



## *Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial*

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### RONALD DALE COLLYAR

December 15, 1935 - October 5, 2013

Stillwater High School Class of 1954

20th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony  
September 26, 2015

Ronald Dale Collyar was born on December 15, 1935, in Stillwater, Oklahoma, one of seven children born to J.B. and Gertie Collyar. He was called Ronald Dale when he was in trouble, Ronnie most of the time, Red Dog by his buddies in high school, Ron as he grew older, dad by his children, but probably his favorite names were Grandrad, and Grandy.

His oldest brother, Gerald, died in infancy. His brother Leo was born in 1931, followed by Norma Jean, Ronnie Dale, Bryan Allen, Betty Ann, and Shirley Lynn. All six of them graduated from Stillwater High School.

Ron attended the first three grades of school in Medford, Oklahoma where his family lived while his dad worked in the shipyards in Richmond, California during World War II. The family moved back to Stillwater when Ron was nine years old, and he attended Jefferson Elementary in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. Many of his classmates at Jefferson, and other classmates, would graduate from Stillwater High School in 1954.

One of the people who had a great influence on Ron was Pat Garner, father of Don and Ron Garner. Pat took Ron under his wing and helped guide Ron throughout his youth. Ron always had great respect and love for Pat Garner. Richard Fox's dad sponsored a baseball team called Fox Lumber. Pat Garner and O.R. Fox coached these boys and drove them all over Oklahoma to play baseball. There were no organized little leagues in those days.

In the spring of 1954, Coach Jim Harris took Roger Sixkiller and Ron to visit Panhandle A&M in Goodwell, Oklahoma. Coach Harris had a friend who was the head football coach there. Because of the special efforts of Coach Harris, Ron and Roger received full football scholarships at what is now Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Ron made the travel squad and played that fall. Later he also attended Oklahoma A&M and graduated from Texas Tech. During the years Ron lived in Lubbock, he was Juvenile Probation Officer, Physical Director of the YMCA, owned a hamburger place, and was a realtor for over 30 years.

Ron and Joanna, daughter of Morris and Palmer Wallace, first met when she moved to Stillwater and attended Stillwater Junior High. They "went steady" from the beginning of their sophomore year of high school and married when they were both 19 years old in 1955. They were married 58 years before Ron's death in October 2013. They were blessed with four children; Bob, Beth, Bill, and Barbara, and three very special grandchildren: Isaac, Natalie and Brooke.

Ron was always an athlete, starting from the time he was a young boy. He played football and baseball in high school and went on to play football in college. As a young adult, he played softball and coached in the church leagues in Lubbock and bowled for many years in championship bowling leagues. As an adult, Ron learned to play and love the game of golf and enjoyed being a marshal at the Colonial and Legends of Golf Tournaments. As an older adult, he was a devoted fan of sports on TV.

*Presenter*

*David Oates, Stillwater High School Class of 1954*