



NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

15th ANNUAL
HALL *of* FAME

INDUCTION CEREMONY & BANQUET

July 28, 2018
Austin Event Center
FORT WORTH  TEXAS

Mayor's Welcome Letter

FORT WORTH

Greetings!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Fort Worth for the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum 15th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet on July 28, 2018. We hope that you will savor your stay and time spent here enjoying the unique mix of cultural activities found only in the city "Where the West Begins."

As Mayor, it is with great pride that I would like to tell you about our city, a city of cowboys, culture and community. In one visit you can enjoy an enormous range of experiences – from art to animals, from fashion to family fun. We offer lessons in western history with a tour of the Historic Stockyards, auto racing at the Texas Motor Speedway or a relaxing night of shopping and dining in downtown's historic Sundance Square. The choice is yours!

While you are in Fort Worth, we hope you get a chance to visit:

- ◆ Our downtown area... a nationally noted model of successful urban renaissance filled with restaurants, museums, art galleries, theaters and an abundance of retail shopping. The Sundance Square area of downtown is a "must-see" for everyone visiting the city.
- ◆ The Cultural District... recognized as the "museum capital of the Southwest," is home to world-class museums. We are proud to be home to the Texas Cowgirl Hall of Fame, and we have an outstanding Equestrian Center, one of the country's top-ranked zoos, and a multitude of beautiful parks and gardens.
- ◆ Northside's historic Stockyards area... a delightful journey into the city's western heritage. You are sure to enjoy the area's many shops and restaurants while finding a real-life cowboy or two outfitted with horses and even the cattle drive of the Fort Worth Herd of longhorns!

One of our most valuable assets is our people. Visitors often cite the "Fort Worth Friendly" spirit of our citizens and businesses as the top reason they plan a return visit.

We are pleased you chose Fort Worth for your banquet and hope you enjoy your time in Cowtown.

Sincerely,



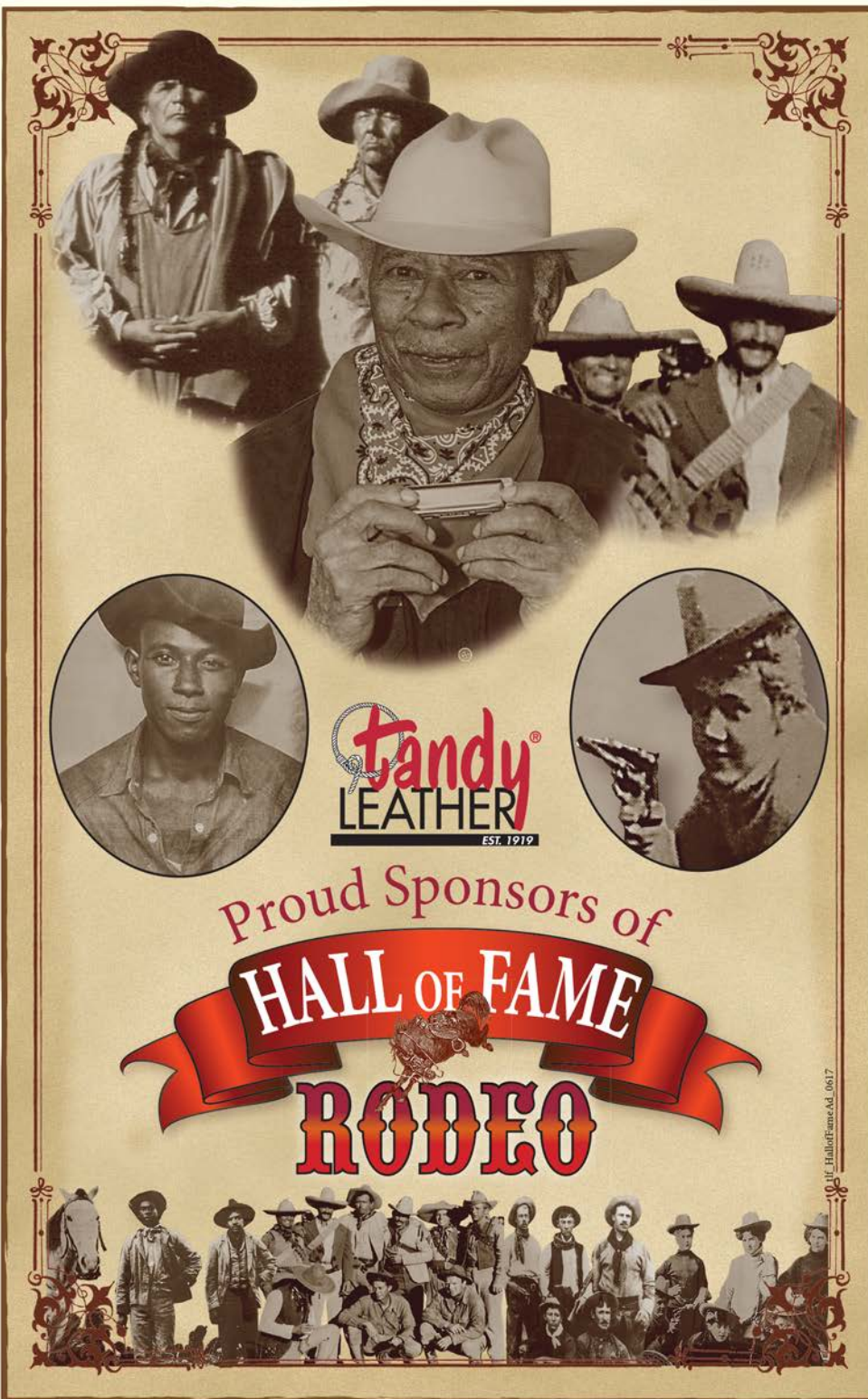
Betsy Price
Mayor



BETSY PRICE, MAYOR

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July 28, 2018

Dear Hall of Fame Inductees and Guests:

