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**Lou Diamond Phillips, Red Steagall, Bob Funk and Pete Coors
among 62nd Western Heritage Awards Inductees and Award
Winners**

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum will carry on the tradition of honoring the men and women who contribute to the history and culture of the American West.

Actor Lou Diamond Phillips is among the seven inductees and award winners to be honored at the 62nd Western Heritage Awards by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum on April 14-15, 2023.

“This event speaks to the heart of what the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is all about – honoring the past, celebrating the present and embracing the future of the American West,” said Pat Fitzgerald, President and CEO of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. “We have a stellar slate of inductees and awards winners this year, and it is such a privilege to honor these individuals who share a commitment to the West and its unique stories.”

The Western Heritage Awards honors individuals who have made significant contributions to Western heritage through creative works in literature, music, television and film, and serves as the induction ceremony for the National Cowboy Museum’s Hall of Great Westerners and Hall of Great Western Performers. Also presented annually is the Chester A. Reynolds Award, named in honor of the founder of the Museum and presented to a living honoree or group that has notably perpetuated the legacy of the American West. Each inductee and honoree receive a *Wrangler*, an impressive bronze sculpture of a cowboy on horseback created by Oklahoma artist and 2017 Hall of Great Westerners inductee Harold T. Holden.

This year, the Museum will also present a Lifetime Achievement Award and a Western Visionary Award. The Lifetime Achievement Award is designed to honor the life’s work of extraordinary Westerners and is only presented in rare circumstances. Honorees receive a *Wrangler* and a commemorative three-piece Western buckle set created by Traditional Cowboy Arts Association silversmiths Scott Hardy and Beau Compton. Recent previous Lifetime Achievement Award winners include George Strait and Robert Duvall.

The Western Visionary Award is a rare honor bestowed on an individual that has made significant contributions and had a national impact on preserving Western heritage and Western ideals. The award has only been presented twice – to Mr. Phillip Anschutz and Mr. Foster Friess.

Ticketing information will be released in February. For more event details, contact Hannah Forman at hforman@nationalcowboymuseum.org.

2023 Hall of Great Westerners

Robert A. Funk Sr.

Daniel "80 John" Webster Wallace (1860-1939)

About Robert A. Funk Sr.

As founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Express Employment Professionals, Bob Funk Sr. led Express on a trajectory of success that grew the business into one of the nation's largest privately held staffing companies. Today, Express puts more than a half million people to work each year and records more than \$3 billion in annual sales. As president and chief executive officer of Express Employment Professionals – Oklahoma, Funk also operates one of the largest and most productive Express franchises with more than 50 offices in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Kansas. As owner of Express Ranches, he produces some of the nation's finest Angus and Hereford cattle and is the largest Angus genetic seedstock producer in America. Express Ranches is also home to Funk's collection of championship-winning Clydesdales and Percherons, which compete in horse shows across the U.S. and Canada each year.

About Daniel "80 John" Webster Wallace

Daniel "80 John" Webster Wallace rode astride the fast-moving and epic transformation of the West, moving from impoverished enslavement to trail-riding cowboy adventure to becoming a highly respected and innovative rancher and revered philanthropic pillar of his West Texas community. Born into slavery in coastal Victoria County on the Gulf of Mexico in 1860, he made his way onto a local cattle drive as a chuckwagon helper and horse wrangler, where he quickly developed a reputation for his skills and character. He attended school to learn how to read and write at age 25 and eventually purchased his own 1,280-acre ranch property. There he developed progressive ranching practices and established a successful business. When he died in 1939, he had no debt and was worth over one million dollars.

His life story shows how the bonds of friendship, common struggle and the interdependence of West Texas life overrode the historical racial and social divisiveness otherwise present in those times. Wallace was a natural born leader and rugged individualist who led by example with passion, work ethic, and progressive business practices.

2023 Hall of Great Western Performers

Lou Diamond Phillips

Bob Wills (1905-1975)

About Lou Diamond Phillips

Lou Diamond Phillips recently starred in the FOX series "Prodigal Son," having previously starred on the acclaimed Netflix series, "Longmire," based on the Walt Longmire mystery novels

by Craig Johnson. Other credits include Amazon's "Goliath," FX's "You're the Worst," CBS' "Blue Bloods," and recurring roles on Fox's "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" and Netflix's "The Ranch." He received an Emmy nomination for "Outstanding Actor in a Short Form Drama or Comedy" for his roles in both Amazon's "Conversations in LA" and History Channel's "Crossroads of History." Recent film credits include the upcoming Amblin feature "Easter Sunday," Warner Brothers' "The 33," "Created Equal" directed by Bill Duke, and Sundance Festival favorite "Filly Brown," for which he was named Best Actor at the Imagen Awards.

