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National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Board of Directors Announces New Members

Incoming board members represent diverse backgrounds and professional interests.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK — The Cowboy proudly announces the election of four new board members whose terms began January 1, 2022. Holt Calhoun, Don Dahlgren, James “Jim” M. Morris II were elected to the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum’s Associate Board of Directors and Mike Thorne was elected to The Cowboy’s Board of Directors.

The Cowboy’s Board of Directors is comprised of 70 members from across the United States, with 50 directors and 20 associate directors. Their objective is to oversee and direct management in fulfilling the institution’s mission and purposes. The Museum’s Board of Directors manages its business and affairs, sets policy and strategy while providing oversight and decision-making guidance.

“We are honored to welcome these people to our Board of Directors in 2022,” said Museum President & CEO Natalie Shirley. “They not only bring a wealth of experience in diverse fields, but also a passion and commitment to the history and lifestyle of the American West that will surely benefit our Museum.”

Holt Calhoun is an Oklahoma City native with a family connection to The Cowboy. Calhoun grew up in Oklahoma City and attended Heritage Hall School, followed by Duke University where he graduated with a degree in economics. Since graduating, he has spent time in Houston, New York and Dallas while investing in both public and private sector energy companies. He is currently serving on another board and actively involved in multiple local and international ministries. Calhoun, his wife Meg and young daughter plan to move to Oklahoma City in the Spring.

Don Dahlgren is a native of Oklahoma City and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma where he earned a degree in civil engineering. Don is the co-owner of Quail Creek Companies, a diverse company that works primarily in oil and gas with working, royalty and overriding royalty interest in over 2,500 properties in 11 states. Don formed the company in 1981. Quail Creek Companies is also involved in real estate developments in Oklahoma City and Texas, with past projects both internationally and throughout the United States. He and his wife Alice have two children and six grandchildren.

James “Jim” Morris is a graduate of Oklahoma State University where he earned a degree in business administration. After graduation he joined John Hancock Financial Services where he was eventually appointed to multiple executive and chairman positions within the company and over the company’s holdings. Jim is the owner of River Ranch Capital and JMM Farms LLC. RRC and JMM

Farms owns and operates a diverse portfolio of assisted living communities, ranches, stables, cattle companies and various oil and gas properties. He is currently serving on multiple boards. He and his wife Lou have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Mike Thorne earned his degree in agriculture business when he graduated from Washington State University. He went on to own and manage Thorne Farm in Pendleton, Oregon, where he manages his commercial family wheat farm. He also served as an Oregon State Senator from 1972-1991, as the Executive Director of Port of Portland, and as the CEO of the Washington State Ferry System. During his time as an Oregon State Senator, he earned a reputation for strong leadership, integrity, and fiscal responsibility. He held committee chairmanships on the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Trade and Economic Development Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee. He has served on multiple boards, including as vice chairman of the finance committee of the Board of Trustees at Oregon State University and a member of the Board for the Pendleton Round-Up chairing the committee that completed the construction of the new centennial grandstand for the centennial celebration of the Round-Up in 2010.

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About the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City is America's premier institution of Western history, art and culture. Founded in 1955, the Museum collects, preserves and exhibits an internationally renowned collection of Western art and artifacts while sponsoring dynamic educational programs to stimulate interest in the enduring legacy of the American West. The Museum is located only six miles northeast of downtown Oklahoma City at 1700 Northeast 63rd Street. Annual family memberships are available beginning at just \$40. For more information, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org.