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2010 Oklahoma Hall of Fame presenters announced

OKLAHOMA CITY – The six accomplished Oklahomans who will be inducted into the 2010 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 2010 Oklahoma Hall of Fame presenters are: **Bill Banowsky**, Dallas, Texas; **Florence Birdwell**, Oklahoma City; **James E. Halligan**, Stillwater; **Joe Lieberman**, Stamford, Conn.; **Tom Love**, Oklahoma City; and **Aubrey McClendon**, Oklahoma City.

Bill Banowsky will present Lew O. Ward, III, of Enid for induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Banowsky is president emeritus of the University of Oklahoma, where he was president from 1978 to 1985, and Pepperdine University, where he served from 1968 to 1978. Banowsky also has been president of Gaylord Broadcasting Company, vice chairman of the Texas Rangers board of directors and executive vice president of Tenet Health Care Company.

Banowsky has served on the executive committee of the Republican National Committee and as finance chairman for the Republican Party of Texas. He has served on the boards of Litton Industries, the Thrifty Corporation, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Los Angeles, the Fleming Companies, Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, and The Oklahoma Publishing Company. President Reagan appointed him to the board of directors of the Public Broadcasting System.

Banowsky has published five books, including his most recent, *The Malibu Miracle*, which details Pepperdine University's rebirth. He has been named one of 30 distinguished alumni in the history of Forth Worth public schools, one of 50 distinguished alumni in the history of the University of New Mexico and distinguished alumnus of the year at David Lipscomb University.

Banowsky and his wife, Gay, have four sons and 14 grandchildren.

Florence Birdwell will present Kristin Chenoweth, a Broken Arrow native, for induction. Birdwell is a professor of voice at the Wanda L. Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University, where she received her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She has taught musical theater and opera singing to thousands over a five-decade career, and her students, including Chenoweth, have won awards on Broadway, in international opera houses, on television and film, and in the commercial recording industry.

At the age of 21, Birdwell was invited to join the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera and to audition for the role of Laurey in the movie *Oklahoma!*, but a throat injury ended the possibility of a singing career. The knowledge she gained in her rehabilitation translated into a successful career of teaching.

Birdwell received the Governor's Arts Award in 1985 from Gov. George Nigh, and in 1990, OCU established the Florence Birdwell Vocal Scholarship Fund in her honor. She has received woman of the year honors from groups ranging from the Girl Scouts of America to the Association for Women in Communications. She has been an Oklahoma City University Distinguished Alumna and inducted into the OCU Performance Hall of Honor.

James E. Halligan will present Edward F. Keller of Tulsa for induction. Elected in 2008 for District 21, Senator Halligan earned his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Iowa State University. Halligan was president of New Mexico State University for 10 years before serving as Oklahoma State University's 16th president.

At OSU, Halligan emphasized student success, increasing retention and graduation rates, encouraging the development of national scholars and investing more than \$200 million in facilities, including a Center for Services to Students, a student leadership complex, multi-media classrooms and suite-style student housing. His efforts saw OSU's first capital campaign top \$260 million – more than double the original goal – and he helped raise the money to expand Gallagher-Iba Arena, named by the CBS Sportsline as the best college basketball venue in the nation.

Prior to his positions at ISU and OSU, Halligan worked as a process engineer with Humble Oil Company, a professor of chemical engineering at Texas Tech University, dean of engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology, and dean of engineering at the University of Arkansas. He served as vice chancellor for academic affairs and interim chancellor at the University of Arkansas and taught on a Fulbright Fellowship in Germany, Thailand and Bulgaria.

Joe Lieberman will present Michael C. Turpen of Oklahoma City for induction. Lieberman is in his fourth term representing Connecticut in the United States Senate and also is well known as the Democratic candidate for vice president in 2000.

Lieberman was elected to the Connecticut State Senate in 1970 and served for 10 years, including the last six as majority leader. From 1983 to 1988, he served as Connecticut's Attorney General. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1988, scoring the nation's biggest political upset that year by a margin of just 10,000 votes. Six years later, he made history by winning the biggest landslide victory ever in a Connecticut Senate race. In 2000, he was elected by another overwhelming margin to a third term.

In 2006, Senator Lieberman was elected to a fourth term as an Independent. In the 111th Congress, Lieberman is the 24th most senior member of the Senate. Lieberman is chairman and former ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. He is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he is chairman of the subcommittee on Airland and sits on the Personnel and Seapower subcommittees, and the Small Business Committee. Lieberman is a former chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council.

Tom Love, a 2000 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, will present wife Judy Love of Oklahoma City for induction. Along with his wife, Love founded and developed Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores. The Love's chain of truck and motoring public travel stops spans 39 states with approximately 7,000 employees and gross revenues in excess of 13.5 billion for 2009. Also in 2009, Love's was ranked No. 15 by *Forbes Magazine* in a list of the largest private companies in America.

Love is past chairman of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission, for which he served seven years, past chairman of the Oklahoma Business Roundtable, The Trust Coalition and past co-chair of St. Gregory's University's Capitol Fund Drive. He currently serves on the board of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Love has been named Oklahoma's Most Admired CEO in his field and the Notre Dame Club Man of the Year for Oklahoma. He has been inducted into the Sales and Marketing Executives International Academy of Achievement and the Oklahoma Commerce and Industry Hall of Honor. He has been presented the "Distinguished Marketer" Award by the Society of Independent Marketers of America. Along with his wife, he has been named an Oklahoma Health Center Foundation's Treasures for Tomorrow honoree and a Bishop's Outstanding Lay Catholic Leader.

Aubrey K. McClendon, a 2007 Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, will present Robert A. Hefner, III, of Oklahoma City for induction. McClendon is chairman of the board, chief executive officer and co-founder of Chesapeake Energy Corporation.

After graduating from Duke University in 1981, McClendon began his career in the oil and natural gas business as an accountant and then a landman for his uncle Aubrey M. Kerr. In 1983, he formed a handshake oil and natural gas partnership with Tom L. Ward that led to the incorporation of Chesapeake in 1989. Today, Chesapeake is the second-largest independent producer of natural gas in the United States and the most active driller of new wells in the United States. The company employs 9,000 people, 50 percent of which are Oklahomans, and has an enterprise value of \$30 billion. Chesapeake is a member of the S&P 500, the Fortune 500 and is routinely listed among the best places to work in Oklahoma and the United States.

McClendon serves on the board of directors of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, the State Fair of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation, Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation, Chaparral Energy and the Procure Treatment Centers.

McClendon and his wife, Kathleen, have three children, Jack, Callie and Will.

The 83rd Oklahoma Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Banquet will be held Thursday, Nov. 4 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. 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 2010 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 635 honorees from across the years, their biographies, photos and fun facts will be accessed through touch screen 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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