



Get your local daily news, special offers & more delivered right to your inbox!
SIGN UP NOW >

PHOTO

Fundraising begins for Haggard memorial

By Harrison Grimwood Phoenix Staff Writer May 22, 2016



Staff photo by Harrison Grimwood

Ponca artist Dan Jones holds up a rendering during his visit to Muskogee, showing what the monument could look like. Merle Haggard commissioned Dan Jones to sculpt a bronze monument for Haggard's California home. Since Haggard's death, the monument is set to be built in Muskogee, pending funding for the memorial project.

You can help

To donate to the memorial for Merle Haggard, send checks made out to the “Merle Haggard Memorial Fund” to the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, 401 S. 3rd St., Muskogee OK 74401.

Information: Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, (918) 687-0800.

0



A Ponca artist is out to eternalize the mythos of outlaw country legend Merle Haggard in bronze.

Dan Jones, the artist Haggard commissioned for a monument originally intended for Haggard’s California home, said bronze adds a “certain softness to that artist, which he is.”

“The piece wasn’t my design at all,” Jones said. “It was Merle’s mythology, really.”

Haggard, before his death on April 6, commissioned Jones to build a monument of the Santa Fe Super Chief logo. Since his death, Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame representatives began raising money for a memorial, which is set to include the monument.

An OMHOF board member, Derek Gibson, said the estimated cost is \$250,000 for the monument and a bench with a bronze likeness of Haggard. The group has raised about \$11,000. Jones is commissioned for the monument, Gibson said.

Jones, a member of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, said mythology is “how we transmit our values to the youngest ages.”

“We tell these stories to our children; these stories of what’s a hero, who’s a villain,” Jones said. “So, from the youngest age you learn who you are, where you come from and who your people are.”

Haggard was raised in a decommissioned Santa Fe box car after his family moved out west, Jones said. Deeper than that, however, Haggard talked about the myth of the train and its influence on American music.

“It was the medicine shows that were the first vehicle for music to

start spreading from community to community,” Jones said. “And then, when the trains started to come along ... that became the archetype for being able to get from city to city and get your music out there.”

Haggard held that mythology close to him, keeping it embossed on the side of his tour bus.

“Merle considered himself an Okie; he considered himself one of the sons and daughters of the musical uniqueness that is Oklahoma,” Jones said. “Oklahoma has cultivated a long line of people who have impacted (music).”

OMHOF representatives are hammering out details of a Kickstarter campaign for the memorial project. Gibson said they expect to launch it within the next three weeks. Until then, he said, individuals can make private donations to the hall of fame for the Merle Haggard Memorial Fund.

The memorial project would place the monument and bench at the Muskogee Civic Center, near where a section of Boston Street is to be coined “Merle Haggard Avenue,” according to a media release from the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.

“If we do it right, it’ll be there for the next 100 years with very little expense to keep it up,” Gibson said in a previous story.

Haggard made Muskogee a household name after he recorded “Okie From Muskogee” in 1969 at the civic center. Gibson said that regardless of where they travel, people reference that song when they find out a person is from Muskogee.

Reach Harrison Grimwood at (918) 684-2926 or harrison.grimwood@muskogeephoenix.com.

Tags

Derek Gibson

Merle Haggard

Dan Jones

Muskogee Phoenix Events

WED 25 **Tulsa Drillers**
ONEOK Field | Tulsa, OK

TUE 24 **Framing the Red & Psycho Deralikts**
Pulse | Muskogee, OK

WED 25 **Story-Time Stars**
Muskogee Public Li... | Muskogee, OK

THU 26 **Live at the Frisco Depot presents: ...**
Muskogee, OK

<input type="checkbox"/>	TUE 24	WED 25	THU 26	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 29
--------------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

See all events

Add your event



Get your local daily news, special offers
& more delivered right to your inbox!

SIGN UP NOW >

FIND & SAVE

Coupon Deals

Newspaper Ads

ADVERTISERS

AAA Insurance Co. (2)
ACECO RENTAL & SALES
ACT NOW Insurance
Allstate
ARNOLD'S FRUIT COMPANY
Bargain Wrecker
Benjaminjosephworkingspetitioner
Board of County Commissioners (2)
Board of Education of Independent School District

Latest Video

MORE VIDEOS

Muskogee Phoenix Photos

To view more photos or to purchase reprints, visit
photos.muskogeephoenix.com.

Most Popular

Articles



- Tahlequah pair arrested for suspected kidnapping, assault, robbery
- MPS to cut 38 staff positions
- Breedlove, Carbone named as Muskogee coaches
- Warner nursing home on fire
- New QB takes over at MHS
- Seven arrested when drugs, guns found in home
- 2016 PHOENIX SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL TEAM: Just short of chart-topper: Swan song for Lady Rougher, coach almost a gold record
- Deaths 05.19.16
- Death Notices 05.18.16
- New Hilldale graduates prepare for next step in life



Get your local daily news, special offers
& more delivered right to your inbox!

SIGN UP NOW >

Sections

- [☐](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)

Services

- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Advertise with Us](#)



- Community
- Opinion
- Obituaries
- Photos
- Video Gallery
- Weather
- Subscriber Services
- Submission Forms
- Advertiser Index

Contact Information

muskogeephoenix.com

214 Wall St.

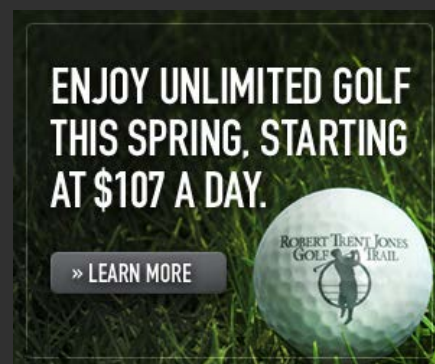
Muskogee, OK 74401

Phone: (918) 684-2828

Email:

news@muskogeephoenix.com

Follow Us





65°
Clear

- ▾
- Subscribe ▾
- News ▾
- Sports ▾
- Classifieds ▾
- Community ▾
- Opinion ▾
- Obituaries ▾
- Shop ▾
- Public Notices

Subscribe!

