



NEWS INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY RELEASE

Oklahoma Hall of Fame Presenters Announced

Eight outstanding individuals have been selected to introduce the Oklahomans who will be inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on the evening of Thursday, November 17 in Oklahoma City. They are David Boren, Norman, Oklahoma; Don Nickles, Washington, D.C.; Ronald Rosenfeld, Washington, D.C.; Tom Ridge, Bethesda, Maryland; Kenneth Blanchard, Escondido, California; Don Mathis, Edmond, Oklahoma; Mason Williams, Eugene, Oregon; and Howard Baker, Huntsville, Tennessee.

Boren will introduce Dean Andrew Coats. Boren, who has served Oklahoma as governor and United States senator, became the thirteenth president of the University of Oklahoma in November, 1994. Boren is widely respected for his academic credentials, his longtime support of education, and for his distinguished political career as a reformer of the American political system.

One of Boren's most far-reaching projects in promoting quality education at all levels is the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, which he founded in 1985. The foundation recognizes outstanding public school students and teachers and helps establish private local foundations to help give academic endowment grants to local public schools.

Boren spent nearly three decades in elective politics before becoming the president of the University of Oklahoma. Known as a reformer, he instituted many progressive programs, including conflict-of-interest rules, campaign financing disclosure, stronger open meeting laws for public bodies, and more competitive bidding on state government contracts. From his days as a state legislator and governor of Oklahoma to Washington and the Senate, Boren carried a commitment to reform, leading numerous efforts to make government work better for American citizens.



David Boren

Nickles will introduce Nancy Payne Ellis. Nickles was elected to the United States Senate in 1980 and served the state of Oklahoma and the nation for 24 years. He was a key member of the Senate Republican Leadership for more than a decade – serving as Chairman of the Republican Senatorial Committee, Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee and as the Assistant Republican Leader from 1996-2002. Nickles was chairman of the powerful Senate Budget Committee during his last two years in the Senate and was a senior member of both the Senate Finance Committee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.



Don Nickles

Nickles was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma, and graduated from Oklahoma State University where he started his first small business, a janitorial service. He worked as vice president and general manager of Nickles Machine Corporation and served two years as a State Senator before being elected to the United States Senate. Nickles built a legacy of advancing free enterprise causes throughout his senate career – from natural gas deregulation and repeal of the windfall profits tax in the 1980s, to repeal of onerous ergonomics regulation and the fight against federalized health care during the Clinton administration. He was the author of the Congressional Review Act and the Child Citizenship Act, and the principal sponsor of the President’s economic growth package in 2003, which cut capital gains taxes and dividend rates. He built a reputation as an effective negotiator able to form bipartisan coalitions.

After retiring from the Senate in 2005, Nickles formed a consulting business venture company called The Nickles Group. The company provides strategic advice, policy development, and political execution for clients seeking to engage in the federal legislative or executive process.

Ridge will introduce former Governor Frank Keating. Ridge was sworn in as the first secretary of the newly formed Department of Homeland Security in 2003. Prior to being Secretary of Homeland Security, Ridge served as the first Office of Homeland Security Advisor in the history of the United States of America. In the words of President George W. Bush, “he had the strength, experience, personal commitment and authority to accomplish this critical mission.”



Tom Ridge

Ridge was twice elected governor of Pennsylvania, serving from 1995 to 2001. He kept his promise to make Pennsylvania “a leader among states and a competitor among nations.” Ridge’s aggressive technology strategy helped fuel the state’s advances in the priority areas of economic development, education, health and the environment. To ensure Pennsylvania was home to the jobs of the

future, he created industry-led Greenhouse initiatives in advanced computing technologies and the life sciences. Ridge signed into law the Education Empowerment Act, to help more than a quarter-million children in Pennsylvania's lowest-performing schools. His education technology initiatives brought anytime, anywhere learning to Pennsylvania from pre-school to adult education. During his years in the governor's office the number of children receiving free or low-cost health care through the states nationally recognized Children's Health Insurance Program increased by 145 percent. Ridge's common sense Land Recycling Program is a national model. He won passage of "Growing Greener," to make Pennsylvania's largest environmental investment ever.