As a director, Phillips recently helmed episodes of FOX's "The Cleaning Lady" and "Prodigal Son," AMC's hit series "Fear the Walking Dead," "Longmire," and ABC's Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Phillips is also an author. His novel "The Tinderbox: Soldier of Indira," with illustrations by his wife Yvonne, was published in October 2020. He has co-written the screenplays for 'Trespases,' and HBO's 'Dangerous Touch.' He wrote the Miramax feature 'Ambition.' He produced his play 'Burning Desire,' a romantic comedy in two acts, which received its world premiere at The Seven Angels Theatre in Waterbury, Connecticut. Phillips was also asked by his good friend, novelist Craig Johnson, to write the forward to his collection of short stories 'Wait For Signs.' Originally born in the Philippines, Phillips was raised in Texas and is a graduate of University of Texas at Arlington with a BFA in Drama.

About Bob Wills (1905-1975)

Known as the "King of Western Swing," Bob Wills is credited for popularizing the uniquely American art form of Western swing that combined jazz, blues, big band swing, mariachi, gospel and frontier fiddle-music. In a career spanning five decades, Wills wrote and/or recorded several songs that have since become staples of 20th century music, including "Faded Love" and "San Antonio Rose." Along with his longtime band the Texas Playboys, Wills toured consistently throughout the 1930s, '40s and '50s, and appeared in nearly 20 Western motion pictures. He played Nashville's Grand Ole Opry in December 1944, and in 1950 he opened the state-of-the-art Bob Wills Ranch House in Dallas. In the early '60s, he lived and worked in Las Vegas, headlining for the Golden Nugget. An era in American history ended with the passing of Wills on May 13, 1975. He was the consummate performer, natural leader, entrepreneur and gifted musician.

2023 Chester A. Reynolds Award

Bobby Ingersoll

About Bobby Ingersoll

Bobby Ingersoll became interested in the Spanish vaquero — and their methods for training horses — when he began his show career at the age of 12. Ingersoll has 22 American Quarter Horse championships to his credit and has trained champions of many different breeds. In the 1970s, Ingersoll became interested in training and showing cutting horses. He is a three-time World Champion and a three-time Reserve World Champion Snaffle Bit rider. He won in 1970, 1975 and 1978, and is the only Triple Crown winner — having won the Bridle, Futurity and Hackamore divisions all in the same year (1975). Ingersoll has shown 105 three-year-olds in the Snaffle Bit Futurity over 43 years. Ingersoll has conducted clinics and judged many National

Cutting Horse Association (NCHA), National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) and American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) shows all over the world and wrote the book, *The Legendary California Hackamore and Stockhorse*. At 83 years old, he continues to train riders on a regular basis.

2023 Lifetime Achievement Award

Red Steagall

About Red Steagall

Red Steagall is a songwriter, recording artist, television personality and radio host best known for his Texas swing dance music and such songs as "Here We Go Again," "Party Dolls and Wine," "Freckles Brown" and "Lone Star Beer and Bob Wills Music." Steagall has written over 200 songs and is a five-time Western Heritage Award winner from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. His current show on RFD TV is entitled *Red Steagall is Somewhere West of Wall Street*. In January 2004, Steagall was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame and was also the recipient of the prestigious Spirit of Texas award. The Texas Legislature named Steagall the Cowboy Poet of Texas in April 1991. He is also the Cowboy Poet Laureate of San Juan Capistrano, California.

2023 Western Visionary Award

Pete Coors

About Pete Coors

Pete Coors is a native of Colorado and great-grandson of Adolph Coors, who founded the Golden Brewery in 1873. He currently serves as chairman of Molson Coors Brewing Company. Now retired from active employment, he has served in several executive positions including president and chairman of Coors Brewing Company and chairman of Molson Coors Brewing Company. Coors' civic responsibilities include serving as director of the American Enterprise Institute, the Denver Art Museum Foundation and the Western Stock Show Association. Coors is also past president and trustee emeritus of the Denver Area Council of Boy Scouts of America. An avid outdoorsman, Coors is active in wildlife and water conservation, and is a former national president and chairman of Ducks Unlimited.

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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 memberships are available beginning at \$50. For more information, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org. For high-resolution images related to this release, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/media.

