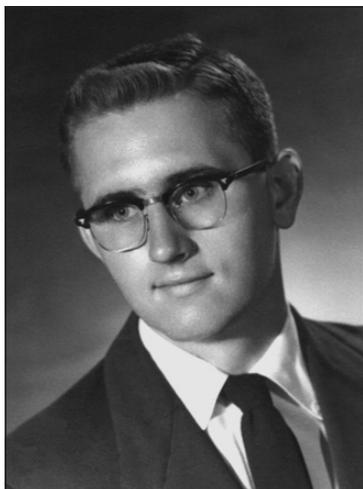




## *Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial*

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### MELVIN HEMPHILL

June 27, 1938 - December 9, 1966

Stillwater High School Class of 1956

9th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September 25, 2004

Sports were a significant part of Melvin Hemphill's life, but most important in his life were his Christian faith, his family, and his community. Sports were a thread that helped to weave and hold together many of his activities and contributions to family and community.

Melvin Hemphill was born June 27, 1938, in Tryon, Oklahoma, to Glen and Evelyn Hemphill. He was their only child. His parents are deceased, having died in 1995 and 1996.

Beginning with Little League baseball, Melvin was a participant in sports throughout his life. He participated in track two years in junior high, played basketball in junior high and three years in high school, and played football two years in junior high and three years in high school.

In addition to his contributions to the Pioneers as an athlete, Melvin also was a noted vocalist. He sang tenor, was president of Glen Epperly's mixed chorus his senior year, sang in the Boys Quartet, and participated in both the state and tri-state contests. Melvin was a member of DeMolay and during high school began working part-time at Duckwall Furniture.

He graduated from SHS in 1956 and attended OSU, majoring in business. He was a bookkeeper at Owens and Wallace Plumbing while attending OSU and in 1961 began working at Stillwater National Bank, where he was assistant cashier at the time of his death in 1966.

Melvin's interest and participation in sports continued after high school. He was a member of the Stillwater Quarterback Club and coached little league baseball and basketball. He became an official in both sports and was a member of the Oklahoma Collegiate Conference Officials Association and the Oklahoma High School Officials Association. He officiated some 50 football and basketball games per season. It was while traveling to Weatherford to officiate a junior college basketball game December 9, 1966, that he was killed in an auto accident.

In 1959, he married his high school sweetheart, Linda Boothe, and they had two children - Mel Allen and Kelly Lynn, who were ages 2 and 4 at the time of his death. Mel Allen was named for the famed sportscaster of the same name.

Melvin Hemphill was a member of the Board of Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church from 1963-65, treasurer of the Board of Christian Education, and served on the Nominating Committee for the church Executive Board. He has been nominated to the Board of Elders at the time of his death and posthumously was elected unanimously to the board by the congregation.

In addition to giving to his family and his church, Melvin was a "giving person" to the community. He was an active volunteer in efforts to aid the less fortunate and to improve the Stillwater community. His contributions and achievements included being named the city's Outstanding Young Man by the Stillwater Jaycees, serving two terms as president and one as treasurer, being a state director of Jaycees, and receiving the Distinguished Service Award of Honor from the Stillwater Jaycees. In addition to his activities with the Jaycees, Melvin was a charter member of the Noon Lions Club and served as secretary treasurer and president, was a member of the OSU Young Democrats, president of the Payne County March of Dimes, member of the Payne County Bankers Association, and a member of the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce and YMCA.

Melvin was a young man who loved his God, his family, and his community and who demonstrated this through his many contributions. Without doubt, he is deserving inductee into the Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial.

Presenter  
Bill Brown  
Stillwater High School, Class of 1956