



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

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**LEON JEROME "JERRY" YORK, JR.**  
December 23, 1935 - November 19, 1960  
Stillwater High School Class of 1954

4th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony  
October 2, 1999

Leon Jerome "Jerry" York, Jr. was born on December 23, 1935 in Stillwater, Oklahoma, one of two sons of Judge Leon J. and Audrey Whitwell York. Judge Leon J. York, Sr. served the Stillwater Community

as Assistant District and District Attorney for many years, retiring from public practice in 1968.

Leon J. "Jerry" York was the third of four siblings born to Judge Leon and Audrey York, Sr. He began his education in Eugene Field Elementary School and graduated from Stillwater High School in May 1954. Continuing his education he received his degree from Oklahoma State University in 1958 where he was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and a member of the Board of Control. He was awarded his Law Degree from the University of Oklahoma Law School in June of 1960. While attaining his law degree at O.U., Jerry received an award for his most outstanding work on the Oklahoma University Law Review. At the time of his death he was serving the Stillwater Community as a partner in the Leon J. York, Sr., Attorney Firm. He was a member of the American Bar Association, Stillwater Lions Club and the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. Being granted a temporary permit to practice law prior to graduation, Jerry won his first case the day after his graduation from the O.U. Law School and was beginning a highly promising career as an attorney. He was going to be appointed Stillwater Assistant District Attorney within the year.

Early in Jerry's life he developed the ability to analyze situations and execute his decisions thus allowing him to achieve beneficial results in his endeavors. This was exhibited as a football player when he played several positions over the years; however, he was playing left tackle for the Pioneers during his senior year. His number was 21 that year. Jerry had the ability to execute his plays very efficiently and assist other players. He was a very valuable player of the 1954 Stillwater High School football team.

Jerry was very good as a down field blocker. His determination and efficiency on the down field block team was something to behold. Coach Jim Harris said "boy he saw something he hadn't seen before and told Jerry to continue and go with it". Some of Jerry's teammates were Elmer Carpenter, Elva Moody, Phillip Kinyon, Max Walters, Bill Thompson, Les Welker, Neil Pock, Bernie Dorman, David Oates, Ronnie Collyar, Charles O'Donnell, Bob Ketch and Don Garner to name only a few. This is the team Coached by Ralph Tate and Jim Harris.

In conclusion as a classmate of Jerry's I remember he was quiet, a little ornery and not too eager to volunteer but when he did participate he gave his all and was usually successful.

Jerry always had a good attitude and this continued throughout his life. As a Stillwater Pioneer he definitely had the "Pioneer Spirit" thus allowing his family and classmates to have special memories of a very special guy. Jerry was proud to be a Pioneer.

*Presenter*  
*Pat Jackson*  
*Stillwater High School, Class of 1954*