Greetings and Welcome to the 15th Annual National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet. It is our sincere pleasure to congratulate the 2018 Hall of Fame Inductees that are being recognized for the meaningful contributions to western history and culture they have made. The aim of the Museum and Hall of Fame is to tell the stories that many history books have failed to include. These forgotten American heroes are excellent examples of the past, present, and future of this great country; while acknowledging our current generation of Hall of Fame Inductees who continue to work to keep western culture alive and well.



We extend our sincere gratitude and best wishes to the sponsors of the 2018 Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and the National Day of the American Cowboy programs. Their steadfast support has allowed the Museum to increase its program capacity. With foundation, corporation and community sponsor support, we have been able to provide free a Cultural Heritage Youth Workshop and Museum Tour Program; Children's Storytelling & Book Give Away; and present on-site School Assemblies and Career Day events for schools and organizations. As the Museum embarks upon a journey of relocation to the Historic Fort Worth Stockyards District, we enlist each of you to support this effort by obtaining a museum membership and becoming a new museum volunteer. We need your help in this next phase to succeed!

Hats off to the Museum's Hall of Fame Alumni, event planning committee, annual banquet guest and staff members for their unwavering support. The volunteer's efforts and the commitment of our Board of Directors serve as the heartbeat of the Museum, and the reason why we have been able to sustain and expand the programs in these economic times. We sincerely hope that you enjoy the evening and that you will continue to support the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum throughout the year.

Sincere regards,

James N. Austin
Founder & President

Gloria Reed Austin
Founder & Executive Director

Our Mission

The primary objective of the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame is to offer the visitor a true and complete historical perspective of the people and activities that built the unique culture of the American West. The work of artists who documented the people and events of the time through journals, photographs and other historical items are part of this new collection. These long overlooked materials tell, perhaps for the first time, the complete story. The American West of today still operates on many of the principles and cultural relationships begun so long ago.

Our Vision

The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Fame was founded to give recognition to the outstanding pioneers who played a role in settling the early American western frontier. The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame also acknowledges individuals that have contributed to the western culture and tradition and play a part in keeping this important piece of American History alive.

For more information, please visit www.cowboysofcolor.org, email info@cowboysofcolor.org, or call 817.534.8801.

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Museum Location:

2029 N. Main Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76164
(817) 534-8801 Facility

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Gloria Reed Austin

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Hall of Fame Induction Banquet Program

Master of Ceremony

Master of Ceremony ♦ *Scott Murray*

Opening Ceremony ♦ *Color Guard*

Boy Scout Troop 528 • Tony Lampkin, Scout Master
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Pledge to the Texas Flag ♦ *Bob Holmes*

National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Advisory Board

Welcome ♦ *Mark Lucas Kelly*

National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Board of Directors

Invocation ♦ *Harold Cash*

2010 Hall of Fame Inductee

Dinner

Recognition Period

Sponsors ♦ *Steven Heape*

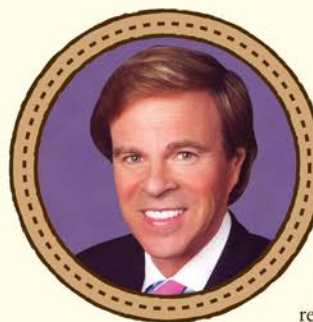
Hall of Fame Alumni ♦ *Victor Wallace*

National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Board of Directors

2018 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Closing Remarks ♦ *Jim and Gloria Austin*

Founders • National Multicultural Western
Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame



Scott Murray ♦ 2017 INDUCTEE

From U.S. Presidents to U.S. Opens, the World Series to the World Cup, the Olympic Games to 30 straight Super Bowls, Scott Murray has covered them all. He spent over three decades with NBC television as a multi Emmy Award-winning television sports anchor and broadcast journalist. Scott was named Sportscaster of the Year 17 times by various news organizations. He has been recognized as a Living Legend of Journalism by the Press Club of Dallas and is a recipient of the prestigious Silver Circle Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Although retired from nightly television news, Scott returned to NBC/DFW to host the weekly TV public affairs/philanthropic program, Talk Street for several years, while hosting the Emmy Award-winning program, Conversations with Scott Murray and the The Scott Murray Radio Show, weekly on 570 KLIF. Scott continues to be a sought-after keynote speaker and published author of 2 books (Whatever It Takes and Bring Out The BEST). In addition, he regularly serves as an emcee/host/moderator for corporate conferences and charitable events, a TV/radio spokesperson and is also Chairman/CEO of Murray Media, an Emmy Award-winning video/HD television production and A/V event media company.

