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Robert Henry To Be Inducted Into Oklahoma Hall Of Fame

Seven outstanding Oklahomans, including a Shawnee native, have been selected for induction into the 81st class of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. These accomplished Oklahomans will join the cast of 621 individuals who have been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame since 1928.

"Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor Oklahomans can receive for their contributions to and representation of the state," said Shannon L. Nance, president of the Oklahoma Heritage Association and Gaylord-Pickens Museum.

The 2008 nominees are: Bill W. Burgess, Lawton; Shawnee native Robert H. Henry; Donna Nigh, Oklahoma City; Ronald J. Norick, Oklahoma City; Carl R. Renfro, Ponca City; Charles C. Stephenson, Tulsa; and China native Jordan J.N. Tang.

Judge Henry has served in each branch of government. Elected to the Oklahoma Legislature at 23, he chaired the Judiciary and Education Committees, and the Majority Caucus. Elected Attorney General in 1986, he was re-elected in 1990, the first Attorney General in state history to run unopposed. From 1991 to 1994, he was dean and professor of law at the Oklahoma City University School of Law. In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed him to the six-state U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He became the circuit's chief judge in January.

Henry serves on the advisory board for judicial outreach of the American Society of International Law, a position for which Justice Sandra Day O'Connor selected him. He also sits on the board of the VERA Institute of Justice in New York City and is chair of the Middle East/North Africa Council for the American Bar Association. In 2004, Chief Justice William Rehnquist appointed Henry to the U.S. Judicial Conference Committees on Codes of Conduct. In 2005, Chief Justice Rehnquist made Henry chair of the International Judicial Relations Committee. In March 2008, Henry chaired the United States Delegation to the United Arab Emirates World Judicial Forum.

The 81st annual Oklahoma Hall of Fame ceremony will be held Nov. 12 in Oklahoma City at the Cox Convention Center. Tickets for the event will go on sale Friday, Sept. 5.

Portraits and information about each new inductee will be included in the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum's Oklahoma Hall of Fame Gallery.

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. For more information about the Oklahoma Heritage Association or Gaylord-Pickens Museum, visit www.oklahomaheritage.com.

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