

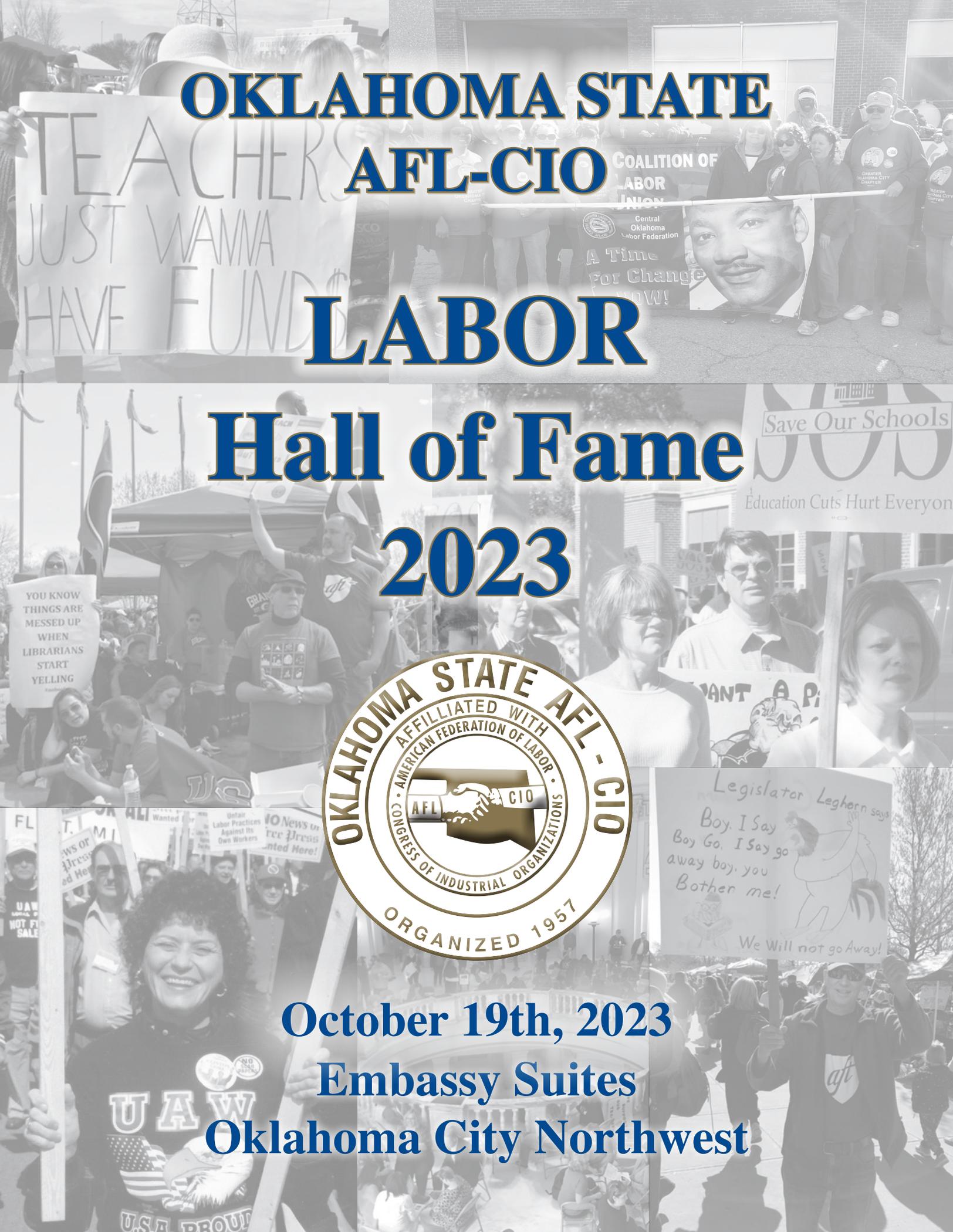
# OKLAHOMA STATE AFL-CIO

# LABOR

# Hall of Fame 2023



October 19th, 2023  
Embassy Suites  
Oklahoma City Northwest



THE  
OKLAHOMA AFL-CIO  
SALUTES THE  
2023 LABOR  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