Scott served on the North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee and as chairman of the Honorary Committee of the NCAA Final Four Tip-Off Gala. He is on the board of trustees of the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dallas Sports Commission, National Football Foundation/College Football Hall of Fame Gridiron Club; charter board member of the SMU Athletic Forum Board and the Doak Walker National Running Back Award; executive board member of the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award and chairman of the O'Brien Legends Award and Founder's Award Committees; executive board member of the Armed Forces Bowl; executive board member of the Heart of Dallas Bowl; former President of the Texas Motor Speedway Children's Charities Board of Directors; member of the Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities Advisory Board, Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation Board and Children at Risk Advisory Board; member of the Board of Trustees of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the President's Advisory Council of the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

Scott stays very active in the north Texas community as a volunteer, serving on the board/advisory boards of countless children's, civic, charitable and non-profit organizations. His commitment to community has resulted in his being honored with such awards as Citizen of the Year, Man of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Humanitarian of the Year, and recipient of the following: Governor's Award; Director's Award from the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice; George Washington Medal of Honor Freedom Award; The Military Order of the World Wars Patrick Henry Award; National Youth Leadership Council Gift of Leadership Award; Tom Landry Award of Excellence; Taste of the N.F.L. Man of the Year; National Philanthropy Day AFP Special Recognition Award; People of Vision Award; Johnny Stallings Award; Barbara Jordan Citizenship Award; Komen for the Cure National Individual Community Service Award; United Way Hercules Award; Chamber of Commerce Inaugural Excellence in Media Award; Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society-Honorary Inductee; Daughters of WWII Carry the Torch Award; National Congress of Parents and Teachers-Honorary Inductee; American Cancer Society Sword of Hope; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Honoree; Special Olympics Torch Award; Legacy of Men Tackling Domestic Violence Award; Boy Scouts of America God and Service Award; Philanthropy World Hall of Fame Inductee; Texas Baseball Hall of Fame-Honorary Inductee; National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum 2017 Inductee; and, Scott's two most cherished awards, Dad of the Year and Father of the Year.



Douglas Harman
Ph.D., CDME, TDMC

Douglas Harman's strong interest in the heritage of the West can be seen in many important programs and projects, including his work on the Chisholm Trail, Fort Worth and Tarrant County history and the Texas Trail of Fame.

Growing up in Lincoln, Nebraska, Doug received his BA from Nebraska Wesleyan University. He went on to American University in Washington D.C. where he earned his MA and Ph.D. with a focus on urban government management. After five years of university teaching, Doug went into local government management, serving as city manager of Alexandria, Virginia for ten years.

Doug is married to Judy, his childhood sweetheart, and they live in Fort Worth. They have two grown children, Sarah living in Denver and Greg in San Antonio.

Doug came to Fort Worth to serve as city manager from 1985 to 1990, after which he was selected to be president of the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau. He served at the FWCVB for sixteen years. As FWCVB president he gave strong attention to the city's western heritage. Over the years following he has helped develop traveling historical exhibits on Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker, the Chisholm Trail and early Tarrant County history. In all of his efforts, he has given focused attention to the important multicultural heritage of the West.

Over the past ten years, Doug has had a major exhibit on the Chisholm Trail at the Cowboy Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Tarrant County Historical Commission, the Friends of the Herd, the Friends of the Library and the Lakes Trail heritage tourism program. He has given many speeches on the various aspects of our multicultural West. Doug has also been an avid collector and dealer of old west gear.



Will Arthur "Artie" Morris

Will Arthur Morris is the son of Elijah, Jr. and Anna (Hunt) Morris. Artie grew up in Temple, Texas, wanting to be a country singer and it was Hank Williams who inspired his passion. Upon graduation from high school and a stint in college, Artie auditioned for the popular radio show "Stars of Tomorrow" in Dallas, Texas, aired over KRLD, and was subsequently chosen as a regular on the Big D Jamboree. He went on to appear on the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport, Louisiana, and The Saturday Night Jamboree in Houston, Texas.

One of the pioneer black country music singers in the 50's, Artie Morris went to Nashville in 1955, a decade before Charley Pride became the first black superstar of country music. Doors opened for him when record executives heard his tapes but closed just as quickly when he showed up in person. Though he encountered resistance, Artie stuck to his guns and insisted on performing the music that spoke to his soul, the music of the American heartland.

He left Texas for California and stayed there 30 years, working as a television host and producer of "Continental Country". Bands and solo artist were interviewed by Artie and the popular show was taped during a live audience. The show won the *Renaissance Award* given by Continental Cable. Artie's real dream came true when he signed a recording contract with Vic Adkin's Adkrop Records. He toured with his band, making personal appearances throughout the United States, becoming a successful country & western recording artist.

Over the years Artie has done many interviews where he has shared his early experiences trying to break into the country & western music scene. Record executives told Artie they were afraid 'blacks won't buy it because it's country and country won't buy it because you're black,' he said of one record executive in a 2001 interview. Things weren't any better at home. "Even in Temple, you go into a club, one club had two stages and two bands," he said. "One stage was where the white musicians played, and the other side was where the blacks played, and they couldn't play on the same stage together."

