

MEDIA RELEASE

SUBJECT: Nominations to Nebraska Hall of Fame sought in 2015-16

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The Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, established by the Unicameral in 1961, seeks nominations to the Nebraska Hall of Fame, located in the Nebraska State Capitol. The Nebraska Hall of Fame brings public attention and official recognition to those people who, in their lives, have achieved prominence and who were outstanding Nebraskans. "Nebraskans" means those who were born in Nebraska, who gained prominence while living in Nebraska or whose time living in Nebraska influenced them and contributed to their greatness.

To be elected to the Nebraska Hall of Fame, a person must meet the definition of a Nebraskan as forth above and have been deceased for a minimum of thirty-five (35) years.

Inductions to the Nebraska Hall of Fame are limited to one person every five (5) years.

An inductee's contributions will usually have been made in public affairs, or the arts, the sciences, or the professions. Secondary consideration is given to entertainment, athletics or fields of endeavor where interest, publicity and general recognition may for a time be intense, but where a contribution to society is secondary.

Activities that have added to the welfare of society and to the reputation of Nebraska shall be weighed more heavily than activities primarily benefiting the individual him/herself.

Nominations will be accepted through December 31, 2016. The Commission will review nominations and may select finalists that will then be considered at public hearings held in each congressional district. After the hearings, the Commission may select one finalist for induction in 2019.

Michael Smith, Director/CEO of the Nebraska State Historical Society, serves as secretary of the commission.

A nomination form and other information is at http://www.nebraskahistory.org/admin/hall_of_fame/NEHallofFameNominationForm.pdf or search "Hall of Fame" at www.nebraskahistory.org

To request a nomination form, contact the Nebraska State Historical Society at P.O. Box 82443, Lincoln, NE 68501, or email deb.mcwilliams@nebraska.gov.

The busts of 25 individuals previously inducted are on display on the rotunda level of the State Capitol. They include Ponca Chief Standing Bear, writers Mari Sandoz and Willa Cather, Nebraska's Poet Laureate John Neihardt, U.S. Senator George W. Norris, and Charles E. Bessey. To learn more about these individuals visit http://www.nebraskahistory.org/admin/hall_of_fame/bluebook.pdf