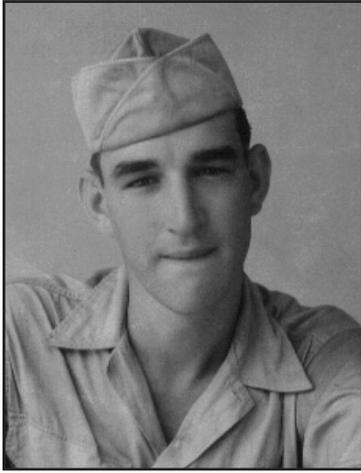




Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



MAX JOHNSON, SR.

April 27, 1926 - October 27, 2002

Stillwater High School Class of 1944

8th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 4, 2003

Max Johnson was born in Stillwater, OK on April 27, 1926 and lived here all of his life. He attended Stillwater schools beginning with Eugene Field and ending with Stillwater High School. He worked hard in high school and loved sports. Lettering in football, basketball, and baseball, he wore his letter and the number 12 with pride.

Max's favorite coach was Coach Ralph Hamilton. Coach Hamilton's basketball team won 18 out of 20 games that year, winning the Northern Conference for the first time since the thirteen team conference was organized. Max was a sophomore center on the team.

Max's high school graduation in May, 1944 was put off due to World War II when he entered the armed forces and became a member of the 130th Infantry Regiment. He spent almost one and one half years on foreign soil before returning to the United States where he was recognized with the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze star, the Army Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and WW II Victory Medal. On separation from the military on August 10, 1946, he was awarded a Lapel Button, and Sharpshooter award. He returned to Stillwater and finished the work necessary to receive his high school diploma.

Max's father was a painter, so Max learned to paint at an early age. After returning to Stillwater, he went to work as a painter. He married Evelyn Pearl Sneed in Yale, Oklahoma, on March 30, 1947 and they were blessed with 3 sons and 1 daughter, Max Henry, Jr., John Dewey, Lynn Edward and Gay Yvonne. In 1948, he established Johnson Painting and Paperhanging Company and ran it for 40 years.

Max loved sports of all kinds, but his favorites were golf, hunting and fishing. Max planned and arranged many hunting and fishing trips with his friends. He loved to go to Kansas, western Oklahoma, and South Dakota pheasant hunting. Clyde Raper reported that Max, the designated grocery buyer, always bought a gallon can of peaches and they never opened them. This became a standing joke with the group.

Max loved life and had lots of good times with his hunting and fishing buddies. He liked to plan these trips and was always ready to go at someone else's suggestion. He also loved to take his sons on these trips. He taught his sons all of the fine arts of fishing and hunting, and encouraged them in their sporting events at school. When he came home from work, no matter how tired he was, he would not sit down and rest until he played baseball, football, or basketball with his boys in the yard.

Max loved promoting Stillwater. He started many projects which helped the community. In July, 1992, he and a group of other SHS graduates, met for the first time to establish the Stillwater High School Alumni Association. He convinced the City to provide an office for the group in the Stillwater Community Center.

Max also worked hard in Kiwanis and the Presbyterian Church. He helped his friends and neighbors when he could. He taught many work ethics and how to present themselves on the job.

Max continued with his mission of helping with worthwhile projects even though his health was not as good as he would have wished until his death on October 27, 2002. He loved life and got lots of pleasure out of everything he was involved in. He was an inspiration to everyone who knew him.

Presenter
Hallard Randell