



great & graduates

BROKEN ARROW HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2020 & 2021 HONOREES





Broken Arrow High School
Alumni Association
GREAT GRADUATES OF 2020 & 2021
Recognition Ceremony and Reception

Varsity Club - BA Varsity Training Center
2200 N. 23rd St.
Thursday, October 14, 2021

Master of Ceremonies
Derek Blackburn
Broken Arrow Public Schools
Class of 1990

Dinner

Welcome
Dr. Janet Vinson
Superintendent of Schools

**Greetings from the Broken Arrow High School
Alumni Association**
Charles Gann
Class of 1955

Invocation
Charles Gann
Class of 1955

**Recognition of former great graduates
School board members and special guests**

**Introduction of Great Graduates
Class of 2020 & 2021**

Dr. William L. Baker, Class of 1952*

Carla Dobbins Crow, Class of 1970

Steve Fulps, Class of 1970

Rev. A. Leroy Gerner, Class of 1975**

John L. Ross, Jr., Class of 1980**

Kenny Schwab, Class of 1984

James Meadours, Class of 1986**

Darrin Davis, Class of 1987**

Brigadier General Tommy Mancino, Class of 1998

Closing Remarks
Glenn Wimpee
Class of 1990

**Denotes recipient being honored posthumously.
** Denotes Great Graduates Class of 2020*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Broken Arrow Public Schools

Dr. Janet Vinson
Superintendent of Schools

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GREAT GRADUATES COMMITTEE

Derek Blackburn, Class of 1990
Carla Dobbins Crow, Class of 1970
Chase Elkins of 2005
Charlie Gann, Class of 1955
Carolyn Vaughan Hodges, Class of 1970
Max Smith, Class of 1950
Tammy Barton Strickland, Class of 1994
Orpha Bunch, Class of 1954
Glenn Wimpee, Class of 1990

<https://www.brokenarrowalumni.com>
www.facebook.com/BAHSALUMNI

Dr.

WILLIAM L. BAKER

Class of 1952

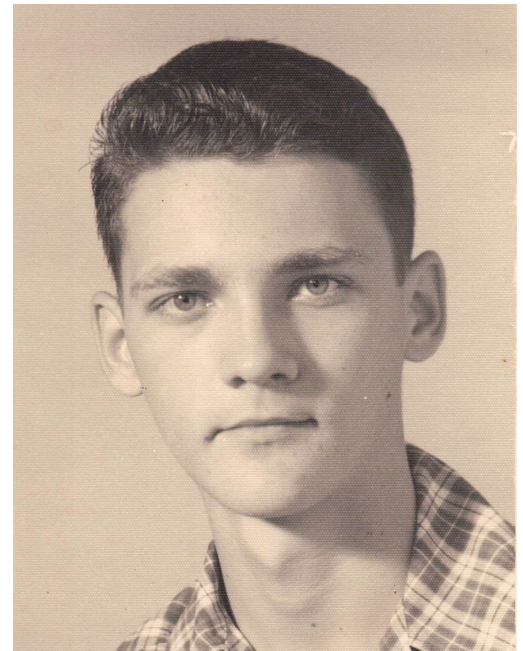
During a long and distinguished career, the late William Leroy Baker gained considerable recognition as an outstanding “people doctor.” But that wasn’t his goal following graduation from Broken Arrow High School in 1952.

This Great Graduate entered Oklahoma State University with every intention of becoming a veterinarian.

The lure of serving people, however, won his heart and led him to the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. After graduating, he specialized in helping veterans deal with a number of mental

health issues. The importance of his work gained widespread news media recognition following the Oklahoma City bombing.

After retiring, Dr. Baker devoted a great deal of time working with young people, teaching art and sharing with them his nationally acclaimed passion for model airplanes. An active birdwatcher, he was especially proud of the rare falconer’s certificate he received. During this same time, he also learned how to whittle and look pride in the skill level he achieved.



Carla DOBBINS CROW

Class of 1970

Few people have had a more distinguished career in education than Carla Dobbins Crow, but she is the first to admit it got off to a rocky start.

