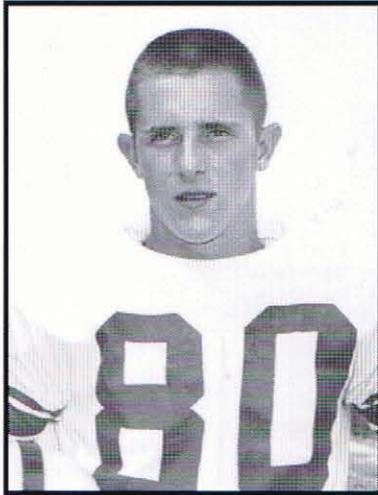


Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



FREDDIE R. WOODRUFF

September 14, 1947 - August 8, 1993

Stillwater High School Class of 1965

Freddie R. Woodruff was born on September 14, 1947 in Weatherford, Oklahoma to George Woodruff and Dorothy Woodruff. He was assassinated on August 8, 1993, near Tbilisi, Georgia, in an area of the former Soviet Union while on an assignment for the United States Government. In between Freddie packed incredible experiences into his 45 years of life.

His early years were spent in Rush Springs, Oklahoma before his family moved to Stillwater in the late 1950's when his father became football coach at the Junior High School. Naturally, Freddie was a football player, playing for his Father's Junior High School teams and later for the Pioneers. He started at Defensive end on the 1964 state playoff team and had his best game of the

year in a loss to the eventual state champion. Although he never weighed over 160 pounds he was a key part of that team and was named All-District at the end of the season.

After graduation in May of 1965, Freddie attended college at Harding College in Searcy, Arkansas. He earned his B.A. in Theology in 1969 and enlisted in the United States military. While he was in the military his talent for being able to master foreign languages first became evident. He was eventually assigned to Berlin, Germany where he served as a Russian interpreter for the United States Army. During this time he was able to earn his master's Degree in Educational Psychology from Wayne State University. Upon his discharge from the military, Freddie returned to Stillwater where he started work on a Doctorate at Oklahoma State University.

While he was working on his doctorate he had an opportunity to travel to the then-Soviet Union and participate in a series of debates that were televised nationally throughout the soviet Union. He was employed by the State Department in 1977 and traveled extensively.

His service posts with the State Department commenced with the Consulate general's Office in St. Petersburg, Russia and included serving in Leningrad, Turkey, Ethiopia, the Sudan and Kiev, Ukraine. Freddie also learned and fluently spoke Russian, Turkish, German and Azeri.

His last posting with the State Department on a temporary assignment was in the Spring of 1993 with the American Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia, the place of his death.

During his career with the State Department, he traveled worldwide, however perhaps the achievement he was most proud of occurred on February 7, 1992. On that date, Freddie was chosen to raise for the first time the American flag in front of the American Embassy in Alma, Ata, Kazakhstan, a newly created nation within the former Soviet Union.

Freddie had a very accomplished and proud professional career, however, he never changed from the person who grew up in the halls of Stillwater High School. The personality traits that characterized him during those years remained with him throughout his life and will always be things for which he will be remembered. Regardless of the task or job, and regardless of whether it was work or play, Freddie approached everything with a definite intensity. It wasn't good enough that he be on the Pioneer football team, he had to be a part of it, whether in practice or state playoff games. It wasn't enough that he saw Mount Kilimanjaro, he had to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. Regardless of what he faced he approached and accomplished it with a great intensity.

He was also a great friend. Freddie was not the type of person who had only a few friends, rather he had many friends. He kept this trait throughout his life and was always one of those people who was best friends to everyone and in Freddie's case perhaps also to the world.

Lastly, Freddie loved the Pioneers and the fact that he was a Pioneer. To many it may have seemed funny or hard to understand, but he was proud of being a Pioneer and his heritage in Stillwater regardless of where in the world he went and who he met. For many years he continued to sign letters with the number 80, which of course was his high school jersey number. He did this because he never lost his love for his high school, his friends and for the Pioneers.