



## ***Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial***

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**BERNIE G. DORMAN**

February 19, 1936 - January 16, 2004

Stillwater High School Class of 1954

11th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 7, 2006

Bernie Dorman was a very special person who looked on the positive side of life. He was never without a smile and a happy demeanor even in the worst of times. To know him was to love him. If "Pioneer Spirit" ever needed an icon, it was Bernie Dorman.

Bernie was born February 19, 1936 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. His parents were Frenchie and Bernie Earl Dorman. He attended several elementary schools in Stillwater and graduated from

Stillwater High School in 1954.

His father died when Bernie was seven. He and his brother Lonnie were raised by his mother who worked as a dietitian at Oklahoma A&M. She did not remarry and raised the two boys on her own. His mother was a very hard worker and instilled in Bernie the positive approach to living that he followed for the rest of his life. In spite of the hardships of his early childhood when most others might have gone the other way, Bernie kept his positive outlook on life. As the old saying goes, "he never met a stranger" and had a genuine love and concern for other people.

Bernie loved Stillwater High School and for the rest of his life maintained that love and interest in Stillwater and the Pioneers even though he was living and working all over the world. His best friends were his classmates from SHS and he regarded them more as family than "just old friends". Class reunions were a highlight for him and he never missed one - even when he was fighting a terminal disease.

He played both football and basketball and was recognized on several All-Conference teams. Honors included President of the Student Council, President of the Sophomore Class, All Around Boy - Senior year, Oklahoma Boys State delegate, Boy Rotarian - 1954 and Kiwanian of the Month.

After graduation, Bernie attended the University of Tulsa and played football in his freshman year. He then returned to Stillwater and graduated from OSU with a degree in Fire Protection Technology. He continued his education at the University of Colorado School of Engineering.

In 1958, Bernie and Linda Robbins were married. They had two children, Doug (1964) and Terri Lynne (1968). In 1969, he moved to Houston, Texas and was Vice President of Reading and Bates and Associated Pipeline. He was heavily involved in the construction of the Alaskan Pipeline and spent several years living in Fairbanks, Alaska. His work took him to several states and numerous countries in the world. He had wonderful stories about his experiences and new friends he had made. These folks never failed to look him up when their travels brought them to Houston.

Bernie's Pioneer Spirit was never stronger and more positive than during those months before his untimely passing. If there was hope, he had it; if there was a chance, he took it; if there was a new experimental treatment, he volunteered to try it. All the while with a smile and that optimistic outlook that had been the benchmark for his entire life. He has left a legacy that will be hard to follow. He will be missed.

Presenters

Don Garner, Stillwater High School, Class of 1954

Dave Oates, Stillwater High School, Class of 1954