



## *Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial*

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### PAUL DEAN BURCH

September 26, 1934 - February 3, 1976

Stillwater High School Class of 1952

6th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September 29, 2001

Dean began his career at SHS in 1950 after transferring from Enid the summer before his junior year. He promptly became a starter at end and held that position for two years. He was recognized to be a hard-nosed blocker and tenacious defender. His team won the district both years and went to the semi-finals in the state his junior year. That team's backfield was arguably the finest in SHS history and owed its success in no small part to the blocking of the linemen. Dean garnered All-District honors for his play. He also lettered in basketball and was awarded a fist-full of medals in the low and high hurdles at meets in Oklahoma and Texas. His athletic career then took him to OSU first playing for his fraternity, and then after feeling underappreciated by an upperclassman-coach decided to go out for the OSU varsity to show his capabilities. He was rewarded by lettering for his play at the end position. This was an excellent example of the self-confidence, toughness and determination that were hallmarks of his persona. Accepting challenges and conquering them was what made his windmill turn.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Dean was an excellent student and very well liked. He was Vice-President of his Senior Class, Treasurer of S-Club, was elected to Boys' State and to the Student Council and was named, "Boy With The Best Personality."

Following graduation from OSU he became a fighter pilot in the USAF and during this time he met and married his wife, Ellen. After his active duty he attended law school, then moved his family to Vero Beach, Fla. where he practiced law both privately and as the assistant state attorney and later as the county attorney.

After completing his active duty, he continued to pursue his passion for flying by serving with the Air National Guard units in Oklahoma, Texas and Florida. He continued this until the time of his death in 1976. He flew with the same abandon with which he played ball, which made him that "fearless jet-jockey", that we required to protect us from foreign aggression. He and his wife raised two children, Kenneth and Carol, both of whom returned to graduate from OSU. Today his son flies for United Airlines and his daughter is a mother and teaches in Florida.

Presenter  
Lynn Roberts  
Stillwater High School, Class of 1953