



OKLAHOMA HALL of FAME
GAYLORD-PICKENS MUSEUM

BRUCE T. BENBROOK | Woodward

A life-long resident of Woodward, Bruce T. Benbrook is a graduate of Oklahoma State University (OSU) where he earned his B. S. degree in finance, served as Student Body President, and was named the Outstanding Male Graduate. He has served as chairman and CEO of Stock Exchange Bank in Woodward since 1981 and is managing partner of Benbrook Investments.

Benbrook believes in giving back to his community and state through his leadership and support of many organizations and causes. He has served as chairman of the Oklahoma Bankers Association, Leadership Oklahoma, OSU Board of Regents, OSU Alumni Association, and Oklahoma Hall of Fame. In addition, he was president of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and served two terms as a State Highway Commissioner. Benbrook currently serves on the boards of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) and the YMCA of the Rockies.

Benbrook's recognitions include being named to the OSU Hall of Fame and Oklahoma Bankers Association Hall of Fame. He has received the OSU Distinguished Alumni Award, Leadership Oklahoma's Distinguished Graduate and Distinguished Leadership awards, the Barbara Lynch Community Partner Award from the State School Board Association, and the Partners in Progress Award from the Oklahoma Association of Career Tech. Benbrook has supported Woodward in countless ways and was a member of the inaugural class of the Woodward High School Hall of Fame.

Benbrook is extremely proud and thankful for his entire family—wife Sheryl, daughter Rachel, and daughter Julia and her husband Zach.

DWIGHT W. BIRDWELL | Bell

A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Dwight W. Birdwell was born in Amarillo, Texas, in January 1948. He grew up in the predominantly Cherokee Indian community of Bell in Adair County, Oklahoma. He attended Bell Grade School for eight years and graduated from Stilwell High School. He entered the U. S. Army in May 1966, serving 10 months in Korea and 16 months in Vietnam. For his service in Vietnam he was awarded two Silver Stars, A Bronze Star for meritorious service, two Purple Hearts, and a Good Conduct Medal. In 2022, one of the Silver Stars was upgraded to the Congressional Medal of Honor.



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Birdwell returned home to Oklahoma in December 1968. He enrolled at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, graduating with academic distinction from both NSU and the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Birdwell served on the Judicial Appeals Tribunal (Supreme Court) of the Cherokee Nation from 1987 to 1999 and currently serves as a Cherokee Nation Gaming Commissioner. He is a practicing attorney and carries an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the highest level of professional excellence and ethical standards for an attorney to receive. Birdwell has been honored by the Oklahoma Bar Association and Board of Trial Advocates. He has been inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame and the Native American Hall of Fame.

Birdwell and his wife Virginia of 57 years have two children and two grandchildren.

JOSEPH R. CASTIGLIONE | Norman

Joe Castiglione has been the architect of one of the most successful and admired athletics programs in college sports history. Since arriving at the University of Oklahoma (OU) in 1998, he has led the Sooners through an era defined by championships, innovation, and national leadership. Under his direction, OU teams have captured 26 national championships and 117 conference titles, achievements that reflect both competitive excellence and a deep commitment to student-athlete development.

Castiglione's impact is rooted in bold, forward-thinking leadership. His landmark hire of Bob Stoops in 1998 reignited Oklahoma football and produced the 2000 national championship, setting the tone for a culture built on integrity, accountability, and high performance. He has overseen transformative facility upgrades, record-setting fundraising, and a comprehensive approach to student-athlete support that has become a model across the country.

Nationally, Castiglione is recognized as one of the most influential voices in collegiate athletics. He is the only athletics director to serve on the College Football Playoff Selection Committee, as well as the NCAA Men's Basketball and NCAA Baseball committees. His steady guidance was instrumental in navigating OU's historic move to the SEC, one of the most significant conference realignments of the modern era.

After nearly three decades of leadership, Castiglione will transition to Athletics Director Emeritus following the 2025–2026 academic year. His legacy is defined by vision, competitive success, and a relentless commitment to elevating the University of Oklahoma on every stage.



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SHERRI COALE | Healdton

A native Oklahoman, Sherri Coale is a graduate of Healdton High School and Oklahoma Christian College, earning a BSE and graduating summa cum laude. She earned a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1996.

After an extraordinarily successful collegiate playing career, Coale moved from the court to the sideline as she began what would become a hall of fame career as a women's basketball coach. After seven years and two state championships as the head coach at Norman High School, Coale was hired to re-build the women's basketball program at the University of Oklahoma. During her 25-year career at OU, she led the Sooners to 19 straight NCAA tournament appearances, ten conferences titles, and three Final Fours.

Coale also led Team USA to a gold medal victory over Russia in 2015. She is a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Christian Hall of Fame, and the FCA Circle of Champions. In the spring of 2026, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. She has served as president of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and the Kay Yow Foundation and currently serves as a board trustee at Oklahoma Christian University.

Coale has written two books, *Rooted to Rise* and *The Compost File*. She continues to write and is a highly respected keynote speaker and leadership consultant.

Coale and her husband, Dane, have two children, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and two granddaughters.

