



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



JACK A. GRIFFITH

April 24, 1926 - May 18, 2007

Stillwater High School Class of 1944

16th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September 24, 2011

Jack was born April 24, 1926 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Art and Mildred Griffith. Jack, his parents and younger brother Jim moved to Stillwater in 1941 when Art became the wrestling coach at Oklahoma A&M. While in high school, Jack wrestled for three years and played football for two years. At the age of seventeen he enlisted in the Navy. After his tour of duty he returned home to Stillwater to attend Oklahoma A&M now OSU. After graduation he coached wrestling at Georgia Tech from 1948-1951. He then returned to Stillwater to make his home.

Upon his return he became the play-by-play voice of Cowboy wrestling at KSPI in Stillwater. He announced the broadcast of dual matches, Big 8 and NCAA tournaments for nineteen years. Jack had a genuine ability to describe to the audience's satisfaction what was happening on the mat.

Also upon his return to Stillwater, he started Griffith Drilling Company, which he operated from 1955-1966. He then formed Griffith Petroleum. This consisted of the "JACK GRIFFITH GAS-UP" self serve, drive thru convenience stores.

He was an industry leader and served in many leadership positions including President of the Oklahoma Petroleum Marketers Association, President of the Petroleum Marketers Association of America, and Board Member of the American Petroleum Institute. He received Distinguished Service Awards from both state and national organizations. Jack was named the nations top Petroleum Marketer.

Jack was active in the community and served as Chairman of the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. He was elected to the Stillwater Hall of Fame and was selected as the Stillwater and Oklahoma Small Business Person of the year in 1987. He was also honored with the OSU Distinguished Alumni Award.

He loved to travel to Crested Butte, Colorado where he and his wife, Janet, spent many wonderful summers together. He enjoyed snow skiing and participated in the sport into his seventies.

Jack was a huge fan of Stillwater, the Pioneers and OSU. He is survived by his wife, Janet, SHS class of 1955; son Jim, SHS class of 1971; Gina, SHS class of 1973; Nancy, SHS class of 1979; and Jon, SHS class of 1980. He is also survived by eight grandchildren, four of whom are Stillwater Pioneer graduates.

Presenter
Winfrey Houston
Stillwater High School Class of 1944