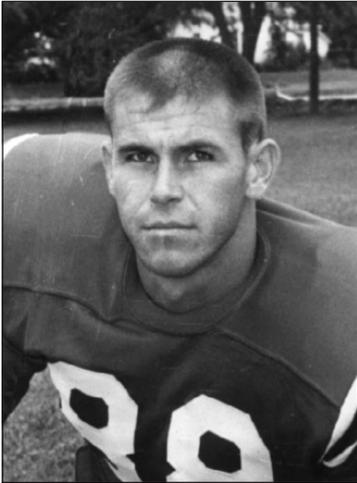




Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



JOSEPH FRANKLIN CANNADAY

March 8, 1941 - November 10, 2001

Stillwater High School Class of 1961

9th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September 25, 2004

Joe was born to Earnest and Beulah Cannaday in Ada, OK. He had three sisters; Loretta (deceased), Mickey Harms (OKC), Lois Trego (Albuquerque, NM) and brother Delano Cannaday (OKC). His family moved to Stillwater in 1946. They lived on Adams and S. Lehigh Street. He attended Lincoln and Highland Park Elementary Schools. At age 12, his sister Loretta convinced Joe that God would forgive him if he asked for forgiveness. He did and was baptized at Southside Baptist Church. He attended Stillwater High School on

9th and Duck and at CE Donart HS where he was in the first graduating Class of 1961. While in high school he played football, wrestled, and ran track. He lettered in football and track. His enthusiasm was contagious. It was in wrestling that Joe demonstrated exceptional Pioneer Pride. He didn't letter in wrestling, but his perseverance and effort identified him as a battler. His leadership made the team more competitive.

Joe received a football scholarship to Northern Oklahoma Junior College where he played for two years. He then attended OSU. He married Marilyn Bell in 1965. He graduated from OSU in 1967 with a major in Industrial Arts and a minor in Physical Education. Simultaneous to graduation, during finals, his first child Stacey was born.

He took a position at Norwich High School in Norwich, KS in 1968. He was the wood shop teacher and the Head coach for the eight-man football team. He also was the assistant coach for all other sports. He was a hands on coach and a stickler for the rules he spelled out for his players. The next year he moved to Desoto High School where again he was the Head Coach for the football program and taught shop. In 1971 he moved on to Olathe North High School where he spent the balance of his teaching and coaching career. He was well known for both. He pioneered a woodworking program in cooperation with Ethan Allen stores. His students made unique pieces for Ethan Allen considerations. He championed a yearly woodworking show with students competing for prizes. His track team was consistently competitive at the state level. In football Olathe North put a whuppen on Olathe South most of those years.

Joe was a "hero" or an "angel" in the true sense of the word. He seemed to have a knack for being where help was needed. In 1968 in Desoto, KS a family was trapped in a burning house four houses down the street. Joe retrieved a ladder and personally assisted the family from the burning home. In 1989 in Olathe, KS he pulled a man from a wrecked vehicle that exploded in fire ten seconds after he cleared him from the area. He performed the Heimlich maneuver on a choking friend in 1990. Angel Joe provided assistance on three other occasions; He calmed a lady entrapped in a wrecked vehicle until help came; He smothered the fire on a burning lady who crawled out from a burning motorcycle shop; and he stopped a driver who was pulling a camper that had smoke coming from it and helped extinguish the fire.

After a long courtship Joe married Toni Irwig in 1999. She was a teacher at Olathe North. They had a cabin in Canada where they spent much of their summers. After 31 years (28 of them at Olathe North) he and Toni retired in the year 2000.

His death in November 2001 was a shock to Toni, family friends and the Olathe community. It is apparent that Joe, the boy with the winning smile, accomplished much in his short 60 years. He left a world a better place due to his parenting, teaching, coaching, and heroic acts. Hero Joe is now an angel smiling down on all of us. I am sure he looks forward to meeting us there at Heavens Gate and recanting the many shared events that he experienced with us during his wonderful life.

Presenter
Russell Thurman
Stillwater High School, Class of 1961