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 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE07/10/2018 |
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| Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission Selects Artist for Kimball SculptureOmaha Artist John Lajba Chosen to Design and Create Bronze Bust |

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| Lincoln, NE, 07/10/2018 -  The Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission has selected artist and sculptor John Lajba (“lie-buh”) of Omaha to create the bronze bust of newly inducted Nebraska Hall of Fame member Thomas Kimball.Lajba was chosen through a selection process conducted by the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission. 29 artists responded to the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission’s request, with the selected artist creating the bronze bust that will have a permanent home in the Nebraska State Capitol.“After seeing many examples of his work, the sculptor selection committee was enthusiastic about the talent and skill of artist John Lajba,” said Ron Hull, Chairman of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Sculptor Selection Committee. “Further, after discussing with him his approach to every project and the significant amount of research he brings to the creation of each work, we are confident that the bust of Thomas Rogers Kimball will meet every expectation.”Lajba is known for his work creating sculptures of historical and sports figures and creates the annual Harley J. Earl Trophies presented to the winner of the Daytona 500. Lajba has also created numerous pieces in Omaha, including The Road to Omaha at TD Ameritrade Park, the Omaha Police Memorial at Omaha Police Headquarters, the World War II 50th Anniversary Heartland Memorial located at Heartland of America Park in Omaha, and the waiting passengers throughout the Durham Museum in Omaha.Nationally, Lajba was commissioned for the Dale Earnhardt likeness that stands at Florida’s Daytona Motor Speedway as well as a sculpture of Mary McLeod Bethune on the campus of Bethune-Cookman College in Florida. His sculptures can also be found in Japan and Poland.Thomas Kimball was selected as a member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame in August 2017. The sculpture is scheduled to be unveiled at a public ceremony on June 25, 2019, in the Warner Chamber of the State Capitol building.About the Nebraska Hall of Fame CommissionThe current Hall of Fame was established in 1961 to officially recognize those who have made significant contributions to Nebraska and the nation. Individuals must be deceased thirty-five years to be considered. The Hall of Fame Commission, with members appointed by the governor, is the official body responsible for the evaluation of candidates and the bestowal of this honor. Current commissioners include Rod Bates, Lincoln; Dr. Ron Hull, Lincoln; Dr. Ron Naugle, Lincoln; Dr. Sara Crook, Peru; Timothy Heller, Omaha; and JoAnn Smith of Gering. Trevor Jones, Lincoln, serves as secretary of the commission.About History NebraskaHistory Nebraska collects, preserves, and shares Nebraska’s history for all people.  History Nebraska operates the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln and historic sites around the state including Chimney Rock National Historic Site, Fort Robinson History Center, Neligh Mill State Historic Site, Thomas Kennard State Historic Site, Senator George Norris State Historic Site, John Neihardt State Historic Site, Willa Cather State Historic Site, and over 500 historical markers placed across Nebraska. History Nebraska administers the State Archives and Library; the State Historic Preservation Office; the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center; the Office of the State Archeologist; publishes Nebraska History Magazine and books; and is responsible for the administration of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission. More at [https://history.nebraska.gov](https://nebraska.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4af6c119278bab53245cdd3e6&id=fd42856aa4&e=b061998ca2) and follow us on [Facebook](https://nebraska.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4af6c119278bab53245cdd3e6&id=c70ab29816&e=b061998ca2), [Instagram](https://nebraska.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4af6c119278bab53245cdd3e6&id=64b0862861&e=b061998ca2), and [Twitter](https://nebraska.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4af6c119278bab53245cdd3e6&id=2bf53a982c&e=b061998ca2).### |

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