

NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM
AND HALL OF FAME
2026 NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

*****NOMINATION DEADLINE: December 31, 2025*****

Email: gaustin@cowboysofcolor.org

Business Office – 2201 Dottie Lynn Parkway, Suite 115, Fort Worth, Texas, 76120
Museum: 817-534-8801 Office: 817-922-9999 Fax: 817 923-9304

MISSION STATEMENT

The Hall of Fame is dedicated to honoring and documenting the lives of men and women who have made exemplary contributions to Western Heritage, past and present. The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

- Honorees are inducted into the Hall of Fame once a year. **The 2026 HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026, IN FORT WORTH, TX. This will be the 22nd Induction Program. The inaugural Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was in 2003. There are currently 151 inductees as of October 16, 2025, the last induction.**
- The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Fame Induction Selection Committee will review the nomination applications after the closing date to select the new Inductees, who will be notified. Nominations are accepted throughout the year. If you would like to nominate someone, please complete the separate **NOMINATION FORM**, and submit the required biography and photograph keeping the Mission Statement in mind, being able to document the nominee's historically significant accomplishments and contributions to western history and culture. **Incomplete applications will not be accepted. All requested information in the requested format must be submitted.**

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Individuals or organizations may request nomination forms be sent to them by emailing gaustin@cowboysofcolor.org; calling the museum business office at 817-922-9999; or the museum directly at 817-534-8801. You may also download the application from the website at www.nmwhm.org. **All applications must be completed by December 31, 2025; and submitted via email or mailed for consideration in the 2026 Hall of Fame Induction process.**

All applications received are kept on file and reviewed yearly for induction consideration. (It is unnecessary to formally re-nominate an individual if they are not selected during the present year, however, you may submit additional information that you feel will be important in the review process). If you are in doubt regarding certain information about the nominee please enter "best known, unknown, or not applicable."

- A biography prepared in the format shown in the attached sample must be submitted along with a clear head and shoulder photo (JPEG format) that can be emailed and must be submitted for nomination information to be accepted. Supporting material such as news clippings, articles, photographs, letters of support, and other relevant reference material are welcomed and will remain as permanent donations to the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, contact Gloria Austin, Executive Director of the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame at (817) 534-8801 or email gaustin@cowboysofcolor.org.

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME."

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Museum: 817-534-8801 Office: 817-922-9999 Fax: 817 923-9304

(*If you do not use this form, you must follow the format as listed.)

If you would like to nominate an individual, living or deceased, please complete this form, keeping our Mission Statement in mind. The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame honors those men and women who have made a significant contribution to Western Heritage, past and present. **Please note the required biography format & photo must be attached to be considered. (See Nomination Procedures and Biography Sample. Photo – JPEG).** Please type or print clearly on the application and other information you submit.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

NAME OF PERSON BEING NOMINATED: _____

Date Nominated: _____

Current Address: _____

Current City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mobile: _____ Home: _____ Work: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Birthplace: _____

City

State

Country

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death (If Applicable): _____

Parent's Names: _____

Mother

Father

Husband's Name or Wife's Name (include Maiden name for wife): _____

Children's Names: _____

NOMINATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of person(s) making nomination: _____

Relationship to Nominee: _____ **Date Submitted:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mobile: _____ Home: _____ Work: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

NAME OF PERSON BEING NOMINATED: _____
(PLEASE PRINT NOMINEES' NAME)

Why do you believe this person should be in the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame?

(You may add additional pages. Please type the nominees name on each additional added page.)

Additional References:

Name: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

The following information must be emailed/included with this form:

- A letter of nomination.
- **Biography of rodeo/other accomplishments/activities during lifetime/career emailed in WORD format not to exceed 590 words.**
Provide any historical documentation/background information available.
- Describe role of nominee in events. (See attached sample.)
- Color or Black and White Head and Shoulder Photo (4x6 or larger), emailed in JPEG image format.
- Any available photographs.
- Information about Nominee:
 - Published books, articles, artwork, music and/or photography.
 - Awards and Honors.
 - Public Offices held.
- Other pertinent information and comments about the nominee such as:
 - Notable quotations.
 - Personal anecdotes.
 - Nominee's hobbies/interests.