**JUDY CALHOUN**

*Judy spoke truth to power and was a tireless champion for workers' rights and women's rights. She gave 110%, all the time, all day, every time tirelessly promoting organized labor. She, herself, was a modern day "Rosie the Riveter". Her fearlessness to confront anyone on anything was legendary. She was the greatest advocate anyone could wish to have. Judy was a bright light that was always fighting for what she believed.*

**TONY DEGIUSTI**

*Tony has been an invaluable asset to the teachers of the Oklahoma City district he grew up in. He proudly "Walked the Line in '79" when Oklahoma City AFT went on strike. After earning his Juris Doctorate in 1992, he continued his union advocacy by representing teachers in various capacities not only for OKC-AFT but for AFT locals across the state. Tony will always be a teacher, a leader, a union activist, a colleague, and a friend.*

**Judy and Tony Embody the Spirit of Solidarity and Unity that Defines the Labor Movement. Their Passion and Dedication Serve as an Inspiration to All.**

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THESE OUTSTANDING  
INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR EXTRAORDINARY  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LABOR MOVEMENT.**



**OKLAHOMA STATE AFL-CIO  
LABOR HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION**

**October 19, 2023**



**PROGRAM**

***MASTER OF CEREMONIES***

Jimmy C. Curry, President  
Oklahoma State AFL-CIO

***INVOCATION***

***DINNER***

***THE LEGACY OF WORKING OKLAHOMANS  
VIDEO***

***LABOR HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY***

**JUDY CALHOUN**

*Presented by:* Shawanda Rankin  
The Greater OKC CLUW Chapter

**TONY DEGIUSTI**

*Presented by:* Mary Best  
AFT Oklahoma

***MUSIC AND MINGLE***

Jared Deck Band

# *In Tribute to Judy Calhoun*

**Strong, Dedicated, Never Wavering,  
Committed to Justice for All**

**Local 1999 Salutes YOU**



**SOLIDARITY FOREVER**

**Local 1999**

**Retiree Chapter - OKC**





# The Labor Hall of Fame

## *honors Judy Calhoun*



Judy Wyrick Calhoun was born February 19, 1954 in Carlsbad, New Mexico. She graduated high school and went on to earn her degree in education. Following that, Judy went to nursing school and earned her degree as a Registered Nurse. Sadly after 40 plus years of dedication to the Oklahoma Labor Movement, the Democratic Party, her Community, Family and Friends, Judy passed away unexpectedly on December 16, 2020.

Judy started her career at the General Motors plant in Oklahoma City in 1979 and became a member of UAW Local 1999. Shortly thereafter she became a member of the Local's Women's Committee. Over the years, she served UAW Local 1999 in many capacities, as Trustee, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Chair of the CAP Committee. Judy also held the position of Chair of the Oklahoma UAW State CAP Council for many years and served as their lobbyist.

When the GM plant closing was announced in November 2005, Judy spearheaded the effort to keep the plant open by bringing in another product. After production ceased at the plant in February 2006, she remained an active member until the local union office closed in April 2010. Judy was then appointed by the International UAW as Benefit Representative for UAW Region 5 Retirees, which she served in this position until the UAW Region 5 office closed. Not skipping a beat, she carried on with the UAW Local 1999 Retiree Chapter where she was elected as Financial Secretary, and prior to her passing was elected Vice President of the Southwestern States UAW CAP Council.

A tireless champion for working women's rights, Judy was a founding member of the Greater Oklahoma City Chapter, Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), elected as First Vice President in 2016. When their president had to take leave for personal matters, she assumed the role of Interim President and remained in that position until her untimely death.

Judy was a life-long loyal Democrat and well known in the Oklahoma Democratic Party. She served on the Oklahoma Democratic Party Central Committee from 2001 to 2019, was Vice Chair of the Fourth Congressional District for the 2007-2009 term and served as Secretary in other years. She was a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016, and an active member of the Oklahoma Federation of Democratic Women and the Southside Oklahoma City Democratic Women's Club.

Among her many accomplishments, Judy was appointed to the Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee by Governor Walters in 1995, received the I.A.F.F. "Distinguished Achievement" Award in 1995, the O.D.P. "Chairman's" Award in 2005, the O.F.D.W.C. "Outstanding Democratic Woman of the Year" Award in 2013, the "Spirit of the Community" Award in 2014 and the "Civilian of the Year" Award in 2019.

