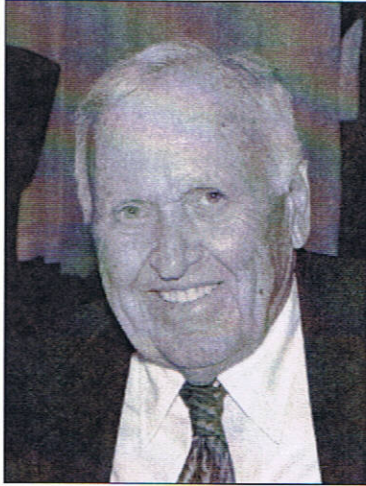




# *Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial*

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## WILLIAM G. KINNICK

June 12, 1937 - September 15, 2013  
Stillwater High School Class of 1955

19th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony  
October 4, 2014

William G. Kinnick, born June 12, 1937, was the oldest of seven children born to John William (Bill) and Dovie Joyce Hansen Kinnick. The family, plus an adopted younger brother and numerous nieces and nephews over the years, lived on the "Kinnick Farm" on Highway 51 east of Stillwater. William performed chores and farm work required of anyone growing up on a dirt farm. He milked cows, fed farm animals, drove trucks and tractors which meant he never needed to join the FFA. Other farm kids in the area were his friends. In fact, he enjoyed being with them far more than working on the farm.

William's early education was in Spring Valley, a one-room schoolhouse. Later, the summers were spent "going to wheat harvest" starting in Gainesville, Texas and cutting wheat all the way north to Canada. It was work, work, and more work, but there was a lot of fun had by the boys as they became men while traveling and seeing our great country.

After Spring Valley, William attended Stillwater High, and wrestled as a freshman and played football under Coach Ralph Tate and later Coach Nate Watson. William lettered every year in sports and loved wearing his letter jacket. He maintained many lifelong friendships from his high school days. As his daughter Terri reviewed Pioneer yearbooks, she was touched and amazed to see all the friends that William still kept in close contact with from high school. He treasured those days and those friends.

Shortly before graduation from Stillwater High School, he joined the US Navy. He attended Great Lakes Electricians Mate Class A school and served with honor from 1955 to 1959 onboard the USS Rochester CA124, earning numerous medals and awards. His brother Chuck received special permission to serve on the same ship. William's electrical experience and education at the University of Tulsa served him well as he spent his career in the electrical field.

William worked all over the United States selling electrical supplies and equipment to and for major companies. He was a partner in Harman and Kinnick Sales, worked for Nelson Electric, Nunn-Royal, All Phase Electric Supply and eventually retired from General Electric. He later worked for Hempill Corporation and spent time "working" with his brother Tom at Kinnick Properties, LLC. He spent his retirement in Stillwater, Tulsa, and Grand Lake. He loved to travel, spend time with his friends and family, horse racing, gambling, reading, golfing, and soaking up the sun.

William married Janet Ilene Hemphill Kinnick, also from Stillwater, in 1958 and divorced in 1972. They had two children, William Floyd "Dub" Kinnick (Oceanside, CA) and Terri Kinnick Arnold (Oklahoma City).

William was fond of saying "I lit up the world with all of the lights I sold." William did light up a lot of things in his life. He passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on September 15, 2013. He is missed.

*Presenter*

*Don Garner, Stillwater High School Class of 1954*