



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



HARVEY E. THURMAN

December 9, 1931 - August 24, 2011

Stillwater High School Class of 1950

17th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 13, 2012

Harvey E. Thurman was born on December 9, 1931 in Ripley, Oklahoma to Elbert and Lola Mae Thurman. He passed away on August 24, 2011 in Oklahoma City. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Betty Lou, his son Jay Thurman and wife Louise and 4 grandchildren, Courtney, Chad, Ben and Cameron.

Harvey was a lifelong member of the Stillwater High School family and involved in many alumni activities. When he was in high school, he was the Class President of the SHS Class of 1950 and the President of "S Club" (the letterman's club). As a high school football player, he set several offensive rushing and scoring records and was the highest recruited player in the state of Oklahoma in 1950. He was the University of Oklahoma and Bud Wilkinson's #1 priority recruit, but he was unable to accept the scholarship offer from OU because he was drafted into the US Army.

At the completion of Boot Camp, of the 500 graduates all but Harvey were sent to the Korean Conflict; instead he was sent to Germany. Upon arriving in Germany, he was ordered to try out for the division football team. He was reluctant to do this because the entire football team had been active NFL players prior to being drafted and he was just 1 year out of high school, but he followed orders and tried out for the team. He made the team and was immediately put into the starting line-up. By the end of the season, he was the leading rusher in all of Europe.

After he returned from active duty, he settled down with his family in Oklahoma City. He retired from AT&T after a very successful 28 year career. He was known to have a deep love and compassion for cars, his grandkids, and most of all his best friend and wife, Betty Lou or "Shorty" as he called her.

He remained loyal to Stillwater High School all his life, organizing and hosting several annual reunions.

*Presenter
Chad Thurman*