

Senator Mark Wagoner
2nd District Ohio Senate



Representative Tom Letson
64th Ohio House District

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**STATUARY COMMITTEE & PARTNERS RELEASE EDUCATIONAL
MATERIALS TO ENCOURAGE OHIOANS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OHIO'S
10 FINALISTS FOR STATUARY HALL...AND VOTE**

Columbus – The National Statuary Collection Study Committee and its partners today unveiled lesson plans for Ohio teachers and biographical podcasts about each of the finalists in an effort to encourage more Ohioans to participate in the public vote regarding which of 10 great Ohioans should be Ohio's next representative in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol. The resources are all available online through www.legacyforohio.org.

Lesson Plans for Ohio Teachers

The lesson plans were developed by Washington High School teacher Paul LaRue and his research history students in Washington Court House, Ohio. It includes biographical information, quotes from the candidates and features original artwork by the students and activities for all grade levels that correlate with Ohio Department of Education academic content standards.

Paul LaRue, a teacher of 25 years, who was honored as national teacher of the year by Time Warner Cable in 2009, is no stranger to these kinds of projects. In the past, he has partnered with the History Channel to develop engaging lesson plans for students. From the start, he saw the Ohio Statuary process as a unique opportunity to get his students and others interested in learning more about Ohio history.

Podcasts on iTunes

Additionally, through a partnership with eTech Ohio, the Ohio Historical Society has developed biographical podcasts – one for each of the 10 finalists – which are now available for download at iTunes University. The podcasts, which range from 5-10 minutes each, feature commentaries on each of the finalists talking about the life, times and contributions of the nominees for Statuary Hall. There is also a podcast that gives an overview of the process Ohio is following to find its new statue.

To access the podcasts, you must have iTunes installed on your computer, which is available for free at www.apple.com. The [podcasts](#) are also free of charge.

Through eTech, Ohio was the first state to launch a comprehensive statewide iTunes U site, providing free content in the areas of education, government and community. Since its launch in February of 2009, Ohio on iTunes U has experienced more than two million downloads and features more than 4,1000 digital resources, which the Statuary Committee hopes will be further enhanced by the this project.

“The life of each of these 10 great Ohioans tells a great story about our state that I hope more and more people will be exposed to as a result of this process,” Senator Mark Wagoner (R-Ottawa Hills), chairman of the National Statuary Collection Study Committee said. “I want to thank Paul LaRue, his students, the Ohio Historical Society, all the podcast guests and eTech Ohio for helping to make this process even more fun and educational for everyone.”

"Resources like lesson plans for teachers or podcasts on iTunes U are new and exciting ways to engage students and adults alike in the Ohio Statuary Initiative and American history," said Burt Logan, executive director and CEO of the Ohio Historical Society. "The 10 finalists were catalysts for two centuries of social change and scientific discovery in this country. We hope that by learning more about each of them and their contributions, Ohioans of all ages will make an informed decision about who they think would best represent them in National Statuary Hall."

About the Statuary Initiative

Residents of Ohio have from now until June 12 to vote for which of 10 finalists they believe should stand for Ohio in National Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol. Through partnership with the Ohio Historical Society, the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Western Reserve Historical Society, Ohioans can vote at one of 36 polling stations set up at historical sites and museums around the state. Ballots are also available for download at www.legacyforohio.org, which also includes a complete list of polling sites and more detailed instructions on how to participate.

Finalists for Statuary Hall include: Congressman and abolitionist James Ashley, prolific inventor Thomas Edison, President and Civil War General Ulysses S. Grant, Congressman and civil rights leader William McCulloch, Olympic track star Jesse Owens, astronaut Dr. Judith Resnik, who was killed in the Challenger tragedy, abolitionist author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Harriet Beecher Stowe, suffragist Harriet Taylor Upton, Dr. Albert Sabin, who developed the oral polio vaccine and aviation pioneers the Wright Brothers.

The public vote tally will be the primary factor the National Statuary Selection Study Committee considers as they make a final recommendation to the Ohio General Assembly. Changing Ohio's statue will require a full vote of the legislature, but will be funded entirely through private donations.

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For more information about the Statuary Initiative or the educational materials, please contact Kim Schuette at the Ohio Historical Society at 614-297-2314 or kschuette@ohiohistory.org. To reach State Senator Mark Wagoner, call (614) 466-8060.