

Selecting Petroleum Hall of Fame Honorees

The Petroleum Hall of Fame was instituted in October 1967, by the authority of the charter of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum for the following purposes:

. . . to honor those persons and firms who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the petroleum industry or have served as worthy examples to those in the petroleum industry, and thereby to record such examples of service, strength of character and achievement for the inspiration and education of present and future generations.

Since 1968, when the late Frank T. Pickrell of El Paso, Texas, was elected as the initial honoree, a total of 148 men and woman have been inducted into the nationally-recognized Petroleum Hall of Fame. Each honoree has distinguished himself with his accomplishments and each is deserving of this high honor.

All inquiries and correspondence should be addressed to:

Hall of Fame Committee
Permian Basin Petroleum Museum
1500 Interstate 20 West
Midland, Texas 79701

ATTN: Staff Liaison Member to
Petroleum Hall of Fame Committee
Phone: (432) 683-4403
Email:

Deadline for accepting candidates' names and applications is **July 31, 2026**. Those received after that date will be held over until the next election.

Nomination Procedures and Criteria

During an election year, a special Hall of Fame Committee is appointed from the Petroleum Museum's Board of Trustees. The Committee is composed of six to eight members of this Board. Only the Petroleum Hall of Fame Committee Chairman is made public.

This committee is responsible for receiving the names (and supplementary material) of candidates submitted for election to The Petroleum Hall of Fame. Following consideration of each candidate's qualifications, the committee provides a slate of nominees for election to the Hall of Fame. From these persons nominated by this special committee, the Museum's Board of Trustees elect honorees by a majority vote at a meeting called especially for the election in the fall.

The Museum by-laws read that persons to be honored shall **have made outstanding contributions to the development of the petroleum industry or have served as worthy examples to those in the petroleum industry.**

By the authority of the Museum's current by-laws, the Board of Trustees defines the criteria or standards by which persons are to be elected to the Hall of Fame. In January 1980, the Board adopted procedures and criteria as a guide for those wishing to submit names for consideration and a guide for The Petroleum Hall of Fame Committee.

1. Anyone (associate, friend or family member) may submit a person's name for consideration by the Hall of Fame Committee.
2. A candidate for election to the Hall of Fame may be living or deceased.
3. Neither wealth nor the absence of wealth will be considered as factors in an election.
4. A cover letter must include the name of the candidate and a clear statement as to why the candidate should be considered for election to the Petroleum Hall of Fame.
5. Letters of endorsement from others may be included.
6. All proposals must include a biographical sketch of the candidate's life. This sketch should include information about the candidate's spouse; dates and places for various activities for which the person's name is being submitted. Newspaper clippings and other supplementary material showing candidate's achievements or services may be included. See Essentials of a Biography, page 5.
7. Include, if possible, an unframed portrait of the candidate for use in press releases. A black and white print is preferred, size 4" x 5" or 5" x 7". This will be returned to you upon request.
8. All proposals are to be submitted to the Museum's staff liaison for referral to the Hall of Fame Committee. The staff liaison will review all proposals for adequacy of information and will advise the originator if more facts would be useful to the committee. The staff member will forward all proposals to the committee without recommendation.