ANN FELTON GILLILAND | Oklahoma City

Ann Felton Gilliland has spent more than three decades transforming the future of affordable housing in Oklahoma. As chair and CEO of Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity, she has led the organization from a small, resource-limited affiliate into one of the nation's leading Habitat organizations, building more than 1,161 new, energy-efficient, and affordable homes for limited income individuals and families.

Gilliland joined Habitat's board in 1990 and stepped into the leadership role as chair in 1992 with a bold vision to grow the organization's impact. For 12 years, she served as an unpaid volunteer before becoming full-time chair and CEO in 2002. What began in a small church office has become a transformative force in Central Oklahoma.



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With a background in philanthropy, political fundraising, and civic engagement, Gilliland has long been active in Oklahoma public life, bringing people together around shared goals. Known for her vision and unwavering determination, she is as comfortable on a construction site as in the boardroom. Her leadership has expanded Habitat's reach through new home construction, critical home repair, two ReStores, and community development.

Grounded in her faith, Gilliland remains committed to helping families build stability and hope. She has witnessed the generational impact of homeownership, watching children raised in Habitat homes grow into their own futures.

A dedicated civic leader, she has led initiatives in public affairs, education, health care, and the arts. A mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Gilliland has created a legacy of leadership, service, and impact.

ANN W. HARGIS | Oklahoma City

Raised in Dallas, Texas, Ann Hargis pursued a unique path—studying math and Latin at The University of Texas. She didn't just earn degrees, she helped redefine roles for women in tech, becoming one of IBM's first female Systems Engineers.

Hargis' commitment to the well-being and dignity of Oklahomans is the thread that ties together her service. Appointed by three governors, she has been a trusted voice on statewide boards in education, the arts, and history. Alongside her husband, Burns Hargis, she has championed civic and educational progress for decades.

Hargis has been named *The Journal Record's* Woman of the Year, received an Honorary Doctorate from Oklahoma State University (OSU) for her dedication to health and wellness, and was presented with The Life and Light Award from the Oklahoma Jewish Federation. With her husband, she was named a Distinguished Citizen by Scouting America, among countless other honors.

As the First Lady of OSU, Hargis took the role beyond tradition. She turned it into a platform for statewide impact, championing student success, holistic health, and community connection. She led the charge to create America's Healthiest Campus™ and co-founded Pete's Pet Posse, the nation's most comprehensive university pet therapy program. The initiative provides comfort, joy, and emotional support on all OSU campuses. Pete's Pet Posse remains one of the most beloved and impactful traditions in the history of OSU. Hargis continues to provide leadership and support to the OSU Ann Hargis Center for Pet Therapy, among others, with compassion and an unwavering love.



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MARY F. McCORMICK | Seminole

Of Seminole, Sac and Fox, and Creek descent, Mary F. McCormick was born in Shawnee and graduated from Pleasant Grove High School before marrying and starting a family. She enrolled at Seminole Junior College, where she was awarded the college's first Outstanding Junior College Student Scholarship to the University of Oklahoma where she earned her bachelors degree. McCormick also earned a master's degree from East Central Oklahoma State University.

From a strong lineage of chiefs and as an advocate for Native American programs, McCormick worked closely with her father in obtaining a new constitution for the Seminole Tribe before her appointment as Community Representative for Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity (OIO). Two years later she was elected Secretary-Treasurer for the Sac and Fox Nation, beginning a distinguished career that culminated with her serving as Principal Chief. With an extensive background in state and national Indian affairs, McCormick focused on the economic development of the Tribe. Under her leadership dormant tribal land was reclaimed, including 80 acres of the Tribe's original reservation, and she identified damages to the tribal reservation by oil companies. The result was a settlement of \$3.5 million, 120 acres to provide adequate drinking water, and land erosion repaired.

McCormick remains an active member of her political party, the City of Seminole, and the American Indian Cultural Society, in addition to serving on the board of directors of the Seminole Historical Society. Making her home in Seminole, she is a proud mother and grandmother.

ROSS O. SWIMMER | Tulsa

Elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1975, Ross O. Swimmer transitioned the Tribe from a single leader to a democratic system with tribal councils and courts. His strong business acumen resulted in record business growth; funding to replace the Hastings Indian Hospital; and securing financial settlements from the federal government. Under his leadership, the Tribe constructed a new tribal office, community centers, and managed water projects that brought running water to its citizens.

Appointed to multiple boards and commissions, he served at the request of Governor Henry Bellmon on the Global Leaders of the South to address government and business issues in the southern United States and Governor George Nigh on the Commission on Education. Swimmer chaired the Planning and Zoning Commission for the



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City of Tahlequah, served on the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation Board of Directors, and played an integral role in The University of Tulsa's transition from a commuter school to residential.

Appointed Assistant Secretary for the Department of the Interior - Indian Affairs by President Ronald Reagan, Swimmer provided trust services to all five hundred tribes, authored the Indian Gaming Act, and served on the board of the National Archives Foundation. Reagan later appointed him co-chair of the Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies. President George W. Bush appointed Swimmer director of the Office of Indian Trust Transition and later as the first special trustee for American Indians, with the Senate confirming his nomination.