

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact: Jamie Urban  
402-602-2279**First National Bank of Omaha Receives Prestigious Award  
from the National Sculpture Society**

(OMAHA, Neb., May 21, 2010) – First National Bank of Omaha will be recognized for its *Pioneer Courage* sculpture park by the National Sculpture Society (NSS) on May 22, announced Brenda Dooley, president, First National Buildings, Inc. Bruce R. Lauritzen, chairman, along with sculptors Blair Buswell and Edward Fraughton, and the late Jim Reeves, landscape architect, will receive the The Henry Hering Medal for Art and Architecture in Washington D.C. on May 22.

Reeves passed away a year before the completion of the sculpture park and will be honored posthumously. The Henry Hering Medal recognizes recipients for outstanding collaboration between landscape architect, sculptor and owner.

“When we began the sculpture project in 1998, First National had a vision of honoring its rich history while unifying the nine blocks of its downtown campus,” said Dooley.

*Pioneer Courage* is a homage to the bravery, courage, and entrepreneurial spirit that defined a generation and left a powerful impact on the American character. “The pioneer spirit of Nebraska’s first settlers carries on today in who we are as a people. You see it in our determination, in our optimism,” said Lauritzen. “Blair Buswell and Edward Fraughton have done an amazing job of capturing those characteristics.”

*Pioneer Courage*, combined with First National’s *Spirit of Nebraska’s Wilderness* sculpture park, is the world’s largest wildlife installation, made up of 123 pieces of bronze and stainless steel. It includes a wagon train that causes a stampede of eight larger-than-life bronze bison through the heart of downtown. The bison chase a flock of bronze Canadian geese from a pool of water. The sculptures travel through six blocks as they are attached to light poles, traffic lights and built into buildings.

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The sculpture parks have received previous honors. In 2008 the *Spirit of Nebraska's Wilderness* park received the The Henry Hering Medal for Art and Architecture. More recently, both parks received the Design Award of Excellence, the highest honor, from the Central States American Society of Landscape Architects.

First National Bank of Omaha was founded by pioneers in 1857. First National, together with its affiliates, has grown into the largest privately owned banking company in the United States. The organization has \$18 billion in assets and more than 5,000 employee associates located in 35 states. Primary banking offices are located in Nebraska, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, South Dakota and Texas.

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