



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



BETTY ANN COLLYAR BOLTON

January 10, 1941 - July 11, 2014

Stillwater High School Class of 1959

19th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 4, 2014

Betty Ann Collyar Bolton was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma on January 10, 1941, the sixth of seven children to J.B. and Gertie Mae (Wise) Collyar. Betty passed away on July 11, 2014, at her home in Bella Vista, Arkansas.

Betty was excellent at about everything she set her mind to. Throughout junior high and high school, she participated in many activities and clubs including Student Council, Pep Club, Guild, Rainbow Girls, Mixed Chorus, and Tri Chi. Additionally, she was honored as 7th grade Halloween Carnival Queen, Freshman Class Vice President, Junior "Girl with Best Personality," S Club Queen Attendant, President of Tri Chi, and "Best All-Around Senior Girl."

One of the accomplishments she was most proud of was her two years as an SHS Varsity Cheerleader. Her athletic ability really stood out. No one could out jump Betty or match her competitive spirit while cheering for the SHS pioneers during their sports events.

During Betty's sophomore year, one of her best friends, Sandy Smith, along with her boyfriend, Benny Bunch, set up a blind date for her with a junior classman, Chris Bolton. They met at the high school football field south stadium during a Toy Pioneer football game. Their meeting was the beginning of a relationship that lasted over 58 years, with their 56th wedding anniversary to be celebrated in December 2014.

In December 1958, Betty and Chris were married, beginning a new chapter in their lives. Chris attended OSU where he obtained an MS in civil engineering. They became a family with the births of their son Wayne Lee and daughter Doni Beth. During this period, Betty attended a few classes at OSU, and she and Chris discussed continuing her education after he graduated.

In 1964, Betty and family moved to Wichita, Kansas where they remained until 2000. While Chris worked for a commercial general contractor, The Law Company, Inc., Betty was at home with the children, but her desire was always to improve herself. She enrolled at Wichita State University for some additional education, and in the late 1960's, she decided to become a real estate broker and completed her training for that role, meeting more friends, including Matt and Pat Eck. The three of them went to Topeka and passed their real estate brokers license exam. Betty then worked with Matt Eck Real Estate, Inc. until the late 1980's--unless it interfered with her new sport, GOLF.

Betty started playing golf at Rolling Hills Country Club and acquired a new group of friends. Again, Betty's athletic ability stood out. At one point, she was able to hold a nine to ten stroke handicap, not bad for just starting golf in her 30's. During this time, she, along with about 20 ladies, represented Rolling Hills in golf tournaments against other clubs and played in state tournaments. In the 1975-1985 period, these gals formed a group they called "The Traveling Ts." The group was just what the name implies; it was really a group of ladies having fun, fun and more fun. This was a great time in Betty's life.

Betty also enjoyed traveling, although she and Chris were bad about planning. Most of the time, travel was a spur of the moment decision. They both liked to go to close-by casinos and made around 70 or 80 of these trips per year. Other travel destinations included Las Vegas, Hawaii, Alaska, Branson, and Disney World, each associated with wonderful family memories.

Those of us who had the opportunity to have been around Betty for all these years will always remember her for her competitive spirit, her kindness to others, her strong will and personality, her love for her family members, her love for Chris, her love for Doni and Fred, and especially her love for her grandchildren Shely and Connor.

Betty is survived by her husband Chris (SHS '58), daughter Doni Bolton (Fred) Helser, grandchildren Shelby and Connor Helser, and sister Shirley Collyar (SHS '66) (Bob) Callahan (SHS '66). She was preceded in death by her parents, son Wayne Bolton, sister Norma Collyar Smith (SHS '51), brothers Leo (SHS '49), and Ronald (SHS '57) Collyar.

*Presenter
Fred Helser*