








CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gale Sayers Statue To Be Unveiled On August 26, 2022

The Central High School Foundation (CHSF) is pleased to announce that the unveiling of the Gale Sayers Memorial Statue will take place outside Central High School's Seemann Stadium at 6:00 p.m., on Friday, August 26, 2022. The ceremony will take place before Central's home football game. This special event will be open to the public. The ceremony will feature welcoming remarks by Mike Lebens, CHSF President; Roger Sayers, CHS 1960; Littleton Alston, Sculptor; Ms. Dionne Kirksey, CHS Principal; and Michele Roberts, Executive Director of the CHSF. Invited guests include elected officials, community leaders, CHS Alumni, and CHS staff.

Gale Sayers (Class of 1961), who was a great Eagle athlete, a former Chicago Bears star, and friend of the Central High School Foundation, passed away September 22, 2020. Following his death, it was determined by the Central High School Foundation Board of Directors and Central High School Alumni that a privately-funded \$250,000 campaign should be raised in his honor, directed by the Central High School Foundation. Committee members to this campaign – Rusty Crossman, M.D., Class of 1966, Kristie Hayes, M.D., Class of 1973, Mike Lebens, Class of 1970, Rob Likes, Class of 1991 and Roger Sayers, Class of 1960 – made this memorial statue a reality.

Gale is considered one of the greatest running backs in the history of the National Football League. He is the youngest person to ever be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame at age 34. "I Am Third," his autobiography which inspired the film "Brian's Song," was critically acclaimed. The film told the story of his family, of the crippling knee injury that almost destroyed his career, and, most of all, it recalled the story of Gale's short but unforgettable friendship with Brian Piccolo. Gale was a member of the Central High School Hall of Fame and was a proud supporter of Central High School and the Central High School Foundation until the end of his life.

Littleton Alston, Eagle parent and owner of Alston Art Studio, was selected by the Central High School Foundation as the sculptor to design and construct this bronze memorial statue. The statue will be positioned in front of the Victory Eagle outside Seemann Stadium so that its wings will be forever soaring over one of Central's greatest athletes!

"Central is a special place, and our alumni are proud of our school," said Roger Sayers, Class of 1960. "We want to make certain the next generation of Eagles are inspired to pursue their dreams and reach new heights, like Gale did. And also to do so with the integrity, persistence, and commitment to community that is a hallmark of Eagle Nation."

Central High School, established in 1859, is the oldest and largest high school in Nebraska. With over 2,700 students, its mission is to continue a tradition of excellence emphasizing academic achievement, responsible global citizenship, pride in diversity, and enduring scholarship. The Central High School Foundation was established in 1996 to provide support for present and future CHS students to ensure that the tradition of excellence continues. Contributions of time, energy, and resources are essential to preserve and enhance the timeless values of a Central High School education. The CHSF supports the school through a variety of activities including alumni relations, fundraising, grant writing, student scholarships, capital projects, as well as teacher and classroom grants. Central High School Foundation Partners and Central High School Adopt-A-School Partners include Coca-Cola.

For more information, interviews, or photos, please contact Michele Roberts at michele@chsfomaha.org or (O) 402-556-1996 or (M) 402-250-9949.

Our mission is to improve the education of present and future students at Central High School

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