His landmark 2001 CD, *Goodbye Old Paint* includes the title track, a Western classic that is important in Artie's own family history. His ancestor (great-great-grandfather Charley Willis), is credited with preserving the song and inserting it into American culture. The CD also includes such classic Western tunes as *Streets of Laredo*, *Red River Valley* and *O Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie*. Artie tried to put himself in the mindset of his great-great grandfather, on a 2,000-mile trail drive up the Chisholm Trail. "I always wanted to be a cowboy, but I was afraid of cows, so I thought it was best to sing about it," he says.

Artie Morris has also assisted scholars with their chapters on his ancestor's contribution to cowboy music history for the books *Black Cowboys of Texas* (Texas A&M University Press, 2004) and *Black Cowboys in the American West: On the Range, on the Stage, Behind the Badge*. Artie and his wife Lorie (Baker) Morris reside in Lakewood, California. His adult children include Andrea Merrill, Danye Morris and Christopher Morris.





Jay Novacek

Jay Novacek was born in Martin, South Dakota, as Jay McKinley Novacek. Novacek accepted a scholarship from the University of Wyoming in Laramie and started his college football career as a split end. The next year, he was moved to tight end. He had few opportunities to prove his true worth in head coach Al Kincaid's run-oriented wishbone offense, where the team usually threw around 18 passes per game. In 1984, Novacek posted 33 receptions for 745 yards, 4 touchdowns and set an NCAA single-season record for average per reception (22.6 yards) by a tight end. He was selected to the honorable-mention All-American football team and to the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) first team. He finished his college career with 83 career receptions for 1,536 yards and 10 touchdowns. While in college Novacek also competed in track and field; won the WAC decathlon championship and placed fourth in the NCAA championships, earning All-American honors in track. He set the school record for decathlon points (7,615) and in the pole vault jump (16 ft 4 in (4.98 m)). Jay competed in the 1984 Olympic trials as a decathlete. In 1993, he was inducted into the inaugural class of the University of Wyoming Athletics Hall of Fame and in 2008, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

1990, the Dallas Cowboys signed Novacek as a Plan B free agent, arguably the best signing in the history of this program. He was named the starter at tight end. He would go on to have a break-out season, becoming one of the league's top receiving tight ends, while registering 59 receptions for 657 yards and 4 touchdowns. Novacek was a key contributor for the offense in the early nineties, especially on third downs where he could find the soft spot in the defense. Beginning in 1991, he played in five straight Pro Bowls, while helping the Cowboys make the playoffs each year and winning the Super Bowl three times in four seasons. In 1992, he was named an All-Pro after leading all tight ends with 68 receptions for 630 receiving yards and 6 touchdowns. On July 15, 1997, he officially retired from the NFL after his chronic lower-back problems cut short his career. In his 11 seasons, Novacek recorded 422 receptions for 4,630 yards (ninth in team history) and 30 touchdowns, with most of his production coming from 1990 to 1995. He also came up big in the post-season, ranking third in franchise playoff history in receptions (62), receiving yards (645) and touchdown receptions (6).

Jay is an avid outdoorsman and rancher and in 2014, he was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame. He enjoys making public appearances, working with youth groups and telling his story of how hard work and dedication paid off for someone who wasn't the strongest or fastest at his position. "Anytime you get to talk to players who had the interests you had when you were their age, if one of them takes something from what I say away, and it improves them, then I'm successful," Novacek said. "That's what's neat about it, and I enjoy doing it." Novacek and his wife, Amy Novacek, are committed to giving back and helping others, having invited groups of inner-city boys to have Christmas in a rural setting at their ranch over the past few years. The Novacek's son is Blake Novacek.



Eugene "Gene" Smith

Eugene Smith was born August 28, 1932, three miles east of Stringtown, Oklahoma, near Chickasaw Creek. Parents, Evans and Eretta (Washington) Smith, had three sons, Gene being the middle one. Nine years later they started their second go-round and had four girls and four more boys. Like many black families in Oklahoma, the Smith's also have Choctaw and Cherokee Indian heritage. The kids walked to school in Stringtown, but they were not allowed to ride the school bus that passed their house. "Genie Boy" as he was nicknamed by his father, worked the family farm and mastered all the jobs needed to support the family. He hauled hay, raised and butchered cows and hogs, farmed and raised a garden to feed the self-sufficient family.

Two local cowboys, Clark McEntire (3-time World Champion/1979, Pro-Rodeo Hall of Famer) and Les Thompson took Genie Boy under their wings and taught him how to transfer the roping and riding skills of ranch work into a rodeo pay day. At the time there were very few black rodeo contestants, but Genie Boy was a great calf roper and bulldogger. He claims he didn't always win the event, but he always left with a check. He traveled the country in a pickup with a camper and he once won the bull dogging event at Madison Square Garden. He qualified for the National Finals the last year it was held in Oklahoma City. When he wasn't on the road, Smith established a highly respected and lucrative horse training sideline. He worked with ranch stock and race horses.

