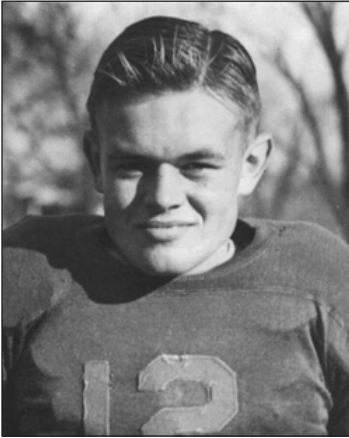




Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



BOB MURPHY

May 23, 1920 - December 21, 2000

Stillwater High School Class of 1938

6th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September 29, 2001

Bob was born May 23, 1920 to Wyche Blakely and Mildred Moore Murphy in Stillwater. He married Peggy Love on April 19, 1947 in Purcell. Together they had four children who all graduated from Stillwater High: Bob Jr. and Terry of Stillwater, Shirley Chestnut of Miami and Helen Mary of Tulsa. He also has 12 grandchildren: Anna ('99 SHS graduate); Colleen (deceased); Eric & Alyce Murphy (future Pioneers); Pat, Garret & Lucy Murphy (also past, present and future Pioneers); Matthew, Mark, Michael & Laura Chestnut (Miami Wardogs) and Susie Shinn (Jenks Trojan).

In 1938 Bob graduated from Stillwater High where he was co-captain of the undefeated football team and an all-Cimarron Valley selection his senior year. He played both ways as guard for Coach Ralph Hamilton as part of his famous "boxcar" blocking scheme. He also lettered in basketball and tennis winning the Northern Doubles crown. He was a Boy Rotarian, Society Editor of the Stillwater Stepper, and a member of Student Council. One of his duties as co-captain was to crown football queen Wanda Gudgel with co-captain Bob Whitenton.

After graduation from SHS he attended Oklahoma A&M and The University of Arkansas College of Law on a tennis scholarship. He served in the Navy in the Pacific theater and earned commendations for his heroism in the battles of Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima and Okinawa as a gunnery officer aboard an LCI gunboat during WW II.

After the war he returned to Stillwater where he practiced law and served one term as County Attorney. Later the voters of Payne County elected him to 5 consecutive terms to the Oklahoma State Senate where he worked tirelessly for the state and particularly higher education. He authored over 250 pieces of legislation 108 of which were signed into law by the governor. During his tenure as Chairman of the Higher Education Committee appropriations for higher education increased 200 per cent and he was credited by then Governor David Boren as the "driving force" behind the establishment of the OSU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. He also worked to improve the roads in the area. He saw that Highway 51 was four laned to I-35, and for his efforts in this area the Payne County Historical Society named a bridge in his honor on Highway 33 that crosses the Cimarron River.

He is an inductee in the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce and the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame and now most proudly the Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial.

Presenter
Joe Atkins
Stillwater High School, Class of 1938