



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



RICHARD INGHAM

March 10, 1948 - December 22, 2005

Stillwater High School Class of 1966

11th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 7, 2006

The compassionate man that is Richard Gerald Ingham, began emerging in the mid 50's at Stillwater's Westwood Elementary, along with his love of athletics, particularly basketball. As the years passed, he could be found many afternoons at the basketball goal in his driveway where he was the facilitator, helping everyone improve. As he began his competitive basketball career in Junior High, Richard was keenly interested in the team's success, even more than his own, a trademark of Richard Ingham --- he succeeded by advancing other's opportunities. The Pioneer Varsity basketball team of 1965-66 was fortunate to have Richard as its starting playmaker, even though he frustrated Coach C. D. Mihura, who could never yell at him to 'hustle' or 'think' or 'be quick', because those traits were Richard's nature in basketball and in life.

Hustling, thinking and being quick, were all manifest in his earning a Bachelor's from OSU, a Master's Degree in English from OU, a Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist Law School and becoming an Officer in the U. S. Army within a decade of graduating from Stillwater High.

OSU played a major role in Richard's life. A high honor for any man is to be selected by one's peers to lead them and Richard's brothers at Beta Theta Pi fraternity acknowledged his character when they selected him as their president. Even more important was his good fortune to meet Susan Holt, who became his best friend and companion for life on May 16, 1971, when they were married in Oklahoma City. Richard's love for Stillwater and OSU, the deep friendships formed at both and the lessons learned from his parents, Kermit and Louise and siblings, Kermit Jr. and Nancy formed a foundation for Richard's life that a larger world would come to share and value.

His children, Katherine, Daniel and Mary know that one source of their Father's strength was his respect for each and every human being. He guided his children in finding their own passion and purpose in life for he knew the greatest joy comes from acting beyond ourselves. After 16 years of a successful law practice with the prestigious Oklahoma City law firm of Andrews Davis, Richard told his family "at a certain point you have to do what makes you happy". For him, that was helping others in the best way he could. The needs of Oklahoma senior citizens became his passion as he created and filled the position of Attorney for Aging Services with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. He was the first president of the Oklahoma Court Appointed Advocates for Vulnerable Adults and National President of the Association of Legal Services Developers. Public service with its recognition however, did not count for as much to Richard as the sense of making a difference. For example, he was known to drive alone to some small distant Oklahoma community, to meet with a handful of Seniors and help explain Medicare and other programs that he knew could enrich the quality of their lives. The breadth and depth of love and respect shared between Richard and Oklahoma's Seniors surely arose from his appreciation of their knowledge, life experiences and contributions to our world. Richard Ingham, as one of our great Pioneers, gave his time to make other's lives better.

Presenter
Owen Tim Kinney
Stillwater High School, Class of 1966