Fundraising begins for Haggard memorial

By Harrison Grimwood Phoenix Staff Writer May 22, 2016




 Get your local daily news, special offers & more delivered right to your inbox!
SIGN UP NOW >

FIND & SAVE

Coupon Deals

Newspaper Ads

ADVERTISERS

AAA Insurance Co. (2)
ACECO RENTAL & SALES
ACT NOW Insurance
Allstate
ARNOLD'S FRUIT COMPANY
Bargain Wrecker
Benjaminjosephworkingspetitioner
Board of County Commissioners (2)
Board of Education of Independent School District

You can help

To donate to the memorial for Merle Haggard, send checks made out to the "Merle Haggard Memorial Fund" to the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, 401 S. 3rd St., Muskogee OK 74401.

Information: Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame, (918) 687-0800.



A Ponca artist is out to eternalize the mythos of outlaw country legend Merle Haggard in bronze.

Dan Jones, the artist Haggard commissioned for a monument originally intended for Haggard's California home, said bronze adds a "certain softness to that artist, which he is."

"The piece wasn't my design at all," Jones said. "It was Merle's mythology, really."

Haggard, before his death on April 6, commissioned Jones to build a monument of the Santa Fe Super Chief logo. Since his death, Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame representatives began raising money for a memorial, which is set to include the monument.

An OMHOF board member, Derek Gibson, said the estimated cost is \$250,000 for the monument and a bench with a bronze likeness of Haggard. The group has raised about \$11,000. Jones is commissioned for the monument, Gibson said.

Jones, a member of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, said mythology is "how we transmit our values to the youngest ages."

"We tell these stories to our children; these stories of what's a hero, who's a villain," Jones said. "So, from the youngest age you learn who you are, where you come from and who your people are."

Latest Video

Haggard was raised in a decommissioned Santa Fe box car after his family moved out west, Jones said. Deeper than that, however, Haggard talked about the myth of the train and its influence on American music.

“It was the medicine shows that were the first vehicle for music to start spreading from community to community,” Jones said. “And then, when the trains started to come along ... that became the archetype for being able to get from city to city and get your music out there.”

Haggard held that mythology close to him, keeping it embossed on the side of his tour bus.

“Merle considered himself an Okie; he considered himself one of the sons and daughters of the musical uniqueness that is Oklahoma,” Jones said. “Oklahoma has cultivated a long line of people who have impacted (music).”

OMHOF representatives are hammering out details of a Kickstarter campaign for the memorial project. Gibson said they expect to launch it within the next three weeks. Until then, he said, individuals can make private donations to the hall of fame for the Merle Haggard Memorial Fund.

The memorial project would place the monument and bench at the Muskogee Civic Center, near where a section of Boston Street is to be coined “Merle Haggard Avenue,” according to a media release from the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame.

“If we do it right, it’ll be there for the next 100 years with very little expense to keep it up,” Gibson said in a previous story.

Haggard made Muskogee a household name after he recorded “Okie From Muskogee” in 1969 at the civic center. Gibson said that regardless of where they travel, people reference that song when

MORE VIDEOS

Muskogee Phoenix Photos

To view more photos or to purchase reprints, visit photos.muskogeephoenix.com.

Most Popular

Articles

- Tahlequah pair arrested for suspected kidnapping, assault, robbery
- MPS to cut 38 staff positions
- Breedlove, Carbone named as Muskogee coaches
- Warner nursing home on fire
- New QB takes over at MHS
- Seven arrested when drugs, guns found in home
- 2016 PHOENIX SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL TEAM: Just short of chart-topper: Swan song for Lady Rougher, coach almost a gold record
- Deaths 05.19.16

they find out a person is from Muskogee.

Reach Harrison Grimwood at (918) 684-2926 or
harrison.grimwood@muskogeephoenix.com.

- [Death Notices 05.18.16](#)
- [New Hilldale graduates prepare for next step in life](#)

Tags

Derek Gibson

Merle Haggard

Dan Jones

TOP VIDEO HEADLINES

of 3



Get your local daily news, special offers & more delivered right to your inbox!
SIGN UP NOW >

Muskogee Phoenix Events

WED
25

Tulsa Drillers

ONEOK Field | Tulsa, OK

TUE
24

Framing the Red & Psycho Deralikts

Pulse | Muskogee, OK

WED 25 **Story-Time Stars**
Muskogee Public Li... | Muskogee, OK

THU 26 **Live at the Frisco Depot presents: ...**
Muskogee, OK

<input type="checkbox"/>	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	24	25	26	27	28	29

See all events

Add your event

Sections

-
- News
- Sports
- Community
- Opinion
- Obituaries
- Photos
- Video Gallery
- Weather

Services

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Advertise with Us
- Subscriber Services
- Submission Forms
- Advertiser Index



Contact Information

muskogeephoenix.com
214 Wall St.
Muskogee, OK 74401
Phone: (918) 684-2828
Email: news@muskogeephoenix.com

Follow Us



**ENJOY UNLIMITED GOLF
THIS SPRING, STARTING
AT \$107 A DAY.**

» LEARN MORE

