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National Rodeo Hall of Fame Announces 2026 Nominees

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, May 4, 2026 — The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is proud to announce the 2026 slate of nominees for potential induction into the National Rodeo Hall of Fame.

Established in 1955 and located within the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the National Rodeo Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the sport of rodeo and its enduring legacy. Through this effort, The Cowboy reminds the Western world that the National Rodeo Hall of Fame is the pre-eminent and most iconic location for honoring, celebrating and preserving the heritage and legendary names of the West's original sport: Rodeo.

Regardless of an individual's age, background, professional affiliation or chosen event, induction in the National Rodeo Hall of Fame, more than 70 years after its founding, remains the highest honor to which a rodeo participant can endeavor.

"The National Rodeo Hall of Fame represents the very best of rodeo's past, present and future," said Joey Niebrugge, Rodeo Engagement Manager at the Museum. "These nominees have helped shape the sport through their talent, dedication and lifelong commitment to rodeo. We are proud to honor their contributions and continue sharing their stories with future generations."

The 2026 nominees represent the full spectrum of rodeo disciplines and the generations of competitors, historians, performers and contributors who have helped shape and preserve the West's original sport.

2026 National Rodeo Hall of Fame Nominees

Living Nominees

Josh Edwards
Jess Franks
Marvin Garrett
Larry Jordan
Gary Ledford
David Motes
Tommy Puryear
Marvin Paul Shoulders
Jack Sparrowk
Jim D. Thompson
Gail Woerner

Deceased Nominees

Larry Dawson
James Allen “Hoss” Inman
Bobby Kerr
Jim and Jan Warvell

Ballots will be mailed to all voters on June 1, 2026. To be eligible to vote, you must be a Rodeo Member in good standing. Instructions, membership information and expanded nominee bios will be available on the Museum’s website.

Save the Date: National Rodeo Hall of Fame Weekend

The 2026 National Rodeo Hall of Fame inductees will be honored during National Rodeo Hall of Fame Weekend, Nov. 13-14, 2026, at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

The Museum invites rodeo fans, historians and supporters to join us for this special weekend celebrating the people, stories and legacy of rodeo. More details, including ticketing and hotel information, will be announced soon. Follow @nationalcowboymuseum on social media for updates and behind-the-scenes stories as we celebrate the best rodeo has to offer.

About the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City is the nation’s premier institution dedicated to the history, art and culture of the American West. Founded in 1955, the Museum houses an internationally renowned collection of more than 28,000 Western and Native American art works and artifacts, including the world’s most extensive collections of American rodeo photography, barbed wire, saddlery and early rodeo trophies.

Through its exhibitions, programs and scholarship, the Museum preserves and interprets the evolving story of the West, illuminating the people, traditions and ideas that continue to shape

American culture. With more than 10 million visitors from around the world, it stands as a leading authority on the enduring legacy of the American West. For more information, visit <https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/>.

About the National Rodeo Hall of Fame

Established in 1955 and located within the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the National Rodeo Hall of Fame is the original, preeminent and most iconic location for honoring, celebrating and preserving the heritage and legendary names of the West's original sport: Rodeo. Regardless of an individual's background, professional affiliation or chosen event, induction in the National Rodeo Hall of Fame remains the highest honor to which a rodeo participant can endeavor. For more information, visit <https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/national-rodeo-hall-of-fame/>.