



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



CHARLES O'DONNELL

May 28, 1936 - July 9, 2013

Stillwater High School Class of 1954

19th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 4, 2014

Charles O'Donnell was born on May 28, 1936, in Vinco, Oklahoma, welcomed by his parents, Charles and Laurel O'Donnell. Charles was the oldest of five boys, including brothers James, Bob, Ted, and Tim who are also graduates and former athletes of Stillwater High School.

Stillwater was Charles' home where he attended elementary, junior high and high school. At Stillwater High School, he participated in football, basketball, wrestling, and baseball, but as a football All-Stater, football remained his favorite sport. Charles often said, "There was never a greater group of friends than the Stillwater High School Class of '54." After graduation, he never missed an opportunity to serve on a reunion planning committee or to meet with former classmates to relive days of Stillwater's athletic glory.

In 1958, Charles married Nancy Walker, and they enjoyed 55 years of marriage as well as extensive careers in education. Charles held positions as coach, teacher, principal, and superintendent in Gables, Nevada and in Oklahoma in Hollis, Maysville, Perry, and Carney. During his coaching career, he was head coach for numerous football and baseball district championship teams, assistant coach for two state wrestling championship teams and head football coach for one state championship team. He attended Tulsa University, Northeastern of Miami, East Central University, and Oklahoma State University where he earned bachelors and masters degrees together with teaching and administration certifications.

Charles loved working with young people and establishing influential, lifelong relationships with his students. Even today, his former players talk about the traditional end-of-year fishing trips that Charles sponsored and financed for the student athletes participating in his programs. During his 46 years in education, most weeks found one or more of his students or former students contacting him to seek advice or to reminisce with fond memories.

During Charles' life, involvement in the lives of his daughter D.K. DeMier, his son Joey O'Donnell, and his grandchildren Kaegen, Kale, Kinley, and Jonathan brought him great pride and pleasure. Charles passed away on July 9, 2013, in his Edmond home surrounded by those he loved. His twinkling blue eyes, charming dimpled smile, exaggerated fishing tales, and animated stories of athletic conquests are missed by those who will always love and respect our brother, husband, dad, coach, teacher, friend, and loyal SHS alum.

Presenter

Ted O'Donnell, Stillwater High School Class of 1964