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**Oklahoma Heritage Association releases
*Hardwood Heroes: Great Oklahoma Basketball Coaches***

OKLAHOMA CITY – Known for producing more astronauts than any other state, Oklahoma has also had a tremendous impact on the art and science of coaching basketball.

Recently released by the Oklahoma Heritage Association, *Hardwood Heroes: Great Oklahoma Basketball Coaches*, details not only how coaches from the Sooner State have produced winning teams, but also how they have influenced the way the game of basketball is played around the world. *Hardwood Heroes* was written by former University of Oklahoma basketball player C. Renzi Stone and Oklahoma author and historian Bob Burke and is the first title released in the Association’s newest series, Oklahoma Through Its People. The new series will celebrate the accomplishments of groups of Oklahomans—from athletes and musicians to coaches and Broadway.

“*Hardwood Heroes* captures the essence of our state’s greatest asset – our people,” said Gini Moore Campbell, director of publications and education for the Oklahoma Heritage Association and Gaylord-Pickens Museum. “In each title we publish, the programs we make available and the exhibits at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, we strive to share our state’s history through the lives and accomplishments of Oklahomans, which we firmly believe is the most powerful means for people to understand and appreciate their heritage.”

Hardwood Heroes includes both a history of basketball in Oklahoma and an overview of the state’s top 50 basketball coaches. *Hardwood Heroes* retails for \$12.95, and along with the Association’s other publications, is available for purchase in the Gaylord-Pickens Museum Store at NW 13th Street and Shartel Avenue in Oklahoma City, by calling the Museum Store at 405.235.4458, at www.oklahomaheritage.com and in bookstores statewide.

In addition to the new Oklahoma Through Its People series, the Association publishes titles in its Oklahoma Horizons Series, which focuses on institutional histories and movements, and a children’s line. Considered the leader in publishing Oklahoma’s history, the Association is celebrating its 35th year of sharing and teaching history through its publishing arm. Through each of its programs and the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum the Association strives to tell Oklahoma’s story through its people. For more information about the Association or Museum, visit www.oklahomaheritage.com or call 405.235.4458.

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