Honorees.

*Lesson 9 will be updated with the new Hall of Fame Class Annually in May.*

## Featured Oklahomans

**Bill W. Burgess, Jr.**  
**Robert Henry**  
**Donna Nigh**  
**Ronald J. Norick**  
**Carl Renfro**  
**Charles Stephenson**  
**Jordan J. N. Tang**

## Supports PASS

Social Studies  
Grade 4  
Standard 1:1, 5:1 & 5:5

Oklahoma History  
High School  
Standard 1:3, & 8:1

## Bill W. Burgess, Jr.

A native of Lawton, Burgess is the chairman emeritus of Techrizon, chairman of the board of Vortex and the senior partner of Burgess & Hightower Law Firm. As chairman, Burgess and his team developed Techrizon into the largest Oklahoma-owned software engineering company. Techrizon develops smart weapons systems for today's technologically advanced warfare.

Burgess graduated from Cameron University and from the University of Oklahoma School of Law. One of the youngest state regents to be appointed in the state's history, he was appointed to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in 1993 and again in 2002. He served as chairman of the Citizens' Commission on the Future of Oklahoma Higher Education. He was chosen as one of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce's Oklahoma Stars for the "I Believe in Oklahoma" campaign and was awarded the Corporate Entrepreneur of the Year by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Burgess has served as chairman of the Oklahoma Business Roundtable, ambassador for the United States Army Reserve and president of the Oklahoma Boy Scouts of America and is an Eagle Scout. He currently serves as chairman-elect of Leadership Oklahoma. The son of a career Army sergeant, he created the Soldiers' Children Scholarship Foundation to provide scholarships for the children of soldiers killed or seriously wounded. Burgess also has created numerous university endowments.

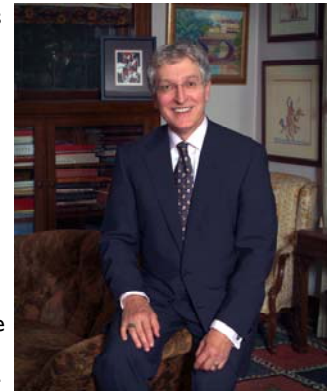


## Robert Henry

Henry has served in each branch of government.

Elected to the Oklahoma Legislature at 23, he chaired the Judiciary and Education Committees, and the Majority Caucus. Elected Attorney General in 1986, he was re-elected in 1990, the first Attorney General in state history to run unopposed. From 1991 to 1994, he was dean and professor of law at the Oklahoma City University School of Law. In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed him to the six-state U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He became the circuit's chief judge in January.

Henry serves on the advisory board for judicial outreach of the American Society of International Law, a position for which Justice Sandra Day O'Connor selected him. He also sits on the board of the VERA Institute of Justice in New York City and is chair of the Middle East/North Africa Council for the American Bar Association. In 2004, Chief Justice William Rehnquist appointed Henry to the U.S. Judicial Conference Committees on Codes of Conduct. In 2005, Chief Justice Rehnquist made Henry chair of the International Judicial Relations Committee. In March 2008, Henry chaired the United States Delegation to the United Arab Emirates World Judicial Forum.



## Activities

**Elementary:** Produce a classroom Hall of Fame. Students may choose a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, found at [www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com), or represent the contributions they intend to make.

**Secondary:** Research the backgrounds and geographic locations and members of the 2008 Oklahoma Hall of Fame Honorees. How do you believe these elements impact their contributions and success?

## Donna Nigh

Nigh, former first lady of Oklahoma, was noted for political involvement in her husband's career, but is also acclaimed for her commitment to Oklahomans with special needs and improving quality of life for those with developmental disabilities. She championed the establishment of group homes for developmentally disabled, modifying zoning laws to allow group homes in neighborhoods and increasing the number of sheltered workshops. This inspired the creation of more than 100 such homes in Okla-

homa. Friends created the Donna Nigh Foundation, the first statewide foundation for the developmentally disabled. In 1997, President Bill Clinton appointed Nigh to the President's Committee of Mental Retardation.

Honoring George and Donna Nigh's services as president and first lady of the University of Central Oklahoma, the student union is named the George and Donna Nigh University Center, and UCO also is home to the Donna Nigh Art Gallery.

The Nighs are active members of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, where Donna Nigh has served as a deacon. The Nigh family includes son, Mike Mashburn, (deceased), daughter Georgeann Duty and seven grandchildren.



## Ronald J. Norick, Jr.



Known as a dedicated public servant and strong civic leader, Norick served as mayor of Oklahoma City from 1987 to 1998. Often referred to as the "Father of MAPS" and credited with Oklahoma City's renaissance, Norick's leadership inspired the passage of the Metropolitan Area Projects temporary one-cent sales tax in 1993.

Norick is controlling manager of Norick Invest-

ment Company, LLC. He previously was employed by Norick Brothers, Inc. for more than 30 years, serving as president of the company from 1981 to 1992. He is chairman of the board for Sport Haley, Inc. and serves on the board of directors of BancFirst and Merlon International, Inc.

Norick serves on the board of trustees, executive committee and is the chairman of the investment committee for Oklahoma City University. He

is vice chairman and on the executive committee for the State Fair of Oklahoma, chairman of the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority, vice chairman of the Oklahoma Industries Authority, member of Committee of One Hundred and chairman of Oklahoma City Downtown TIF Review Committee.

## Carl Renfro

Renfro, who lives in Ponca City, joined Pioneer Bank & Trust in 1968. He became chairman and CEO in 1979, and although he retired in 2007, continues as chairman of the board.

