



## ***Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial***

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### **DEWELL TURNER**

September 28, 1943 - April 9, 2012  
Stillwater High School Class of 1961

18th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony  
September 28, 2013

Dewell was a soft spoken, gentle man, known to his family and close friends as "Baby Dewell". At the tender age of 13, he felt like the "Baby" should be eliminated from his name. His parents were the only people allowed to continue to use that nickname. He was born to Ada and Dewell Turner, Sr. on September 28, 1943. He was the 4th child of 9 and as the middle child, he seriously strived to encourage and set positive examples of leadership and guidance not only for the family, but for others in the community. Dewell was raised in a spiritual home. He attended Mr. Zion Baptist Church, participating in the choir and later in the men's outreach ministry.

Dewell started his early education in the Stillwater School System attending Washington Elementary School, Stillwater Junior High and then graduating from Stillwater High in May, 1961. While in high school, Dewell played football; however, his favorite sport was wrestling. A love of this sport led him to encourage and support his younger brothers, Gerald (Jerry) and David Turner, to excel in wrestling. Dewell was also a member of the Stillwater marching band, playing the trumpet.

After high school, Dewell attended Oklahoma State University, while working at Hinkle's Printing of Stillwater. He later transferred to Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

Dewell married Quilla Dean Bell in July, 1963. Of this union, three children were born: Tracie, Shannon and Dewell III, called Trey. Dewell's son was the light of his life, but he was taken at the early age of 16. During this time of great loss, Dewell became a mentor to the other young men in the family and community.

He remarried many years later to Linda Heardon and gained guardianship over Linda's granddaughter, Maddie. His older daughter blessed him with two girls, whom he has spoiled, but he also taught them the meaning of love and respect of others. Dewell was a true believer in education which he passed on to his children. One of his favorite sayings was, "I don't mind giving you a helping hand up, but I will not give you a hand out."

Dewell worked for IBM for 21 years. After retiring, he focused on doing the things he most loved and enjoyed. He spent many hours fishing, gardening, cooking, and as a wine connoisseur. He occasionally made wine with fruit from his own orchards. He was an expert at crossword puzzles, which he did in ink.

Dewell was called to his heavenly home on April 9, 2012. He is missed by many family members and friends.

*Presenter*  
*David Turner, Stillwater High School Class of 1969*