Crow delights in telling friends how she and a friend were placed on the wrong school bus on their first day as first graders. After touring parts of Wagoner County, the driver delivered them to the district bus barn at Kirkland Field. Both girls walked home, crossing Haskell Park where they were met by Crow's older brother, Charles, who insured their safety during the remainder of their trek.

Perhaps it was ordained that Crow would enter the education field since her grandfather used to call her a "schoolmarm." Due to not having a car she was unable to attend vo-tech which led her to enroll in business courses, learning typing from Lois Maples, bookkeeping from Barbara Lewis and shifting her major in business.

After graduating from Northeastern State University, she launched her career in Lenapah, Okla. where she spent one semester before being hired by Broken Arrow Public Schools. Her job was to teach typing using manual typewriters. Forty years later in 2013 she retired as Chair of the Business Education Department. Along the way she taught fellow teachers how to use computerized gradebooks and Microsoft Office products, served as an education instructor at NSU and Bacone College and as a computers and accounting teacher at Tulsa Tech and Tulsa Community College.

She is best remembered as a teacher at BAHS. Her dedication extended beyond the classroom as sponsor of the 12-year breakfast for graduating seniors or PTA member for her great nieces and nephew's elementary school. Tiger alums are thankful for her tireless work for the Alumni Association and Broken Arrow Foundation.



Steve FULPS

Class of 1970

One part lifelong Broken Arrowan, two parts business owner, three parts baseball coach, four parts bass fisherman...too many parts? Not if you know Steve Fulps, and if you've been around long enough, you know 'em. Well beyond retirement age, Steve just keeps on going...his friends and classmates say this is because he lives for competition – among his hobbies are tournament bass fishing, bird hunting, raising cattle, and giving back to the school system and community that mean so much to him, in an effort to make them the very best.

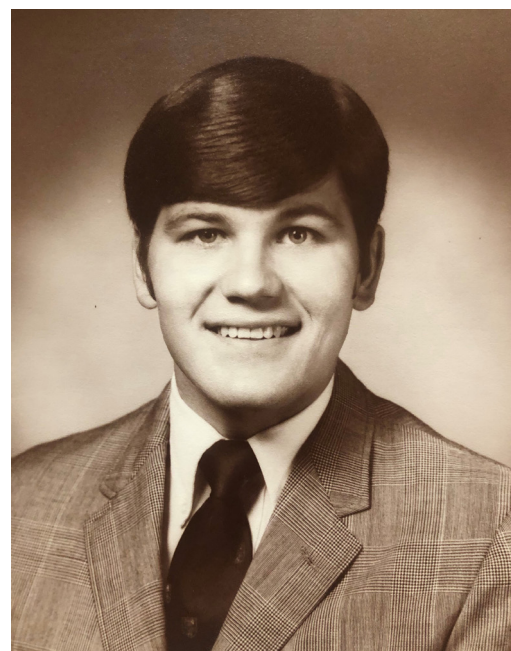
A BA graduate in 1970, for at least 40 years Steve Fulps has served the community well. He co-founded Abatement Systems, Inc in 1986 an environmental remediation company that not only provides environmental safety to BA Public Schools but also around Oklahoma and neighboring states. He also manages his family's 70 year old business, Arrow Exterminators, founded by his late father, Bud Fulps, which is located on Main Street. Under his watch, Arrow was named 2020 Business of the Year by the Broken Arrow Chamber of

Commerce. Both businesses have experienced many successful decades due to Steve's business expertise and determination for excellence.

Examples of Steve's commitment to BA range from service as a Broken Arrow Youth Baseball board member, longtime youth baseball coach, and BA High School Baseball Booster Club president, BA FFA booster and lifetime member and he took the lead in building the Broken Arrow FFA Alumni Barn on 101st Street and County Line Road. It was also Fulps who donated labor and materials to construct the BA baseball stadium outfield fence, dugouts and backstop and initiated construction of the indoor baseball and softball practice facility.