Gene Smith was the first man to put legendary 1982 World Champion Bull Rider Charles (Charlie) Sampson on the back of a bull. When Charlie was a young teenager Gene entered him in the bull riding event at a rodeo without telling him. Charles Sampson would become the first black cowboy to win a world title in the PRCA. While at a rodeo in California, Gene was approached by two men who were scouting for the movie industry. They were looking for black cowboys to be in black westerns, a novel idea and hard to find. It was the late 1960's and the birth of a new genre of movies in Hollywood. Gene joined the Screen Actors Guild and was hired as a stuntman/actor in "The Outcasts" television series. Starring Don Murray and Otis Young, the series was most notable for being the first TV western with an African American co-star.

He was in several episodes of the immensely successful western television series, "The Virginian." It is the third longest running western series behind "Bonanza" and "Gunsmoke". In the 1971 movie, "Skin Game," starring James Garner, Louis Gossett Jr., Susan Clark and Ed Asner, Gene portrays a slave from a noble African tribe known as the *Songhais*. Gene was asked to drive the cook's chuck wagon in John Wayne's epic "The Cowboys," but he still had a few days obligation on another project and missed out on that role. He was in a 1972 Paramount Pictures movie starring Fred Williamson renamed "The Legend of Black Charley," for broadcast television. At 82, Genie Boy has returned to his roots in Stringtown, Oklahoma, and every few months he receives a small movie royalty check when something he worked on has been on TV again. He is surrounded by many loving relatives. His seven children, Sue, Patrick, Tina, Gene Jr., Jerry, Robin and Chris are scattered around the country but stay in close touch with their dad.



James Watson, Jr.

James Watson, Jr., was born in Los Angeles, California. As far back as he can recall, he has had an avid interest in Western Heritage. His personal objective seeks to further acquaint the public with the rich heritage and contributions Black Cowboys have made to society through staging rodeos featuring Cowboys of Color in different cities throughout the country.

In 1987, James took an interest in learning more about rodeos and the western culture. Since then, he has been committed to outreaching to youth by encouraging excellence in education through his personal interest in the history of the west and rodeos. Watson has revealed when asked, "I'm not concerned with the profit margin personally, as I am interested in donating to various institutions with similar objectives as my own. Giving to my community by raising the self-esteem of its members and helping them realize they can be anything they aspire to be and with education, discipline and hard work all goals are attainable. If I can help just one or two children get an education and move up in the corporate world or even start their own business, I feel I would have contributed to society and to the upbringing of our youth to adulthood."

Cal-Tex Rodeo Productions was a minority owned company founded in 1988 and incorporated in 1990. The Cal-Tex Invitational Rodeo Series became the largest producer of minority rodeos between 1988 and 1992. In addition to the rodeos, Cal-Tex Rodeo Productions got involved with major charities, which were included in the participation in the host cities. A donation was given to several local organizations in each city. Cal-Tex Rodeo Productions strongly supports the education of young people with emphasis on the Black family. Therefore, the Young Black Scholars, National Council of Negro Women's Black Family Reunion Celebration, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Summit III project, and Women of Substance's Black Adoption Program were selected as the beneficiaries of their rodeo series.

Because of exposing the historical significance of the minority cowboy through the rodeo series, the company has received numerous awards and resolutions throughout the United States. Since 1988, The Cal-Tex Invitational Rodeo Series featuring Cowboys of Color and The Pro Championship Challenge Rodeo Series, which was created by James Watson, Jr., has been presented in the following cities:

Alexandria, LA; Louisville, KY; Athens, TX; Memphis, TN; Atlanta, GA; Mobile, AL; Austin, TX; Oakland, CA; Baton Rouge, LA; Okmulgee, OK; Chicago, IL; Philadelphia, PA; Dallas, TX; San Antonio, TX; El Paso, TX; San Diego, CA; Fort Worth, TX; St. Louis, MO; Houston, TX; Sulphur Springs, TX; Industry Hills, CA; Texarkana, TX; Los Angeles, CA; Washington, D.C.; and Waco, TX.

Several major charities and organizations have benefited from the Cal-Tex Invitational Rodeo Series. A partial list of some of our past recipients includes The Boys Scouts of America; Drew Child Development Corporation; Young Black Scholars; Sickle Cell Disease Research Foundation; City of Hope; United Negro College Fund (UNCF); The Boys and Girls Club; National Council of Negro Women; Starlight Foundation; Variety – The Children's Charity; Retinitis Pigmentosa Eyesight Disease Foundation; The Homeless Children Foundation; and The Ellington Foundation.

In 1993, James embarked upon a new level of rodeos. He started producing pro rodeos and that is when the company Pro Championship Rodeo Productions was created, which produces The Pro Championship Challenge Rodeo Series. Between 1988-2008, The Cal-Tex Invitational Rodeo Series and The Pro Championship Challenge Rodeo Series produced over 400 rodeos nationwide. James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Watson, Sr., and father to James III, Alex and Devin.



Libby Willis

Libby Willis is a historic preservation consultant, author and Fort Worth community leader. She was the first Texas area administrator for the National Trust for Historic Preservation regional office serving Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. A native of Abilene, she is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Baylor University, having earned both the Bachelor of Arts in English and French and the Master of International Journalism degrees.

