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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Retired attorney Bill Scarth donates artwork to the county courthouse

CLAREMORE--Well-known for his law career, retired Bill Scarth gifted 10 pieces of artwork to the Rogers County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Monday to be hung throughout the Rogers County Courthouse.

Beautifully captured, large photos of the Arlington Cemetery, State Capitol, Andy Payne, Will Rogers, and several of the courthouse, scape the walls of the courthouse.

BOCC Chairman Steve Hendrix of District 2 said, "Mr. Scarth has displayed quite a talent for developing these types of pictures," and read aloud Scarth's dedication letter also signed by his wife, Carol.

"We are grateful to you for allowing these prints to your public meeting room, and the hallways of County Government and Court System.

The photos depicting artworks were possible because the artist who created them made them publicly available, by gift to government, or otherwise, to anyone with a camera. We are grateful to them for that. As to the photo of a small section of Arlington Cemetery, it is available to any of us who visit to photograph by reason of the sacrifice of those buried there. We are immensely grateful to them for that. As to public buildings, we are grateful for those who had a hand in their building, and dedication to public service."

He also expressed gratification to the BOCC for their dedication to public service.

He further wrote, "...When we came to your offices with this proposed project, we were met by your executive administrative assistant, Kelea White, who has always been most helpful and gracious in working with us (and you, we believe) in forwarding this matter. She is immensely helpful and gracious. At all times she has been kind and helpful. She is truly a remarkable anchor for your offices when you are away doing other things your job requires for all of us. Our gratitude to you for having her there."

After reading the letter, Hendrix said, "We're very, very grateful for the gifts that you've given us...we appreciate you being here."

Commissioner Dan DeLozier of District 1 said, "I just want to say, I dealt with Mr. Scarth when we bought his business --that he had sitting right in here somewhere many years ago -- to be able to build this new courthouse. He was very gracious and his care for what goes into Rogers County is unbelievable." He thanked him for his time and what he does for the county.

District 3 Commissioner Ron Burrows said, "I think there's not any artwork that's appropriate for a courthouse than what you provided [which] is truly spectacular and appropriate." Burrows' depiction of the artwork, he said, allows one's mind to go back to that location, or want to go there. "Thank you for that."

Scarth was a professional neighbor to the BOCC for 46 years while he practiced law. "During that period of time they [former courthouse] were across the street and my desk was within feet of where I stand." He said the county found that he served as a good site for a courthouse. "And I did. I'm glad the courthouse is here. It is a remarkable building and we're proud of it."

He practiced law at the current courthouse for the last six years of his career before retiring after nearly five decades.

Scarth said that during all of those years, "I cannot remember a single unpleasant situation with any member of the Board of County Commissioners."