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2009 Oklahoma Hall of Fame presenters announced

OKLAHOMA CITY – The seven accomplished Oklahomans who will be inducted into the 2009 Oklahoma Hall of Fame class each have selected a family member, friend or colleague to formally present them at the November banquet & induction ceremony.

The 2009 Oklahoma Hall of Fame presenters are: **Clayton I. Bennett**, Oklahoma City; **Christy Everest**, Oklahoma City; **Robert L. Lynch**, Oklahoma City; **John Massey**, Durant; Holdenville native **T. Boone Pickens**; **Greg Price**, Jones; and **Christopher Dale Selmon**, Tampa, Fla.

Clayton I. Bennett, a 2007 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, will present Justice Steven W. Taylor. Bennett serves as president of Dorchester Capital, a diversified private investment company, and chairman of the Oklahoma City Thunder of the National Basketball Association. In addition, Bennett is involved in a broad variety of investment activities and serves as an officer and director of numerous business entities.

Highly involved in civic and charitable affairs, Bennett currently serves as chairman of the Oklahoma State Fair and the Oklahoma Industries Authority. He is a past chairman of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, the Oklahoma Heritage Association and the Oklahoma Health Center Foundation. Bennett serves as a director of the National Football Foundation, the Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and Casady School.

In 1990, Bennett received the Dean A. McGee Award, and in 1997, he was presented the Economic Development Citizen Leadership Award by the National Council of Urban Economic Development. In 2008, Bennett was named “Oklahoman of the Year” by *Oklahoma Today* magazine.

Bennett attended Casady School and the University of Oklahoma. Bennett resides in Oklahoma City with his wife Louise; they are the parents of three children.

Christy Everest, a 2004 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, will present Polly Nichols. A lifelong resident of Oklahoma City, Everest has served as chairman and chief executive officer of The Oklahoma Publishing Company for the past six years and as a community volunteer for more than 30 years. She is a past member and chairman of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents and past chairman of the Board of Trustees of Casady School. Currently, she serves on the boards of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, the Oklahoma Heritage Association, Children’s Medical Research Institute, the Metro Youth Development & Education Foundation, the Presbyterian Health Foundation and the Inasmuch Foundation Advisory Committee. Everest also serves as a tutor at North Highland Elementary and drives for Mobile Meals through her church, All Soul’s Episcopal.

Everest and her husband, Jim, have supported a wide range of programs in the areas of health, education and the arts. Together they have received the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Community Service from the University of Oklahoma Medical Alumni Association and the Tribute to Excellence Award by the Arthritis Foundation. They served as the 2009 honorary chairs of the Allied Arts Campaign. They have two daughters, Tricia Everest and Mary Fitzsimons, and three grandsons.

Robert L. Lynch will present C. Kendrick Ferguson. Lynch is president and CEO of Americans for the Arts, the national organization dedicated to advancing the arts and arts education in people's lives, schools and communities. Lynch was executive director of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies for 12 years and managed the successful merger of that organization with the American Council for the Arts to form Americans for the Arts in 1996. In 2005, Lynch created the Americans for the Arts Action Fund and its connected political action committee to engage citizens in advocating for the arts and arts education to ensure arts-friendly public policies.

With more than 30 years of experience in the arts industry, he is motivated by his personal mission to empower communities and leaders to advance arts and its appreciation in society. Lynch personally has reached audiences in 40 states and eight countries, ranging from Native American tribal gatherings to the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe to the President of the United States.

Lynch currently serves on the board of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst College of Humanities and Fine Arts, where he earned a bachelor's degree in English. Lynch lives in Washington, D.C., and enjoys playing the piano, mandolin and guitar.

John Massey, a 2002 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, will present Marlin G. "Ike" Glass, Jr. Massey served in the U.S. Army and National Guard from 1954 to 1961 and earned his B.S. from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1960. Following college, he worked for the Oklahoma Publishing Company in southeastern Oklahoma and began a career in commercial real estate with the purchase and building of multiple apartment complexes. He has since purchased commercial property throughout Durant, including nursing homes, motels and banks. An entrepreneurial spirit also led him to invest as partial owner in a jewelry store, KTEN Television Station, Bryan County Cable Company and Medical Center Pharmacy. Massey was elected State Representative in 1960 while a senior in college. He served two terms as State Senator following his election in 1964. He also has served on the ethics commission, historical board and securities commission.