She was a past president of the Fort Worth League of Neighborhood Associations (FWLNA) and was elected to that position 3 times between 2010 and 2012. She also serves on the site-based management team of Amon Carter Riverside High School.

Libby Willis has lived in the historic Oakhurst Neighborhood of Fort Worth since 1988; she was elected president of the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association six times. While she was president, the group earned local and national neighborhood awards. Libby led Oakhurst's collection of 710 houses to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. The listing of the Oakhurst Historic District was the largest group of buildings listed on the National Register in Tarrant County since 1990 when the Fairmount Neighborhood was listed.

For almost 15 years, Libby has taught Riverside residents about the historic architecture of the area and has helped to nominate and designate key local landmarks. She wrote the City of Fort Worth landmark nomination for the 1936 Amon-Carter Riverside High School. Since 2016, she has written almost 20 nominations for Oakhurst houses as City of Fort Worth historic landmarks. All have been listed.

Libby has served as editor of the Oakhurst Neighborhood's award winning monthly newsletter, *The Oak Leaflet*, for 12 and 1/2 years and frequently writes articles on Oakhurst history and historic architecture for it. For her documentation of Oakhurst history and writing of Oakhurst individual landmark nominations, the Tarrant County Historical Commission presented her the William E. Jary, Jr. Memorial Award for outstanding documentation of Tarrant County History in October 2016.

In addition to her earlier work for the National Trust, Libby Willis was also the first executive director of Preservation Texas, a statewide nonprofit organization, where she helped initiate the drive for the state's successful multi-million-dollar grant program for renovation of Texas' 225 historic county courthouses. That program has proven a model for other states with large collections of historic county courthouses. She was also the first professional executive director of Historic Fort Worth.

Libby has been married for 32 years to Doyle Willis, Jr., an attorney, former judge of Tarrant County Court at Law No. 2, and retired Texas Assistant Attorney General; they have two grown sons, Henry and Easton. In 2013 she was the recipient of the Ben Ann Tomayko Award as Fort Worth's outstanding neighborhood volunteer.

In March of 2014, Arcadia Publishing published Libby's book on the history of Oakhurst entitled "Fort Worth's Oakhurst Neighborhood." A professional registered parliamentarian (PRP), she was the 2017 president of the Fort Worth Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians. She serves clients and teaches meeting procedure in venues across North Texas. In May 2018, the Texas State Association of Parliamentarians presented her an honorable mention award for 2017 Parliamentarian of the Year.



Dale Evans

POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEE

Dale was born Frances Octavia Smith, October 31, 1912 in Uvalde, Texas. At age fourteen, Dale eloped with her high school sweetheart. A year later, she found herself in Memphis, Tennessee, a single parent, pursuing a career in a field she had always loved - music! A brief stint at radio station WHAS as staff singer proved a landmark event as it was here she became Dale Evans. As Dale Evans, she ultimately reached Chicago, home of great music and talented bands. She became a vocalist and featured soloist in such notable hotels as the Blackstone

(Balinese Room), the Sherman (Panther Room, along with jazz legend, Fats Waller), the Drake (Camellia Room) and the Chez Paree Supper Club. Anson Weeks hired her as vocalist for his orchestra just as they began a major tour to the West Coast.

Talent scouts from Paramount Studios discovered her and arranged a screen test in Hollywood for the movie, *Holiday Inn*, starring Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby. Dale's dancing wasn't quite up to Astaire's, so she didn't get the part. Her agent, however, showed her screen test to 20th Century Fox studios where she received a one-year contract. This resulted in only small parts in two pictures, *Orchestra Wives* and *Girl Trouble*. Dale then signed with the top ranked *Chase and Sanborn Show* which was broadcast nationwide. Featured as regulars with Dale were Don Ameche, Jimmy Durante, Edgar Bergen (Candice Bergen's father) and Charlie McCarthy.

Herbert Yates, head of Republic Studios was inspired by the successful stage play, *Oklahoma*, and decided to expand the female lead in westerns and adopt this format for one of his biggest stars, Roy Rogers. Dale, he reasoned, had a large following and reputation as a singer and, being from Texas, could surely ride 'n rope. His reasoning proved correct on the former but somewhat suspect on the latter. Nevertheless, history was made, and destiny seemingly fulfilled in 1944 with release of *The Cowboy and The Senorita* - the first of 28 films they would make together. This on-screen team became an off-screen team on New Year's Eve, 1947. They were married on the Flying L Ranch in Davis, Oklahoma, where they had just completed filming *Home in Oklahoma*. The owner of the ranch, when he learned they were to be married, offered the ranch as a wedding site.

In 1950, Roy and Dale developed their own production company and began producing their half-hour television series, *The Roy Rogers Show*, that ran until 1957. These episodes have been translated into every major language and, at any given time, are likely being shown somewhere in the world. The same is true of their movies. They have set appearance records in virtually every major arena in the world, including Madison Square Garden in New York City, the Houston Fat Stock Show, Los Angeles Coliseum, Chicago Stadium, Harringay Arena in London, Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition, and many state fairs and rodeos.

