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Gov. Keating, artist Mike Wimmer receive Spur Award for children's book

OKLAHOMA CITY –Former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating and celebrated Norman artist Mike Wimmer have been awarded a Western Writers of America Spur Award for their children's book *The Trial of Standing Bear* in the category of Best Western Juvenile Nonfiction.

The annual Spur Awards are given by a panel of judges for works whose inspirations, image and literary excellence best represent the reality and spirit of the American West.

Gov. Keating and Wimmer's also earned a Spur Award for their collaboration on *Will Rogers: An American Legend* and they received the 2007 International Reading Association's Children's Book Award for *Theodore*.

The Trial of Standing Bear tells of the anguish and resolve of Ponca Chief Standing Bear and his people as they are forced from their homeland. Through historically accurate paintings, readers follow the Poncas from the banks of Niobrara to Indian Territory. The story details their fight to be treated like human beings and the ultimate victory that initiated the long civil rights struggle for Native Americans.

"*The Trial of Standing Bear* is the little known, and less appreciated, story of a seminal civil rights event: the Federal Court finding that Indians were people under the Constitution of the United States," said author Gov. Keating. "Every child should know this story of courage, perseverance and love."

Published by the Oklahoma Heritage Association, the title is the inaugural issue in the non-profit organization's newest book line targeted toward children and young adults.

The Trial of Standing Bear retails for \$16.95 and is available at the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum Store in Oklahoma City, on the Association and Museum's Web site at www.oklahomaheritage.com, at bookstores across the state and on www.amazon.com.

The leader in publishing Oklahoma's history, the Oklahoma Heritage Association preserves Oklahoma's unique history and inspires pride in the state. Through each of its programs and the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum, the Association strives to tell Oklahoma's story through its people.

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