

**NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM
AND HALL OF FAME
2012 NOMINATION AND INDUCTION INFORMATION**

-- SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR 2012 INDUCTIONS IS MAY 1, 2012 --

Business Office -2401 Scott Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas, 76103-2228

Office: 817-922-9999

Fax: 817 923-9304

Email: info@cowboysofcolor.org

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 museum and hall of fame is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

- Honorees are inducted into Hall of Fame once a year at the annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. **The 2012 induction ceremony will take place in Ft. Worth, Texas, in November. (Exact date and location TBD).**
- The museum's Hall of Fame Committee will review the nomination applications after the closing date to select the new Inductees, who will then be notified. Nominations are accepted throughout the year.
- If you would like to nominate someone, please complete the separate **NOMINATION FORM** and submit with 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.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE:

Individuals or organizations may request nomination forms be sent to them by emailing info@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.cowboysofcolor.org.

- **All applications must be completed by May 1, 2012, and submitted via Email or mailed for consideration in the 2012 Hall of Fame Induction process.**
- **All applications are kept on file and reviewed each year for induction consideration. (It is not necessary to formally re-nominate an individual if they are not selected during a 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 state "best known, unknown or not applicable."
- A biography prepared in the format as shown in the attached sample must be submitted along with a clear head and shoulder photo (jpeg format) that can be emailed 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, please feel free to contact Gloria Austin, Executive Director of the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame at (817) 922-9999 or email gaustin@cowboysofcolor.org.

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

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: _____ Telephone: _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

The following information must be included in this form:

- A letter of nomination.
- Biography of rodeo/other accomplishments/activities during lifetime/career. 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 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 nominee such as:
 - Notable quotations.
 - Personal anecdotes.
 - Nominee's hobbies/interest.

Please return this form and supporting documents to:
Attn: Gloria Austin - National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame
Business Office, 2401 Scott Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76103-2228
Or Email: info@cowboysofcolor.org and note "Hall of Fame Nomination" in subject line.

Not responsible for items lost in mail or delivered to address other than listed address.

**ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1, 2012, TO
BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2012 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION.**

SAMPLE OF BIOGRAPHY FORMAT THAT MUST ACCOMPANY NOMINATION FORM:

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 actually 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 Indians, 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. The bank received a good bit of notoriety, both locally and nationally, for its airstrip and its unique western theme. However, the real story of the Cow Pasture Bank is that it cared about its employees, its customers, and the community. 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. The "Cow Pasture" bank continued to grow with branches in Cleburne, Godley, and Burleson. When it was sold to Wells Fargo in 1999, it was the largest bank in the area. Through the years, Stretch has tried to document and further preserve his knowledge of the rich heritage of the area. Many people still visit with him on a regular basis to savor the stories and information.

Smith maintains an office in Cleburne and is still very 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 PHOTOGRAPH
THAT MUST ACCOMPANY NOMINATION FORM:**