Please return this form and supporting documents to
gaustin@cowboysofcolor.org and note "Hall of Fame Nomination" in the subject line.

Mailing Address:

**Attn: Gloria Austin - National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame
Business Office, 2201 Dottie Lynn Parkway, #115, Fort Worth, Texas 76120**

*The Museum is not responsible for items lost in mail, email or delivered to an address
other than the listed address or not postmarked by the deadline date.*

ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED or POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 31, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE:

BY SUBMITTING A NOMINATION OR BY ACCEPTING A NOMINATION MADE BY ANOTHER PERSON(S), THE NOMINEE IS HEREBY NOTIFIED, AGREES TO, AND GIVE PERMISSION TO A BACKGROUND CHECK WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE. IF YOU ARE MAKING A NOMINATION OF ANOTHER PERSON, ENSURE THEY ARE AWARE OF THIS NOTICE.

**SAMPLE OF BIOGRAPHY FORMAT THAT MUST ACCOMPANY
NOMINATION FORM EMAILED IN WORD FORMAT. 535 Words Max:**

**Lowell “Stretch” Smith
2010 Hall of Fame Inductee**

Lowell “Stretch” Smith was born in Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas. He attended school in Rio Vista and Cleburne and received a BBA degree at SMU. He served in the military as an officer. Smith Ranch was founded in 1887 by Stretch’s great-grandfather. Stretch is the fourth Smith to operate the ranch and live in the home. Living on the land instilled a deep desire in Stretch to preserve and honor his western and pioneer heritage. There is one field that is in native (untouched) grasses on the ranch. In addition to operating as a cattle operation, Smith Ranch originally produced cotton, corn, and milo. Although the cattle were Horned Herefords for many years, Smith Ranch now raises Black Angus cattle. Over the past century, Smith Ranch has supplied food, fiber, and fuel to America. Many historical events and legends are connected to the area around Smith’s property. Stories of Native Americans, the Chisholm Trail, and explorer Philip Nolan, etc. are documented in many articles. Smith remembers many of these stories which were told by his family through the years.

In addition to ranching, Smith’s professional focus was banking. He started his career working at the First State Bank in Rio Vista during the summers. After a brief time as an assistant bank examiner, he returned full-time to the bank, and became president while in his late 20’s. In 1961 the bank expanded to a location—literally in a cow pasture. Stretch decided that the “Cow Pasture” theme was a fit. Lex Graham, a well-known cowboy cartoonist, designed the bank’s check with a cowboy roping a steer—and from then on it was a western theme for the bank. The Smiths cleared off some mesquites behind the bank to make an airstrip for “fly-in” customers. Smith is most proud of the bank’s inclusiveness in dealing with customers of all backgrounds. The bank was the center of many exhibits and displays of western/cowboy culture. George Hallmark, a well-known artist, was commissioned to paint about twenty paintings depicting the history of the area. These paintings are now on exhibit in public areas in the county for the public to enjoy. Each painting is a true story about something that happened in the area

Smith maintains an office in Cleburne and is still regularly active in the community. He continues to be involved in groups such as Cleburne Economic Development Foundation, Rotary Club, and various philanthropic projects. Smith has served on many boards through the years, including president of the Texas Bankers Association, Board of American Bankers Association, Board of Trustees of Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU, Cleburne School Board, Johnson County Memorial Hospital, Advisory Board of Regents of Hill Community College and Board of Trustees of Texas Wesleyan University.

In recent years, “Lowell Smith, Jr. Middle School” was named in his honor, and the Smith family was honored with the naming of Lowell Smith, Sr. History Center in Cleburne. He was a first-time recipient of the “Lifetime Achievement Award” given by the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce. Texas Wesleyan presented him with an Honorary Doctor of Business Degree in 2008. The “Lowell Smith, Jr. Leadership Scholarship” is given yearly by Hill College.

Smith married Shirley Segars from Oklahoma City, whom he met at SMU. They have shared a lifetime of commitment to family, church, and civic involvement. They have been married over 50 years and have two daughters and two grandchildren. Their daughter, Sue Ann, raises quarter horses on a place near Weatherford, and Pamela lives in Dallas.

SAMPLE OF TYPE OF PHOTOGRAPH
THAT MUST ACCOMPANY NOMINATION FORM EMAILED IN JPG FORMAT:

