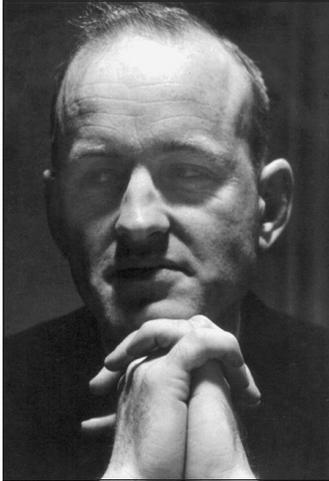




## *Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial*

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**JOHN BARTON GILLUM**

October 6, 1933 - July 19, 1979

Stillwater High School Class of 1952

11th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 7, 2006

John Barton Gillum was the son of John L. and Thelma Gillum, long time Stillwater residents. John attended elementary school here and was a 1952 graduate of SHS. Like most boys he knew, he was hooked on sports from an early age, inspired mostly by the A&M teams. On many Saturday mornings, after doing his household chores, he would head for Gallagher Hall or any other court that might be available, for pickup basketball games with his buddies.

Although he lacked exceptional athletic ability, he was blessed with determination, competitiveness and an appetite for hard work, characteristics that brought him special success his senior year at SHS as the starting center in basketball and starting tackle in football. In football, he was the "weak side" tackle in the single wing offense, where his primary assignment was to race downfield and throw blocks on the opponent's secondary. This was a somewhat thankless task, but he did have at least one moment of glory that is special to defensive linemen. In this particular game he was playing defensive end, a tipped pass fell into his hands and he rumbled 20 yards into the end zone, holding the pigskin like a hot potato.

As a center in basketball, he initially played a secondary role and was valued mainly for his rebounding and defense. By mid-season, his hook shot began to connect with regularity, and he led the team in scoring in a few games.

John's efforts on the basketball court were rewarded when he realized a life-long dream by accepting a scholarship to play for Henry Iba at Oklahoma A&M. College ball proved to be too great a challenge. As a 6'5" center, he was undersized and competing unsuccessfully with taller and more agile players. Realizing that he could not make a significant contribution to the team, he reluctantly resigned his scholarship after his junior year and dedicated his efforts to his studies.

In 1956 he graduated with a degree in economics. After a brief tour as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army, John took a job with Gulf Oil and began a career in which he gained an understanding of many aspects of the oil industry. He eventually became Vice President for Research at Rotan Mosle, a Houston investment company, where his effort, knowledge and integrity were highly regarded. His life was cut short when he was fatally injured in a car accident.

John enjoyed modest success as an athlete and significant achievement in his business career, but by far his greatest satisfaction came from his family. Shortly after graduating from OSU, he met and married Patricia Wright, a Tulsa girl. Together, they raised four children Kelly, Grant, Ginger and Bart. John and Pat welcomed parenting with the same dedication John had shown for sports and business. They always made time for their children. Whenever their support or participation was needed for family activities, they would be there. They nurtured a close and loving family, and as a testament, their children have done the same for their own children.

In his life, John showed that effort and dedication can bring tangible success in sports and in a career, but the most enduring results are the respect of friends and the love of family.

Presenter  
Jim Remy  
Stillwater High School, Class of 1952