9. The Hall of Fame Committee itself will not originate proposals of names for candidacy for election to the Hall of Fame.
10. The committee chairman will decide the method of review to be used in considering candidates for nomination.
11. In judging those candidates who are proposed to **have made outstanding contributions to the development of the petroleum industry**, the committee shall follow these criteria:
 - a. The words “outstanding contribution” mean having a unique quality. The work may have involved overcoming hardships or difficulties; being first with a discovery, technique, process or improvement; providing service of an especially noteworthy kind; creating new theories of analyses; having unusual managerial skills; showing outstandingly successful enterprise in one important venture over a period of time; or otherwise distinguishing the candidate from others in like work.
 - b. The service or achievement should have affected the Permian Basin of West Texas and New Mexico. The candidate need not have lived in the Basin, and his (her) work may have affected additional areas outside the Permian Basin.
 - c. The service or achievement should have affected the petroleum industry directly, as contrasted with that affecting the population at large.
 - d. However, a member of the industry whose service or achievement was to others outside the industry, may be nominated and elected to the Petroleum Hall of Fame if his (her) work brought special and unusual credit to the industry.
12. In judging candidates who **have served as worthy examples to those in the petroleum industry**, the committee shall look for candidates who qualify under all these criteria:
 - a. The candidate shall have given outstanding civic and/or community service over a period of years.
 - b. The candidate shall have a reputation for such service beyond any one community in the Basin.
 - c. The candidate is, or has been, admired by reputable people for the quality of his character.
 - d. The candidate shall have distinguished himself (herself) by one or more achievements or actions that had a lasting effect on the quality of life in the Permian Basin.
13. In judging all candidates for nomination, the committee should apply this test: would the average person, if given the facts about the candidate, agree that he (she) deserves the honor?
14. Regardless of other considerations, a candidate should not be nominated if the choice would

bring the Petroleum Hall of Fame into disrepute or place a cloud over other honorees. The Museum's Board of Trustees may, by majority vote, remove the name and portrait of an honoree from the Hall of Fame if that person's subsequent conduct or reputation makes it desirable.

15. Discussions within the committee should be held in **CONFIDENCE**, as should any debate within the Museum's Board of Trustees during the election of nominees to The Petroleum Hall of Fame.
16. The Hall of Fame Committee's final choice of nominees will be made by secret preferential ballot.
17. From those persons nominated by the special Hall of Fame Committee, the Museum's Board of Trustees will elect by a majority vote.
18. Firms and corporations as such will not be elected, although their principal officers or selected employees may be elected.
19. Two or more persons may be elected jointly as a team if their achievement was a result of joint and reasonably equal effort.
20. Up to four honorees may be chosen in any Hall of Fame election. A team (of two or more persons) will count as one.
21. Candidates, whose names are submitted to the Hall of Fame Committee but are not nominated for election, will be considered the next two election cycles. It is unnecessary to submit the name again; however, additional biographical material and/or letters of endorsement may be added at any time.

Essentials of a Biography

In order that the Petroleum Hall of Fame Committee may conduct a thorough study of candidates, specific information about the Candidate's life is necessary to include in the biographical sketch.

1. **Full name of candidate**, including first, middle and surname. If candidate is a woman, include both her maiden and married names.
2. **Birthdate** (month, day, and year)
3. **Birthplace** (city/town, county, and state)
4. **Names of candidate's parents**, including both father's and mother's full names (include mother's maiden name, if known).
5. **Marriage(s) of candidate**, including name(s) of spouse(s), date(s) and place(s) of marriage(s).
6. **Information about candidate's spouse** his(her) birth date, birthplace and names of parents.
7. **Names of candidate's children** in order of birth, if possible, providing married names.
8. **Education** (schools and colleges attended by candidate).
9. **Military service record** (years served, branch, unit and military rank, if known) i.e. 1941-1945, U. S. Army, First Regiment Infantry, Captain.
10. **Civil service and professional associations**; activities and awards, if any.
11. **Emphasize specifically the Candidate's work in the petroleum industry**, his (her) accomplishments, achievements and/or awards. Include company names, dates (years) and places of activities, i.e. Vice President, later President of Jones & Jones, 1920-1935; San Angelo, Texas; marketing area Permian Basin; pioneered development of marketing services in Basin; Market Achievement Award, 1925 and 1935.
12. **Emphasize clearly why the candidate should be considered for election to The Petroleum Hall of Fame. The covered letter must include the candidate's name and a clear statement as to why he/she should be considered for election to the Petroleum Hall of Fame.**
13. **Residences of candidate during lifetime**, i.e. San Angelo, 1920-1935; Fort Worth, 1935-1960; retired at Fort Worth.
14. **Current address of candidate**. If candidate is deceased, give date of death and place of burial.
15. **Current address of candidate's spouse and children**.