

## Around Town: Hall of Great Westerners

By: Lillie-Beth Brinkman The Journal Record March 23, 2017 0



Lillie-Beth Brinkman

An Enid native is among those who will be inducted next month into the prestigious Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum for his contributions to the American West.

Harold T. Holden, known as "H" to many, will be inducted April 21-22 during the museum's annual Western Heritage Awards, which honors distinguished Westerners and Western performers from across the country. More than 200 men and women have been inducted into the Great Westerners Hall of Fame since it began in 1955, and Holden is only the 10th artist.

These artists include his idols Charles Marion Russell and Frederic Sackrider Remington, a news release from Holden stated.

The Western Heritage Awards "celebrate the legacy of those whose works in literature, music, film and television reflect the significant stories of the Western genre," according to a museum news release.

Holden's paintings are found nationwide and include a 5-foot, 8-inch oil painting of western Oklahoma hanging in the Oklahoma Capitol. His larger-than-life sculptures are on display at venues statewide such as the museum, state fairgrounds, Oklahoma History Center, Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater and the Jackson County Courthouse in Altus. Every honoree of the Western Heritage Awards receives his bronze sculpture The Wrangler.

Emcee at this year's event will be actor and writer Bruce Boxleitner.

Joining Holden in the Hall of Great Westerners will be the late Raymond E. Adams Jr., a rancher and cattleman. Patrick Wayne, actor and son of John Wayne, and the late actor Alan Ladd will be inducted into the Hall of Great Western Performers.

Johnny Trotter, former president of the American Quarter Horse Association, is the recipient of the Chester A. Reynolds Memorial Award, named for the museum's founder and presented to an individual who embodies the Western lifestyle.

The Western Heritage Awards cocktail reception is at 5:30 p.m. April 21. The next day includes a workshop at 10 a.m., an awards recipient panel discussion at 11 a.m., cocktails at 5 p.m. and a black-tie dinner and awards ceremony at 6 p.m. The workshop will feature Amy Shepherd, vice president of John Wayne Enterprises and executive director of John R. Hamilton Archives, and Laurie Kratochvil, photography dealer and appraiser. For reservations, visit [nationalcowboymuseum.org](http://nationalcowboymuseum.org) or call 405-478-2250. For information about Holden, go to [www.hholden.com](http://www.hholden.com).

*Lillie-Beth Brinkman is handling Joan Gilmore's Around Town column while she is on leave. Send press releases and information to [lbsbok@gmail.com](mailto:lbsbok@gmail.com), or request her mailing address.*

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