Among the many honors of which Dale was most proud are: California Mother of the Year (1967); The Texas Press Association's Texan of the Year (1970); Cowgirl Hall of Fame (1995); Cardinal Terrence Cook Humanities Award (1995); and her three stars on The Hollywood Walk of Fame. Dale continued as a best-selling author and always seemed to have at least one book in development. There was also her weekly television show *A Date With Dale* for Trinity Broadcast Network. It, too, was translated into all the major languages and shown worldwide. Her "quality time" was spent as matriarch to a small nation of sixteen grandchildren, and, 30+ great-grandchildren. Dale Evans died February 7, 2001, in Apple Valley, California.



Roy Rogers

POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEE

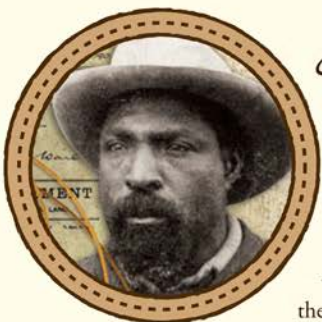
Roy Rogers was born Leonard Franklin Slye, the son of Mattie (née Womack) and Andrew "Andy" Slye in Cincinnati, Ohio, on November 5, 1911. The family lived in a tenement on 2nd Street, where Riverfront Stadium would later be constructed. He later grew up on a farm in Duck Run, located near Lucasville, Ohio. Living on the farm with no radio, the family made their own entertainment. On Saturday nights, they often invited neighbors over for square dances, during which Len would sing, play mandolin, and call the square dances. The family eventually moved to California where he found employment driving gravel trucks and picking peaches for Del Monte.

It was his sister Mary's suggestion to audition for the *Midnight Frolic* radio program that launched his singing career which led him to help form the Sons of the Pioneers. By the summer of 1934, the popularity and fame of the Sons of the Pioneers extended beyond the Los Angeles area and quickly spread across the country. The Sons of the Pioneers signed a recording contract with Decca label and made their first commercial recording on August 8, 1934. One of the first songs recorded during that first session was "Tumbling Tumbleweeds", written by Bob Nolan. Over the next two years, the Sons of the Pioneers would record 32 songs for Decca, including the classic "Cool Water".

From his first film appearance in 1935, he worked steadily in Western films. He was given the stage name Roy Rogers by Republic Pictures, shortening his first name and combining it with the surname of Will Rogers. Roy Rogers became a matinee idol, a competitor with Gene Autry as the nation's favorite singing cowboy. Rogers was an idol for many children through his films and television shows. In 1932 a palomino colt foaled in California was named "Golden Cloud"; when Len acquired him, he renamed him Trigger.

There were Roy Rogers action figures, cowboy adventure novels, playsets, and a comic strip, (*Roy Rogers Comics*) written by Gaylord Du Bois. Rogers was second only to Walt Disney in the number of items featuring his name. Rogers owned a Hollywood production company, which produced his own series. Rogers and Evans's famous theme song, "Happy Trails", written by his wife Dale Evans; was used as a duet to sign off their television show. In 1968, Rogers licensed his name to the Marriott corporation, which converted its Hot Shoppes restaurants into Roy Rogers Restaurants. Rogers was a Freemason and a member of Hollywood (California) Lodge No. 355, the Scottish Rite Valley of Los Angeles, and Al Malaikah Shrine Temple. He was also a pilot and the owner of a Cessna Bobcat.

On February 8, 1960, Roy Rogers was honored with three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame: for Motion Pictures, Television and Radio. In 1976, Rogers and Evans were inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and in 1995, he was inducted again as a founding member of the Sons of the Pioneers. Rogers was also twice elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame, first as a member of the Sons of the Pioneers in 1980, and again as a soloist in 1988. To this day, he remains the only person elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame twice. Rogers died of congestive heart failure on July 6, 1998. He was buried at Sunset Hills Memorial Park in Apple Valley, California, as was his wife, Dale Evans, three years later.



John Ware

POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEE

John Ware (1845 – 12 September 1905) was an African-American cowboy best remembered for his ability to ride and train horses and for bringing the first cattle to Southern Alberta in 1882, helping to create that province's important ranching industry. Ware was born into slavery on a plantation near Georgetown, South Carolina. After the American Civil War he left the Carolinas for Texas where he learned the skills of a rancher and became a cowboy. Ware's great stature and dedication to hard work made him a natural and allowed him to work his way up to Canada driving cattle from Texas to Montana and then into the great plains that would eventually become Alberta. Upon his arrival in Calgary he found work at the Bar U and Quorn ranches before starting his own ranch near the Red Deer river. By 1900, he and his wife, Mildred (Lewis) had five children. He moved from the Calgary area to a spot northeast of the village of Duchess, Alberta. In 1902 his first home was destroyed by the spring flood. He rebuilt on higher ground overlooking a stream, now called Ware Creek. Despite being a master horseman John was killed in the fall when his horse tripped in a badger hole crushing its rider and breaking his neck. Ware's funeral was reported to be one of the largest held in the early days of Calgary. Several geographical features near the Wares' ranch are named in their honor: John Ware Ridge; Mount Ware; Ware Creek; "John Ware Junior High School" in southwest Calgary, the John Ware building at Calgary's SAIT Polytechnic, and the John Ware 4-H Beef Club in Duchess, Alberta.



