



Susette LaFlesche Tibbles

Chief Standing Bear

# HALL OF FAME

In the Nebraska Hall of Fame twenty-five busts are located on the second floor of the Nebraska State Capitol to commemorate outstanding citizens. The Nebraska Medal of Honor recipients are also members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

Two of those busts are of Native American Civil Rights leaders, Susette LaFlesche Tibbles and Chief Standing Bear. When people think of Civil Rights in America, they may think of violence, protests, and riots, or of African-American leaders such as Malcolm X, Rosa Parks, or the non-violent Martin Luther King. But one of the earliest Civil Rights cases in history involved Chief Standing Bear of the Ponca and his non-violent actions through the legal or court system.

**The Nebraska Hall of Fame** was established in 1961 to officially recognize prominent Nebraskans. The Hall of Fame honors people (1) who were born in Nebraska, (2) who gained prominence while living in Nebraska, or (3) who lived in Nebraska and whose residence in Nebraska was an important influence on their lives and contributed to their greatness.

The Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, which has members appointed by the governor, names people to the Hall of Fame.

**Standing Bear (1829-1908)**, Ponca Indian chief was a symbol for Indian rights. At the Trial of Standing Bear, Standing Bear said, "I am a man. The same God made us both." "An Indian is a person within the meaning of the law," ruled Judge Elmer Dundy. Born in northeast Nebraska, Standing Bear lived near the mouth of the Niobrara River in present Knox County at the time of his death. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame 1977-78.

Sculptor: Ted Long

**Susette LaFlesche Tibbles (1854-1903)**, Omaha Indian, a.k.a. "Inshata Theumba" or "Bright Eyes," was a speaker and writer for Indian rights. Born in Bellevue, the oldest daughter of Joseph LaFlesche, the last recognized chief of the Omaha, she was raised on the Omaha reservation in Thurston County near Macy. She learned to read and write and became a teacher. She lived in Lincoln and died in Bancroft. LaFlesche Tibbles was inducted into the Hall of Fame 1983-84. Sculptor: Deborah Wagner-Ashton