



May 13, 2010

Ward is inducted into Oklahoma Hall of Fame

Enid News and Eagle

Enid oilman Lew Ward is a member of the 83rd class to be inducted into Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

The announcement was made Thursday at Gaylord-Pickens Museum in Oklahoma City. The class of six officially will be inducted during the Oklahoma Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony Nov. 4 in Oklahoma City.

Other members of the class are: Kristin Chenoweth, of Broken Arrow; Robert A. Hefner III, of Oklahoma City; Edward F. Keller, of Tulsa; Judy Love, of Oklahoma City; and Michael C. Turpen, of Oklahoma City. They will join 635 others who have been inducted into Oklahoma Hall of Fame since 1928.

“A new tradition began last year, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame announcement luncheon gives past inductees the first opportunity to congratulate the new class,” said Shannon L. Rich, president of Oklahoma Heritage Association and Gaylord-Pickens Museum. “It’s incredibly inspirational to be surrounded by such an accomplished group of people who has literally created our history.”

Ward is chairman of Ward Petroleum Corp.. He received his bachelor of science degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1953. He is a registered professional engineer and a graduate of the Owner/President Management Program at Harvard University.

He is a member of National Petroleum Council and was president of Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association 1979-80. He served as chairman of Independent Petroleum Association of America 1995-97.

Ward was named Distinguished Alumni of Oklahoma Military Academy in 1993 and inducted in University of Oklahoma College of Engineering Distinguished Graduates Society in 1999. He received Lone Star Steel’s “Chief Roughneck” Award in 1999 for lifetime achievement in the oil and gas industry, and in 2009 he received the Trailblazer Award from the University of Oklahoma.

He has served as president of Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce, Enid Rotary Club and American Business Club. The chamber named him Businessman of the Year in 1988 and Citizen of the Year in 2006. Also in 2006, he was presented the Governor’s Arts Award and inducted into Enid Public School Foundation Hall of Fame.

Chenoweth is a Tony Award-winning actress and has appeared on stage, television and film.

Hefner is founder and owner of The GHK Company, a private Oklahoma City oil and natural gas firm. After graduating from University of Oklahoma with a degree in geology in 1957, he founded GHK in 1959.

Keller serves as non-executive chairman of Summit Bank of Tulsa and is a member of the board of directors of Mutual of Omaha Bank Holding Corp.

Love helped her husband, Tom, start Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores in 1964. She worked full time in the company until 1975 when she returned to college. She currently serves as chairman of Love's Family Foundation and secretary of the corporation.

Turpen is a former Oklahoma attorney general and was appointed last year to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Oklahoma Heritage Association was founded in 1927 with the purpose of establishing Oklahoma Hall of Fame, and Gaylord-Pickens Museum was opened in 2007 with the intent of honoring these and other accomplished Oklahomans.

"Being inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame is the single highest honor an individual can receive from our state," Rich said. "The recognition of our state's greatest asset — our people — is the foundation upon which our organization was created, so each of the Oklahoma Heritage Association's programs and the exhibits in the Gaylord-Pickens Museum continue that mission."

Along with being honored at the formal induction ceremony, 2010 inductees will be recognized in November with the addition of their portraits to Oklahoma Hall of Fame Gallery at Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

The banquet and induction ceremony will be at Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Tickets and table sponsorships for the event will go on sale in September. For information about Oklahoma Hall of Fame or making a nomination to Oklahoma Hall of Fame, contact Millie Craddick, executive administrator, at (405) 523-3203 or mc@oklahomaheritage.com. For information about Oklahoma Heritage Association or Gaylord-Pickens Museum, call (405) 235-4458 or visit www.oklahomaheritage.com.

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