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TRUE BURNING ETERNAL FLAME TO BE LIGHTED APRIL 12 IN DEDICATION CEREMONY
AT THE AMERICAN HOME FURNISHINGS HALL OF FAME®

HIGH POINT, N.C., April 5, 2024 — The lighting of the newly installed Wanek Family and Ashley Furniture Industries Eternal Flame sculpture will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12 in a dedication ceremony to be held in front of the American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame® building at 311 S. Hamilton St. It is the first eternal flame in High Point.

Inspired by the coveted Affie award presented to each member inducted into the American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame, the Wanek Family and Ashley Furniture Industries Eternal Flame symbolizes the enduring spirit of the home furnishings industry and the inspiring accomplishments and innovations achieved by its leaders. The sculpture is surrounded by the Pathways of Honor courtyard.

“This inspiring eternal flame sculpture is given in recognition of our industry, partners and associates who have created a legacy of excellence,” says Todd Wanek, president and CEO of Ashley Furniture Inds., a longtime supporter of the Hall of Fame and its leadership programs. “Our industry is one of the very few that is an eternal industry. People will always have homes and will always need furnishings to turn a house into our home. The home is at the center of life, and to us, our eternal flame pays tribute to the industry and our leaders.”

Hand-forged of steel and coated with a bronze finish, the sculpture stands 10’2” high by 5’2” wide and is positioned on a pyramid-shaped stone base. The design consists of 20 metal “flames,” ranging in height from one to six feet tall, gracefully interlaced to form the commanding shape which encases the eternal, gas-burning flame. The Wanek Family and Ashley Furniture Industries Eternal Flame was designed and built by Brilliant, an international specialty fabricator and creative firm in Orlando, which serves the attractions, museum and hospitality sectors. The team that worked on this project included artists, engineers and craftspeople.

“This will become the selfie that goes around the world,” says Karen McNeill, CEO and chairman of the Hall of Fame Board of Directors. “Marketgoers and the public that visit the Home Furnishings Capital of the World™ will take photos in front of this dramatic, one-of-a-kind landmark. It is designed to become a visitor destination and a differentiating feature that underscores the power and significance of the home furnishings industry.”

The Pathways of Honor features inscribed commemorative bricks given in honor of the place that we each call home and for the industry has given each of us so much: a living, lifelong friends and fulfillment. A Pathways Brick publicly memorializes those who have prepared the way for us and now will pave the way for future generations. Bricks can be given over time and will be installed before each High Point Market. They can be purchased by visiting www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/halloffame .

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The American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc., is an industry-wide organization founded to preserve its history, to celebrate exceptional individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the U.S. home furnishings industry, to inspire the next generation of innovative leaders and to engage the community with the world of home furnishings. Our new home, which opened in April 2023, is a symbol of the Home Furnishings Capital of the World™ where the industry gathers, where we honor our leaders and tell our stories, and where we learn through exhibits, seminars and speakers. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, funds support our history and leadership programming. The organization is based in High Point, North Carolina, at 311 S. Hamilton St., and can be reached at 336.882.5900 or by visiting www.homefurnishingshalloffame.com .

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