Massey is currently chairman of the board of First United Bank, Durant Enterprises, Inc. and the Small Business Development Center, as well as a regent for Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and a board member of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2004.

T. Boone Pickens, a 2003 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, will present V. Burns Hargis. A Holdenville native, Pickens earned his degree in geology from Oklahoma A&M in 1951. His many educational associations and honors include several honorary degrees.

As founder and chairman for BP Capital Management, Pickens is principally responsible for the formulation of the energy futures investment strategy of the BP Capital Commodity Fund and the BP Capital Equity Fund. BP Capital manages one of the nation's most successful energy-oriented investment funds.

In 2008, Pickens launched a grass-roots campaign aimed at reducing the United State's dependence on imported oil. Since its launch, the Pickens Plan and Pickens have brought this issue to the forefront of the energy debate.

Pickens also is aggressively pursuing a wide range of other business interests, from water marketing and alternative wind power to ranch development initiatives and Clean Energy, a clean transportation fuels company he founded and took public in 2008. He was founder of Mesa Petroleum in its various forms beginning in 1956. Under his leadership, Mesa grew to become one of the largest and most well-known independent exploration and production companies in the United States.

Throughout his professional life, Pickens has been a generous philanthropist, giving away nearly \$700 million. The Pickens Foundation is focused on improving lives through grants supporting educational programs, medical research, athletics, corporate wellness, at-risk youths, the entrepreneurial process, and conservation and wildlife initiatives.

Pickens lives in Dallas and is married to Madeleine Ann Pickens. He has five children and 13 grandchildren.

Greg Price will present the late Wayman Lawrence Tisdale. Proud to be an Oklahoman, Price graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in accounting and shortly thereafter began his career with Oklahoma Tank Lines, a company his father founded in 1966. Today, Price serves as president of the combined companies Oklahoma Tank Lines/United Petroleum Transports and is active in numerous civic and trade organizations.

The Price family has actively supported OU athletics for more than 30 years and, during Billy Tubbs' era, became very involved with the OU men's basketball program. Their support of the athletes over the years often developed into lifelong relationships, including a dear friendship with Wayman and his family.

Price says about Tisdale: "When Wayman stopped thrilling us on the court, he thrilled us with his music, and when he could no longer play his music, he amazed us with his courage and grace in the face of a relentless disease."

Price and his wife, Donna, live in Jones and have three sons: Matthew, David and James.

Christopher Dale Selmon will present his father, Lee Roy Selmon. Christopher Selmon was born to Lee Roy and Claybra Selmon in Tampa, Fla. in 1983, the youngest of their three children. He grew up in a loving household where he was instilled with the foundational values of faith in Christ, family, humility and perseverance. His father's professional football career rubbed off on Selmon, who also developed a fondness for athletics as has cultivated his talents through soccer, track and football. Other hobbies include reading, traveling and serving the Tampa Bay community through his church.

An astute student, Selmon has always possessed a desire to perform to the best of his academic abilities, which allowed him to graduate from Sickles High School with perfect attendance, the Bright Futures Scholarship Award and membership in the National Honors Society. After graduating high school, Selmon attended the University of South Florida where he became a member of the USF Honors College and Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program. He graduated from USF in 2006 with a degree in biomedical science. Currently, he is working at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa as a cancer research associate. He hopes to eventually return to school, where he will earn a master's degree to become an anesthesiologist assistant.

The 82nd Oklahoma Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Banquet will be held Thursday, Nov. 12 at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel & Convention Center. Tickets and table sponsorships for the event will go on sale in September. For more information about the Oklahoma Hall of Fame or making a nomination to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, please call Millie Craddick, executive administrator of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, at 405.523.3203 or e-mail her at mc@oklahomaheritage.com.

The 2009 inductees will also be recognized in November with the addition of their portraits to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame Gallery at the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Along with the other 628 honorees from across the years, their biographies, photos and fun facts will be accessed through touchscreen computers in the same gallery. For more information about the Museum, please call 405.235.4458 or visit www.oklahomaheritage.com.

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