Renfro, who is devoted to higher education, served as an Oklahoma State Regent for 12 years and was chairman in 2004. He also was instrumental in establishing the University Center at Ponca City.

In 1993, Renfro co-founded the Standing Bear Native American Foundation. The Standing Bear project encompasses a 170-acre park with a 22-foot bronze statue of Chief Standing Bear, eight tribal courts, a permanent powwow arena, and a museum and education center.

A visionary leader, Renfro dedicates his time, talents and experience to projects that make a significant difference in

his community and state. He is a true community supporter, serving on numerous boards and committees. Additionally, the Renfros have made contributions to establish endowment funds for the operations of the Standing Bear Foundation, student scholarships through the University Center Foundation, restoration of Marland Mansion through its Foundation, a lectureship series through the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation and scholarships for patients with addictions through Cushing Valley Hope.



## Charles Stephenson

After graduating from Antlers High School, Stephenson attended the University of Oklahoma where he earned a degree in petroleum engineering. Following service in the U.S. Army, where he served as an officer, he joined Amerada Petroleum Corporation.

Between 1973 and 1982, he was part-owner and president of privately-held Andover Oil Company. After the sale of Andover, Stephenson co-founded Vintage Petroleum, Inc. where he served as president, chief executive officer and chairman of the board. The company grew from three employees at start up to more than 750 with operations in

four countries and reserves of approximately 500 million barrels.

Stephenson is co-founder and chairman of the board of Premier Natural Resources, an independent oil and gas company and partner of Regent Private Capital. He is co-founder and director of Growth Capital Partners, president of Stephenson Investments, Inc. and serves a board member of AAON, Inc.

Stephenson is a founder of the Sarkeys Energy Center and, through his foundation, has funded the construction of two research facilities at the Research Campus at the Univer-



sity of Oklahoma. He also serves on the board of trustees for the University of Tulsa.

Stephenson was inducted into the Tulsa Hall of Fame in 2000. Both he and his wife were honored with the 2002 Tulsa Humanitarian Award.

## Jordan J. N. Tang

Tang holds the J.G. Puterbaugh Chair in Medical Research at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, where he heads the protein studies research program. Tang came to Oklahoma from Taiwan in 1955 to attend Oklahoma State University, where he earned a master's degree. Later, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and completed postdoctoral training at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England.

In 1957, Tang joined OMRF, where he became one of the world's leading experts on proteases, a group of proteins

crucial to human health. Over the next 51 years at OMRF, his work has led to a deeper understanding of these vital proteins and to a new treatment for HIV/AIDS, hypertension and, most recently, an Alzheimer's drug that is undergoing human clinical trials.

Tang has lectured and taught at 50 universities on five continents and has published more than 200 articles in the world's leading scientific journals. His research has been recognized and honored by the Guggenheim Foundation, National Institutes, Chinese Academy of Sciences and the United



Nations. He is the only Oklahoman ever to receive the Alzheimer's Association of America's highest research prize: the \$1 million Pioneer Award.

## Did you Know?

Induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is the highest honor an individual can receive from the State of Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony is held annually in November, the month of Statehood

More than 600 individuals have been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame

Each member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is featured in the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame is Televised on OETA



### 2008 Oklahoma Hall of Fame Honorees and Presenters

Seated, left to right, 2008 Oklahoma Hall of Fame Honorees Jordan Tang, Charles Stephenson, Ron Norick, Robert Henry, Donna Nigh, Bill Burgess, Jr., and Carl Renfro. Serving as Presenters were, standing, Stephen Prescott, David Boren, Larry Nichols, Sandra Day O'Connor, Barry Switzer, Brad Burgess, and Frank Keating.

Educational opportunities annually offered by the **Oklahoma Heritage Association** include:

- More than \$400,000 in scholarships to high school students.
- Heritage Week competitions for students in grades 4 through 12.
- Summer Camp for ages 5 to 15.
- Oklahoma Institute for all ages.
- Field trips to the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum—voted Nickelodeon’s Parents’ Choice Best Pick for Teens.
- “I Am Oklahoma” program for students of all ages.
- Excellence in Teaching Oklahoma History awards for educators.
- Celebrating Oklahoma Voices workshops.
- *Oklahoma: Magazine of the Oklahoma Heritage Association* is distributed to high school libraries statewide.

## Oklahoma Hall of Fame Medallion

Upon induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Honoree is presented with an Oklahoma Hall of Fame medallion.

The white star of the medallion, taken from the State Seal, represents Oklahoma as the 46<sup>th</sup> state of the Union and the 46<sup>th</sup> star on the flag of the United States. The gold center, Uncle Sam blessing the union of Oklahoma and Indian territories, is taken directly from the Oklahoma Heritage Association’s early impression stamp. The star is surrounded by a mistletoe wreath, like that of the impression stamp and the Oklahoma State Seal. The Mistletoe wreath first was used as an element of the Great Seal of the Territory of Oklahoma.

The five “T” shapes above the star honor the five Indian Nations that inhabited Indian Territory prior to Statehood. Surrounding the Ts are rays of the sun, the Indian symbol for constancy—unchanging or unwavering. The medallion hangs from a ribbon, reddish in color that depicts Oklahoma’s rich red earth. Originally hung from a short ribbon and pinned to the recipient, current medallions are hung from a ribbon around the neck



*The generosity of Edward L. Gaylord, 1974 Oklahoma Hall of Fame Honoree, and T. Boone Pickens, 2003 Oklahoma Hall of Fame Honoree, made possible the Edward L. Gaylord—T. Boone Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum and a state-of-the-art Oklahoma Hall of Fame Gallery.*

[www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com)



### Comments/Questions:

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