

SWOSU President Named to General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute and Museum

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University President Randy Beutler has been named to the Board of Directors for the General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute & Museum in Hobart.

Beutler will serve a three-year term on the board.

After 38 years of military service, General Franks retired as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Central Command. In 2006, Hobart was selected as the home of a museum and leadership institute bearing his name.

The museum's theme—Leadership, Patriotism and Service—is shared through displays, including uniforms worn by military commanders in Afghanistan and Iraq, clothing worn by President George W. Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, audio and video clips of historical events including the attacks of 9-11-01, and press coverage of battles of America's global war on terror. Also included are artifacts from the Cold War, America's Vietnam experience, Middle East diplomacy since 1991, a Medal of Honor display, and the largest known collection of military Challenge Coins.

The museum is a 9,500-square-foot facility and includes a gift shop, show rooms and galleries that showcase the general's personal papers, awards, and artifacts from one of the more controversial periods in American history. Admission is free, and museum hours are 10 a.m. until 12 noon and 1-5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

The Leadership Institute is devoted to enhancing education and decision-making through the critical study of history. Leadership development is provided through scholarly research, exhibitions, debate and public outreach.

Beutler, an avid historian, was one of 15 history instructors selected in 1988 to receive a William Robertson Coe Fellowship to Stanford University. While there, he attended classes under renowned historian Dr. David Kennedy. The next year, Beutler was one of 50 teachers across the nation to be selected as a participant in the National Institute for High School History Teachers at Princeton University.

Beutler currently serves on the Weatherford Area Economic Development Foundation Board, the Quartz Mountain Arts & Conference Center Board of Directors and Oklahoma Higher Education Chancellor Glen Johnson's Legislative Advisory Network. He is a member of the Weatherford Kiwanis Club and has been active in the Elk City Kiwanis Club. He has served on the Oklahoma Academy of State Goals Board of Directors and the Elk City Old Town Museum Board of Directors.

For more information on the museum, call 580.726-5900 or visit the website at www.tommyfranksmuseum.org.