Johnson recipient of David Page Distinguished Service Award

Honored by Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors

Gordon Johnson was honored on March 29 by the Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors at its annual convention at the Sheridan Resort Center in Midwest City.

The group of approximately 550 members voted to honor one member each year. Johnson was selected and given a beautiful trophy with a lifetime status of a land surveyor. The plaque on the front of the trophy reads, “The Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors does hereby present the David Page Distinguished Service Award to Gordon Johnson for his service to the Society and his Dedication to the Profession.”

Johnson retired from the Oklahoma Turnpike and itsy as their chief engineer in December 2011. He has lived in Perry since February of 1966. He and his wife, Val, live in an apartment above a building they own on the west side of the Perry square.

Johnson has been a land surveyor since 1966, when he was just out of high school. As an adult, he has always been active in the civil engineering field as a consultant and as an engineer. He worked for 22 years for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and four years for the Tampa Turnpike Authority.

“I have always enjoyed working for small firms,” said Johnson. “This way you get to do everything. Working as a civil engineer for larger firms, you don’t get the experience as with smaller firms.”

In the OSLS, he has held every office, from secretary-treasurer to delegate to being the state president. He has also served on the Board of Governors for the National Society of Professional Surveyors. He recalled that he surveyed in Sun Juan, Puerto Rico, for two years as a surveyor for their airport construction. He has surveyed the entire state of Oklahoma, but in all the surrounding states. He also was the surveyor for all the streets on I-10 and I-40 and everything in between on I-35.

“That was a big deal for me,” said Johnson. “I have enjoyed my experience of being involved in Perry’s local government,” said Johnson, who is just beginning his second four-year term as a city council member. He didn’t dare an opponent in the election.

“I think we have a great council,” said Johnson. “We have an exceptional mayor who is a great leader. Perry and Noble County are a priority of his heart and I really enjoy working with him. I feel very fortunate to be working with him and honored to be working with our city manager, Mary Rupp. It’s a pleasure to work with Chuck on our economic development and to help develop our business base so you will have a better job available for your grandkids.”

“Why is Law Day such a big event? This national celebration began right here in Oklahoma in 1958. This day is set aside every year to celebrate the freedoms, rights and responsibilities we enjoy because of our unique legal system. In addition to the opportunity to obtain legal information, Law Day gives Oklahoma lawyers the chance to participate in a large-scale community service event designed to enhance the image of the legal profession while providing assistance to those who need legal questions. Participation in Law Day activities is a wonderful way to help your fellow citizens.”

So, mark your calendars now! Thursday, May 2, Law Day will be observed in Oklahoma this year. The TV show will air on OETA stations set for May 2 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Those in the Oklahoma City area may call 800-456-8525, and the phone number for the Tulsa area is 918-836-8770. More information about Law Day is available at www.okbar.org.

The 17,000-member Oklahoma Bar Association, headquartered in Oklahoma City, was created by the Oklahoma Supreme Court to advance the administration of justice and to foster and maintain an image of public service and high standards of conduct among Oklahoma’s legal community.

Please see JOHNSON recipient on page 4

Two Perry students recognized in statewide Law Day contest

Two Perry Upper Elementary students won awards in the recent statewide Law Day art and writing contests sponsored by the Oklahoma Bar Association. Carl Seabolt won first place in the fifth-grade collage contest, while Jace Goldsberry won the $75 prize for first place in the fifth-grade creative writing contest.

Both students, along with other first-place winners, recently attended a ceremony at the State Capitol where they received their awards from Oklahoma Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Colbert.

“Law Day is our opportunity to educate the public about the legal system,” said OBA President Sarah Kennedy. “We incorporate the art and writing contests into Law Day to engage the young people, even the youngest citizens. We want them to understand they are targeted at paying attention to the legal issues that affect them. It is inspiring to see these bright students so engaged with the legal community.”

Contests were offered coloring, drawing, collage, short story, YouTube video and a “Creating-Free-From-All” contest and were open to all high school students.

A high school student who won a prize in the art contest was LA-THAO HOANG of the Perry High School art department. He created the design for the front of the trophy reads, “The Oklahoma Bar Association presents the David Page Distinguished Service Award to Gordon Johnson for his service to the Society and his Dedication to the Profession.”

Carl Seabolt’s entry won first place in the Law Day fifth-grade collage contest. Seabolt was recognized with events on or around May 1 to raise public awareness of American law. The Law Day event for Law Day was conceived by the late Hicks Estevon, a Wyoming attorney and past president of Oklahoma Land Surveyors Association past president.

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The event is being held in conjunction with the statewide campaign to answer legal questions. Local attorneys will also participate in the Perry High School Awards Assembly, giving a student a college scholarship in conjunction with Law Day. The Noble County Bar Association will also present a Liberty Bell Award in conjunction with Law Day.

In addition to Smith, others helping with the plans were Associate District Judge Dan Allen, retired, and Attorney Vicky Beier.

Attorneys in Noble County are Debbie Lynn Smith, Ben Beier, Dan Allen, Sherry Doffolo, Sarah Kennedy, Robert Kasper, Nikki Leach, Millie Chie, Traci Lane, John Danison and Brian Will.

Ask A Lawyer set for May 2

Debbie Smith chairman

The Noble County Bar Association will be participating in the Ask A Lawyer program, according to Debbie L. Smith, president, and Law Day chairman.

The event is being held in conjunction with the statewide campaign to answer legal questions. Local attorneys will also participate in the Perry High School Awards Assembly, giving a student a college scholarship in conjunction with Law Day. The Noble County Bar Association will also present a Liberty Bell Award in conjunction with Law Day.

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Please see “Ask A Lawyer” on page 4

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Carl Seabolt with Oklahoma Judge Goldsberry and Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Colbert.

Carl Seabolt and Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Colbert.
Missoukage Muskoke men died of injuries received Feb. 25 in Noble County traffic accident

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol has received a delayed notification of the death of 36-year-old Muskoke man who was injured Feb. 13, 2013, in a traffic accident in Noble County.

OHP was notified April 4 that Alberto Nunez had died on March 4, 2013. No other information was available.

The two-vehicle accident happened on Highway US177, just south of State Highway 15 East. Nunez was the driver of a 2012 Chevrolet pickup that was involved in an accident with an Otoe-Missouria Tribe man.

According to the OHP, the pickup went off of center and collided with a 1999 Kenworth truck driver northbound on US177.

Two Perry... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Equal Rights

Do you think all the people in America have equal rights? I need to think that until I was really going to see things in the world that I had with her. She grew up in the 1940s and 1950s and saw with her own eyes that right didn’t exist at that time.

When she was a little girl, she went to a different school than the colored children. They were not allowed to go into white restaurants or white rest.

Although she was often harried from the same water fountains that white people used.

Black and white children did not generally play together, and black children had to sit at the backs of the buses.

The story is important for the leaders who helped give equality to all people.

John F. Kennedy helped pass laws to give black citizens the right to vote and get a good education.

Martin Luther King, Jr. helped lead the civil rights movement and worked to make sure that black children could go to school.

Malcolm X spoke up for the rights of black people.

Rosa Parks would not give up her seat on the bus to a white person and was arrested for sitting in the front of the bus.

She helped end segregation on buses.

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