Rosenfeld will present Gilbert C. "Gib" Gibson. President Bush named Rosenfeld to the Federal Housing Finance Board and designated him chairman on December 14, 2004. He was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate to serve a term which will expire in 2009. From July, 2001 to December, 2004, Rosenfeld served as President of Ginnie Mae, the Government National Mortgage Association, a wholly-owned government corporation established within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to promote nationwide access to mortgage credit.



Ronald Rosenfeld

Rosenfeld previously held the office of Secretary of Commerce in the state of Oklahoma, serving under Governor Frank Keating. Rosenfeld also served in two agencies under President George H.W. Bush. From 1992-1993, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Corporate Finance at the Department of the Treasury. He held three posts at HUD – General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multi-Family Housing, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Single-Family Housing. Rosenfeld worked in the private sector between 1964 and 1989.

He was involved in the development of single family homes, apartments, and condominiums as well as shopping centers. In addition, his career included investment banking most notably as executive vice president of Prescott, Ball and Turben, Inc., a Cleveland based subsidiary of Kemper Financial Corporation.

Blanchard will introduce Peter C. Meinig. Few people have impacted the day-to-day management of people and companies more than Ken Blanchard. A prominent, gregarious, sought-after author, speaker, and business consultant, Blanchard is universally characterized by his friends, colleagues, and clients as one of the most insightful, powerful, and compassionate people in business today.

When Ken speaks, he speaks from the heart with warmth and humor. His unique gift is to speak to an audience and communicate with each individual as if they were alone and talking one on one. He is a polished story teller with a knack for making the seemingly complex easy to understand. Blanchard is chief spiritual officer of The Blanchard Companies, an international management training and consultant firm that he and his

wife, Dr. Marjorie Blanchard, founded in 1979 in San Diego, California. He is also a visitor lecturer at his alma mater, Cornell University, where he is a trustee emeritus of the Board of Trustees.

He is co-founder of The Center for FaithWalk Leadership, which is dedicated to helping leaders walk their talk in the market place. Blanchard has received several awards and honors for his contributions in the fields of management leadership and speaking. The National Speakers Association awarded him its highest honor, the “Council of Peers Award of Excellence.” He was inducted into the HRD Hall of Fame by *Training Magazine* and Lakewood Conferences. He received the Golden Gavel Award from Toastmasters International.



Kenneth Blanchard

Mathis of Edmond, Oklahoma will introduce Bobby Murcer. Mathis was born in western Oklahoma in 1931 and moved to west Texas as a young boy where he grew up on a farm. Mathis moved back to Oklahoma in 1947 where he completed school at Capitol Hill High School. He married his high school girlfriend, Jane Peck after graduating from high school. He has two sons from this marriage, Larry and Bill.

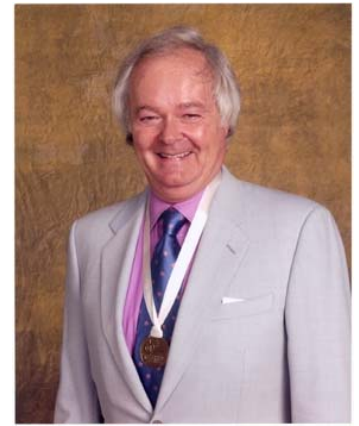
Mathis was co-founder of Mathis Brothers Furniture, with his brother Bud, in 1960. The brothers soon put together a local, down-home, television show called the *Country Social*. After retiring from Mathis Brothers Furniture he stepped back into the furniture business and founded Factory Direct, which eventually lead to the successful Lady Americana mattress brand. For almost thirty years Mathis also was active in the Oklahoma Thoroughbred Association, owning and breeding horses and supporting Oklahoma racing. His passion for sports, especially golf, eventually led to his purchase of Oak Tree Golf Club in 1994 and hosting the 2006 Senior PGA Championship. He and his present wife Alison, were married in 1994 and have seven grandchildren.