Charley Willis

POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEE

African American cowboy Charley Willis was recognized as a singing cowboy who authored the popular trail song, "Goodbye Old Paint." Willis was a skilled cowhand who not only sang songs from the trail but who contributed to preserving authentic cowboy music from the era. Charley Willis was born in 1847 in Milam County, outside of Austin, Texas. Freed after the Civil War he headed to West Texas at age eighteen and found work breaking wild horses at the Morris Ranch in Bartlett, Texas. In 1871, at age twenty-four, he rode the Chisholm Trail one thousand miles north into Wyoming Territory as a drover. Charley was musically knowledgeable and talented. He became known for the songs he brought back from the trail. In 1885 Willis taught his favorite song, "Good-bye Old Paint," to Morris's seven-year-old son, Jess. As an adult Jess Morris became known as a talented fiddler, and though credited with authoring "Good-bye Old Paint," he was quick to clarify that had he learned the song from Charley Willis as a child. In 1947 John Lomax, a pioneering musicologist and folklorist, recorded Morris singing and playing Willis' song, "Good-bye Old Paint," and later sent it to the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress where it is preserved. Charley Willis married Laura Davis around 1870. They had four sons and three daughters. Willis died in 1930 at the age of eighty and is buried in the Davilla Cemetery, which is adjacent to the property Willis owned near Bartlett. Family tradition claims that Charley did indeed have a horse named Old Paint, who was a trusted companion and confidant on the trail. Charley's great-great grandson Franklin Willis continues Charley's legacy by keeping his four hundred descendants connected.

2003

Bill Pickett
Posthumous Induction
Bose Ikard
Posthumous Induction
Charles Sampson
Herb Jeffries*
Jose "Pepe" Diaz*
Myrtis Dightman
Quanah Parker
Posthumous Induction
Steven R. Heape

2004

Jim Lane
Mantan Moreland
Posthumous Induction
Mary Fields
Posthumous Induction
Walter Charles Morse*

2005

Ed "Pop" Landers
Posthumous Induction
Gerardo "Jerry" Diaz
Luke "Leon" Coffee
Melvin "Mel" Carnell Blount
Vicki Herrera Adams

2006

Bass Reeves
Posthumous Induction
Charley Pride
Colonel Juan Seguin
Posthumous Induction
George Fletcher
Posthumous Induction
Jackson Sundown
Posthumous Induction
Ken Pollard

2006 (continued)

Knox Simmons
Posthumous Induction
Patricia E. Kelly
Rosieleetta "Lee" Reed

2007

Cathay Williams
Posthumous Induction
Frank White
Nathaniel "Rex" Purefoy
Red Steagall
Rufus Green Sr.
Posthumous Induction
Tom Three Persons
Posthumous Induction
Verna Lee Booker Hightower
Posthumous Induction

2008

Art T. Burton
Holt Collier
Posthumous Induction
Matthew "Bones" Hooks
Posthumous Induction
Paul Cleveland
Taylor H. Haynes, M.D.
Tommie Haw
Posthumous Induction
Willie Thomas

2009

Albino Tais
Posthumous Induction
Alex Dees*
Ben F. Tahmahkera
Calvin Norris Greely, Jr.
Posthumous Induction
Dean Smith

Hall of Fame Alumni

2009 (continued)

Henry Harris
Posthumous Induction
Isaac Burns Murphy
Posthumous Induction
Mayisha Akbar

2010

Abe Morris
Charles Hank Banks*
Harold Cash
Lowell "Stretch" Smith
Captain Paul J. Matthews
Robert Strauss

2011

Freddie "Skeet" Gordon
Glynn Turman
Joe Beaver
Peter Perkins Pitchlynn
Posthumous Induction
Ruth Scantlin Roach
Posthumous Induction
Shirlie Sanders
Posthumous Induction
Walter Clarence "Buck" Taylor
William "Will" Penn Adair Rogers
Posthumous Induction

2012

Burl Washington
Colonel Allen Allensworth
Posthumous Induction
Floyd "Buck" Wyatt
Posthumous Induction
Fred Whitfield
Lawrence Homer Coffee
Mollie Taylor Stevenson, Jr.
Pam Grier

2012 (continued)

Woody Strode
Posthumous Induction

2013

Walt Willey
James Butler Hickok
Posthumous Induction

2014

Barry Corbin
Vincent Jacobs
Anne Lockhart
Nathan Jean Whitaker Sanders

2015

Judge Paul Brady
Jamie Foxx
Walt Garrison
Holt Hickman
Posthumous Induction
Harvey Means
Posthumous Induction
Steve Murrin
Danell Tipton
Gordon Tonips
Posthumous Induction
Randy White

2016

H.B. "Hub" Baker
James P. Beckwourth
Posthumous Induction
Timmy "Mule" Brooks
Floyd Frank
Isador "Lolo" Munoz
Posthumous Induction
Cleveland F. Walters, Sr.

*DECEASED AFTER HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Hall of Fame Alumni

2017

Fort Worth Herd
Billy and Pam Minick
Scott Murray
Bob Tallman
William J. Grandstaff
Posthumous Induction
Wilbert D. "Wil" Robinson
Posthumous Induction

*DECEASED AFTER HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

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