



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



ELVA MOODY

June 6, 1936 - March 29, 2007

Stillwater High School Class of 1954

15th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 2, 2010

Elva Winston Moody, a home grown and raised Pioneer, was born to Clifford and Alta Ventrea Moody in Stillwater, OK. Elva was their only child and was educated in the Stillwater school system.

Elva joined the Navy in 1955 where he became an Aerographer Mate 2nd Class. Aerographers were responsible for providing weather forecasts and conditions to pilots. He was stationed at Beeville and Kingsville, Texas. He married Barbara Ann Rider in 1956. Their four boys (Jeff, Bobby, Mike and Marny) and two girls (Kim and Terry) all went thru the Stillwater School System. After his release from the Navy in 1959, Elva became a letter carrier in Stillwater, OK. Moody retired in 1992.

As a Pioneer, Elva played football and wrestled. In football he was the pulling guard. He was quick as a cat off the line of scrimmage and was a vocal and dedicated team leader. Elva believed in the team concept and was very, very competitive. He had a little anger against Cushing when they beat Stillwater in the fall of '53. Cushing intentionally flooded their home field the day and night before the game. They didn't advise Stillwater that the sprinklers had been left on so that they could play elsewhere or reschedule due to field conditions. They just put long cleats on their shoes knowing that the Pioneers would have only their short cleats. Stillwater's single wing offense, which depended on quickness, was at a disadvantage and Cushing won the game. Stillwater High was the better team but lost the game. Moody went to his grave calling Cushing Tigers cheaters.

Moody was a first teamer on the wrestling squad. His senior year he was projected to be a potential state wrestling tournament participant. Late in the season, he was working out with John Shilling, a 280 pound heavyweight, when Shilling inadvertently fell on Moody who wrestled at 165 pounds. Elva sustained a cracked vertebrae, from that point on, he became the teams biggest motivator. He continued to go to practice just to provide encouragement.

Moody enjoyed life and remained competitive. When his children were older he coached a "select teenage baseball team" that won state several times. It was tough to get on the team and if you weren't good enough, you didn't get selected. Moody set a high standard and for example, his sons were not always on the team.

Moody's other outside interests were motorcycling and golf.

Elva Moody was a competitor his whole life. He had the Pioneer Pride and Spirit that resulted in a positive attitude. No hill or challenge was too big to take on. He will be remembered for his friendliness as a letter carrier and a great role model as a father and family man. Moody was a leader by example from his youth to his death. God Bless you Elva Moody, you deserve our praise.

Presenter
David Oates
Stillwater High School Class of 1954