Don Mathis

Williams will present Edward Ruscha. Williams emerged in the late 1960s as a strong force in television and music circles. He is most widely known as composer and recording artist of mega hit *Classical Gas*, which won three Grammy Awards for: “Best Instrumental Composition,” “Best Instrumental Performance,” and “Best Instrumental Orchestra Arrangement.” In 1998, Broadcast Music, Inc., presented Williams with a Special Citation of Achievement in recognition of the great national and international popularity of *Classical Gas*. It has logged over three million broadcast performances to become the number one all time instrumental composition for air play in BMI’s repertoire.

In 1987, Williams teamed up with Mannheim Steamroller to release an album on the American Gramophone label titled *Classical Gas*, a cut from this album, *Country Idyll*, was a Grammy Nominee for “Best Country Instrumental Performance by a Soloist, Group or Orchestra.” In 1992 Williams released *A Gift of Song*, an instrumental Christmas album featuring arrangements of traditional carols and original compositions. That same year, the Vanguard label released *Music 1968-1971*, a compilation of cuts from his five Warner Bros. albums recorded in the late 60s and early 70s.



Mason Williams

Under his own label, Skookum Records, he released EP 2003: *Music for the Epicurean Harkener*, which has received a Grammy Nomination for Best Pop Instrumental Album. Throughout the 70s, 80s, and 90s Williams created and performed concerts for band and orchestra; “Symphonic Bluegrass” was performed with over 40 major symphonies. “Of Time and Rivers Flowing” is a chronological river of music encompassing the realms of classical, folk, minstrel, gospel, jazz, country, pop, and contemporary rock. His “A Gift of Song” Holiday Pops concerts featured music from his Christmas album and various community artists and choirs. His music also has made its way on-screen. It has been featured in several films including. *The Story of Us*, *The Dish*, *Heartbreakers* and *Cheaper by the Dozen*. On television, *Classical Gas* has been used in episodes of *The Simpsons*, *Frasier* and *The Sopranos*. He was a prime creative force for CBS’ controversial *Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. Recent honors include an Honorary Doctorate of Music from his alma mater, Oklahoma City University, and in 2000, he was officially designated the Musician Laureate for the State of Oregon.

Baker will present Cyril “Cy” Wagner, Jr. Capping a distinguished public-service career as senator, presidential advisor, and ambassador, Baker returned in February 2005 to Baker, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, the law firm his grandfather founded and where he formerly practiced with his father, the late United States Representative Howard H. Baker. As Senior Counsel to the Firm, Senator Baker focuses his practice on public policy and international matters. Baker’s return followed his service as 26th United States Ambassador to Japan, a position to which President George W. Bush appointed him in 2001. The appointment was yet another milestone in a public-service career that began in 1966, when popularly elected to the United States Senate from Tennessee.



Howard Baker

Baker gained national recognition in 1973 as vice chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee. Three years later, he was keynote speaker at the Republican National Convention and was a 1980 candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. He concluded his senate career in 1985 after two terms as Minority Leader from 1977 to 1981 and two terms as Majority Leader from 1981 to 1985. He was President Ronald Reagan’s

Chief of Staff from February 1987 to July 1988. A delegate to the United Nations in 1976, Baker has extensive foreign policy experience. He served on the President's Foreign Intelligence Board from 1985 to 1987 and from 1988 to 1990 and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs. He serves on the board of the Forum of International Policy and is an International Counselor for the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Among his many awards are the 1984 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, and the Jefferson Award for Greatest Public Service Performed by an Elected or Appointed Official, which he received in 1982. An accomplished photographer, Baker received The American Society of Photographers' International Award in 1993 and was elected into the Photo Marketing Association's Hall of Fame in 1994. He has received honorary degrees from such institutions as Yale University, Dartmouth College, Georgetown University, Bradley University, Pepperdine University and Centre College. Baker is the author of four books: *No Margin for Error*, *Howard Baker's Washington*, *Big South Fork Country* and *Scott's Gulf*.

For information regarding sponsorship or tickets for the 78th annual Oklahoma Hall of Fame, please contact the Oklahoma Heritage Association office (405) 235-4458 or (888) 501-2059.