



For immediate release:

OKLAHOMA STANDARD AWARD EXPANDS STATEWIDE NEW COMMUNITY AWARDS ANNOUNCED DURING REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Out of the tragedy of the Oklahoma City bombing came the best characteristics of Oklahomans – Service, Honor and Kindness. Today, 22 years later, there are people living these same qualities of the *Oklahoma Standard* in every large city and small town. Judge Alfred P. Murrah, for whom the bombed Federal building was named said, “The greatest rewards in life come from living outside and beyond one’s self.” The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, in a brand new partnership with the State Chamber of Oklahoma, wants to find and pay tribute to these unsung community heroes who live up to these tenets. These new community awards were announced as part of the 22nd Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony.

At the 20th Anniversary of the bombing, the Memorial announced the *Oklahoma Standard* campaign. Thousands of businesses, organization, families and individuals committed themselves to Acts of Service, Honor and Kindness. Last year, the inaugural award was presented to Katie Prior, a 16 year old Girl Scout who founded her own non-profit after realizing there weren’t enough trumpet players to play Taps at veterans’ funerals.

Now, the Memorial is asking Oklahoma communities to find those individuals who go above and beyond, and to honor them at their local Chamber of Commerce annual awards banquet. This spreads the Oklahoma Standard message throughout the entire state. These honorees will be submitted to the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, and in the fall, all will be reviewed and one will be selected as the state-wide *Oklahoma Standard Award* winner to be honored at the Memorial’s annual banquet.

Winners must, through their Acts of Service, Honor, and Kindness, be shining examples of the *Oklahoma Standard* in their personal and/or professional endeavors. They are the unsung heroes of their community. They should also be a living person, reside in Oklahoma, and attend the award banquets, both local and state.

“The importance of the *Oklahoma Standard* needs to spread to the furthest reaches of our state just like it did in 1995. We Oklahomans are known for our neighborly service to each other, and that must continue to be celebrated and taught as we move forward,” said Kari Watkins, Executive Director, Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. “This gives us a chance to recognize great people from Hollis to Miami and from Guymon to Idabel.”

Names of every local winner will be displayed in the Memorial Museum, along with the state-wide winner. If you know of someone who exemplifies the *Oklahoma Standard*, contact the local Chamber of Commerce to nominate this champion. For more information go to OKSTANDARD.org.

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