*"Judy spoke truth to power and was a tireless champion for workers' rights and women's rights." "Judy Calhoun gave 110% all the time, all day, every time tirelessly promoting organized labor". She, herself, was a modern day "Rosie the Riveter".*

# Congratulations

# Tony DeGiusti

*2023 Oklahoma State AFL-CIO  
Labor Hall of Fame Inductee*



**AFT Member - AFT President - AFT Legal Counsel**



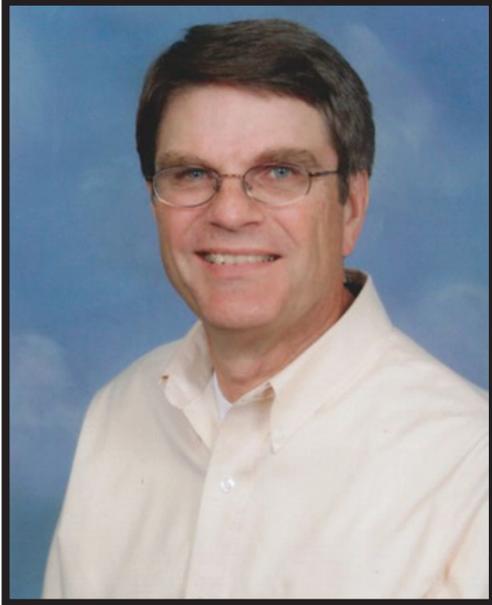
**American Federation of  
Teachers  
Local 2309**

opeiu#381,afl-cio



# The Labor Hall of Fame

## *honors Tony DeGiusti*



Anthony David DeGiusti was born January 4, 1949, in Oklahoma City. Tony attended Oklahoma City Public Schools southside schools starting with Columbus Elementary, Jackson Junior High and then graduating in 1967 from Capitol Hill High School. In 1968 he went on to attend the University of Oklahoma where he received a B.A. in History, and then in 1978 received a master's degree in journalism.

Tony started teaching for Oklahoma City Public Schools in 1972. Shortly thereafter he became an active union member of AFT Local 2309. Holding true to his southside upbringing, Tony spent his entire teaching career in Oklahoma City Public Schools, where he taught Social Studies. He was affectionately known as "Mr. D" to his 8th grade students at Roosevelt Middle School.

In 1979 Tony was one of more than 1,000 teachers in Oklahoma City who risked losing their jobs to make their voices heard for higher pay, fair treatment and to protest the lack of educational materials and poor building conditions. Tony proudly "*Walked the Line in '79*" with his colleagues when Oklahoma City AFT went on strike. He served as Picket Line Captain in the only true teacher strike in Oklahoma history.

After the teachers' strike in 1979, Tony became even more active in the union. He served as the AFT worksite leader at Roosevelt Middle School and was the first Field Representative for OKC-AFT from 1981-1987. Tony also served his local as 2nd Vice President, Trustee and as an Executive Board member throughout his union career. During a dark period for AFT 2309 in 1988, Tony stepped up and served as President of the Union. With his leadership, AFT was able to continue as the bargaining agent for Oklahoma City teachers. That same year, he entered law school at Oklahoma City University.

After graduating with a Juris Doctorate from OCU in 1992, Tony continued his union advocacy by representing teachers in grievances, at conferences with administration, at school board hearings, at the State Department of Education, and in court, not only for OKC-AFT but also for AFT locals throughout the state. From 2003 to 2013 Tony held the position of Chief Legal Counsel for OKC-AFT. In his retirement he continued to serve OKC-AFT by writing wills for teachers, a free service to members.

Among his many accomplishments, Tony was the No. 1 AFT 2309 Activist from 1973 to 2003 and recipient of the Mike Barlow "Union Teacher of the Year" award for 1996-1997.

*Tony "has been an invaluable asset to the teachers of the district he grew up in. I am proud to call Tony my colleague, but most of all, my friend." Mary Best, AFT-OK President*

Tony resides in Oklahoma City with his wife, Janie. They enjoy spending vacations and traveling with their beautiful family.

