



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



JAMES REX DEMAREE

October 6, 1923 - September 12, 2012
Stillwater High School Class of 1941

18th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony
September 28, 2013

Rex was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma on October 6, 1932, to James Henry and Etta Z. (Kimple) Demaree. He attended school at Diamond Valley, east of Stillwater, but graduated from Stillwater High School in 1941. While in high school, Rex played football and wrestled. He was the State Champion in wrestling his senior year of high school and won a wrestling scholarship at Oklahoma A&M. After his freshman year, he was called to duty and served in the Army Air Corp during WWII in the European Theater. Rex returned to Oklahoma A&M and became involved in ROTC, where he quickly rose to Cadet Colonel and earned a 2nd Lieutenant Commission upon graduation. He joined the Reserves and was called back to duty in 1952 to train troops for Korea at Fort Hood, Texas, and was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant.

He returned to Stillwater after WWII and met his wife, Dovie Leota Hestand, to whom he was married on February 15, 1947. He soon began his more than 20 year career as a contractor building custom homes and businesses in the Stillwater area. Rex was known for the quality of the homes he built, which reflected his demand for excellence, attention to detail, fairness, and honesty.

Rex then joined Oklahoma State University in 1968 as the Assistant Director of Residential Life, from which he retired in 1987. During his time at OSU he was instrumental in many renovation projects on campus including Bennett Hall, The Student Union, and Married Student Housing. In 1998, OSU honored him for his work by naming a section of Married Student Housing the "Demaree Neighborhood".

Upon retirement, Rex became heavily involved with Stillwater Habitat for Humanity as well as helping with family and friend's construction and remodeling projects. Building was definitely in his blood: not only in building homes and businesses, but also building life-long relationships through his kindness, generosity, and desire to always try to help someone out and do the right thing.

Rex was a member of the Stillwater High School Alumni Association and the "O" Club at OSU. Rex and Leota were together for over 60 years. He is survived by his daughter, Rita Demaree Burns and sons, Ron, Scott, Terry, and Roger Demaree. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and six-great grandchildren.

Presenter

Roger Demaree, Stillwater High School Class of 1981