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Hannah Stewart, Marketing Specialist
hstewart@nationalcowboymuseum.org
(405) 839-7876

Robert A. Funk Sr. to be Honored by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum at 62nd Western Heritage Awards

Awards ceremony will carry on the Museum's tradition of honoring the men and women who contribute to the history and culture of the American West.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Oklahoma entrepreneur Robert A. Funk Sr. will be inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners by the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum at the 2023 Western Heritage Awards. Funk will be recognized alongside some of the top names in Western film, literature and music at the annual awards dinner on April 15, 2023. The announcement was made Tuesday, January 10, 2023, in the Jim Norick Arena at State Fair Park in Oklahoma City during the 2023 Cattlemen's Congress, an annual stock show created a group led by Mr. Funk.

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.

"Mr. Funk upholds a standard of excellence in all that he does," said Jeff Ewing, Chief Development and Strategic Partnerships Officer at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. "From his success in business, to his leadership in the cattle industry, to all he does to pour back into the community, it is only fitting that he be added to our Hall of Great Westerners."

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. The full slate of inductees will be released later this month. Honorees will be announced in February.

About Bob Funk

Bob Funk began his career in Seattle before moving to Oklahoma, where he founded Express Employment Professionals in 1971. As Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Funk led

Express on a trajectory of success that grew the business into one of the nation's largest privately held staffing companies.

As owner of Express Ranches, he produces some of the nation's finest stock of 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.

Funk has served as the chairman of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and the Oklahoma Youth Expo. His civic involvements include serving on the boards of several local banks as well as the American Staffing Association and Future Farmers of America.

His other accolades include being named Most Admired CEO by the *Journal Record* newspaper, Man of the Year by *Impact OKC Magazine*, as well as being inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the International Franchise Association Hall of Fame and the Sales and Marketing Executives International Hall of Fame.

For event details, contact Hannah Forman at hforman@nationalcowboymuseum.org.

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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. For high-resolution images related to this release, visit nationalcowboymuseum.org/media.