# CONGRATULATIONS

**BROTHER TONY DEGIUSTI**

**SISTER JUDY CALHOUN**

*Well Deserved!*

**Ted Metscher**



Oklahoma City AFT  
Local 2309

American Federation of Teachers



opeiu#381,afl-cio

*Labor Omnia Vincit*

*"Our movement is of the working people, for the working people, by the working people."*

- Samuel Gompers

*"The problem with unions today is that there aren't enough of them"*

- Martin Johns

**"The only effective answer to organized greed is organized labor."**

- Thomas Donahue

*"For me, the labor movement and public education are linked as the essential building blocks to a strong middle class and a path to the American dream."*

- Randi Weingarten

**THANK YOU  
LABOR HALL**

**OF FAME**

**FOR HONORING  
OUR FRIENDS**

**Judy Calhoun**

**&**

**Tony DeGiusti**

**In Solidarity,  
Pat Hall, Luke Martin  
& Brent Wilcox**

**"All that harms labor is treason to America."**

- Abraham Lincoln

**"Only a fool would try to deprive working men and working women of their right to join the union of their choice."**

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

**"There's a direct relationship between the ballot box and the bread box, and what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls."**

- UAW Constitutional Convention 1970

**"Unions have been the only powerful and effective voice working people have ever had in the history of this country."**

- Bruce Springsteen, "The Boss"



# *Honoring* **Judy Wyrick Calhoun**

*2023 Oklahoma Labor Hall of Fame Inductee*

We as members of the *Greater Oklahoma City Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women* and as members in the Oklahoma Labor Movement are honoring one of our finest members, ***Judy Wyrick Calhoun*** on her posthumous induction into the ***Oklahoma Labor Hall of Fame***.

Judy was a Firebrand for Labor and Working Families. She was always at the forefront of issues concerning workers and especially that of union members. She was ever ready, willing, and able to stand with workers and their families. Judy was one of a kind and definitely a ***Woman of Substance*** who was there in good times, not so good times, and in bad times too!

We know one thing for certain about ***Judy Wyrick Calhoun***, if there was a picket line somewhere and she heard about it, she would be there with bells on. She was kind, funny, caring, loving, and always stood up for what was right. She never was shy about speaking her mind about the issues of importance to the Labor Movement. We lost her way too soon and we miss her every day of the year.

Judy served her Union, the United Auto Workers of America Local 1999, in several capacities in the many years of her service to the Labor Movement. She served as *Vice-President and interim President of the Greater Oklahoma City Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women*, and served on our Chapter's Legislative Committee, now named the ***Judy Wyrick Calhoun Legislative Committee***.

***Judy Wyrick Calhoun***  
***A Woman to Ride the River With!***



# Congratulations!

**Tony DeGiusti**, AFT Local 2309 and **Judy Calhoun**, UAW Local 1999  
on your induction into the Oklahoma Labor Hall of Fame.

*Greetings from the Central Oklahoma Labor Federation*

Tim O'Connor, President  
Shawanda Rankin, Vice-President  
Roy Gordon, Treasurer



*In Loving Memory of  
Sister Linda Jean Smith*



*Sunrise December 21, 1948  
Sunset June 24, 2023*

*Office and Professional Employees  
International Union*



*Local 381*

*dkg/opeiu #381 afl-cio*

## *In Honor of*

*Judy Calhoun on her  
induction to the Oklahoma  
Labor Hall of Fame*

*from the UAW Region 8  
Southwestern States CAP Council*



*Director Tim Smith  
Assistant Director George Palmer*

# HONORING

Tony DeGiusti

AFT Oklahoma Congratulates Both Honorees  
Judy Calhoun and Tony DeGiusti



"I walked the line in '79." -Tony DeGiusti



**AFT OKLAHOMA**

opeiu#381,afl-cio



*The Members of NALC Branch 458  
Celebrate the Induction into  
The Oklahoma Labor Hall of Fame  
of  
Brother Tony DeGiusti, AFT Local 2309  
and  
Sister Judy Calhoun, UAW Local 1999  
October 19, 2023*

# **Congratulations Tony DeGiusti**



**Your extraordinary commitment to the  
American Federation of Teachers embodies the  
values we revere with utmost respect, and we  
thank you.**

**David Gray President AFT Local 4574  
Lasheena Wilson Secretary – Treasurer  
Cervantes Edwards 1st Vice President**



**Fighting for  
Working  
Families'  
Future**

# Senator Mary B. Boren

Senate District 16

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mary.boren@oksenate.gov

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