Professionally, he served as President, and remains a life director of the Tulsa Home Builders Association.

Fulps and his wife Cindy have three children – Steven, Farrah (his favorite daughter) and Tyler. All three graduated from Broken Arrow High School. The Fulps also have 6 grandchildren, Evan, Shelby, Makenzie, Easton, Grayson, and Grady.



Rev.
**A. LEROY
GERNER**

Class of 1975

Rev. Leroy Gerner, last year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1975, has devoted himself to spreading the word of God anywhere and everywhere his calling takes him.

Today, that is Omaha, Nebraska, where he is Care Pastor and Director of Care Ministries at King of Kings Church, Director of Core-Omaha, a counseling and spiritual formation agency, and Chaplain of the Omaha Fire Department.

In his career, this proud Tiger has served churches in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Tennessee and Nebraska and has undertaken a number of mission trips to locations as varied as Germany, South Africa, Sudan and Ethiopia. At the start of his career, he played a key role in organizing Broken Arrow's Camp Bandage, a safety awareness program that has gained national acclaim. Also, on his resume is Camp Lutherhoma which he served first as a Youth Counselor and later as Director.



John L. ROSS, JR.

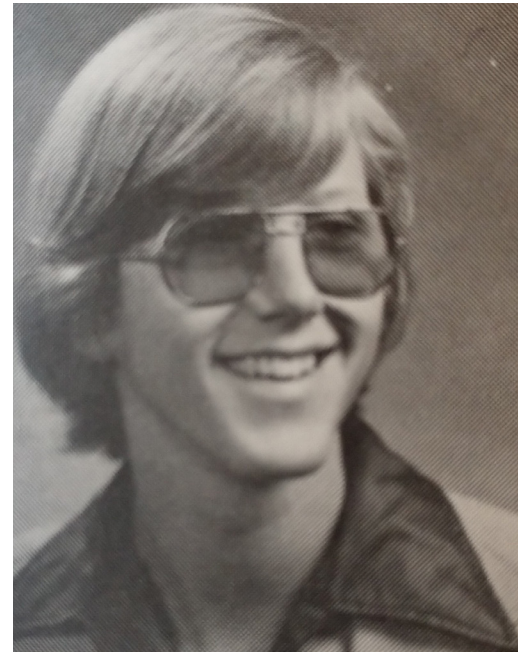
Class of 1980

The story of 2020's Great Graduate from the Class of 1980 is filled with accomplishments at home and around the world.

Now a Ph.D., John Ross is a former Captain and Gulf War Veteran with the United States Air Force and a seasoned practitioner of maintenance and reliability with more than three decades of field and plant experience. A published author and internationally recognized public speaker, he

currently serves as President of Maintenance Innovators, Inc., an international reliability consulting company, and is sole proprietor of State Line Group headquartered in Kansas City.

In addition, he is a senior consultant with the renowned Marshall Institute, an asset management consulting and training company dedicated to helping organizations on a global basis.



Kenny SCHWAB

Class of 1984

Kenny Schwab has the distinction of being one of the few people in city government who directly impacts the lives of everybody who lives, works and plays in Broken Arrow.

That's true because as Assistant City Manager for Operations, Schwab has authority over some 400 employees in seven different departments; Community Development, Emergency Management, Engineering & Construction, Parks & Recreation, Streets & Stormwater, Solid Waste & Recycling and Utilities.

A life-long BA resident, this year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1984 was a letterman in both football and basketball and was active in a myriad of student organizations, including the National Honor Society, COLABASH, VICA and the Senior Executive Board. Following his days as a Tiger,

Schwab attended Southwest Baptist University on both an academic and athletic scholarship. He later transferred to Oklahoma State University where he earned bachelor and master's degrees in civil engineering and a Master of Arts in administrative leadership from Oklahoma University.

Since becoming part of the city management team in 2008, he has overseen some \$400 million in public infrastructure projects and is currently involved in overseeing an additional \$600 million in planned expansions and improvements.

Along with his city duties, Schwab serves as a trustee of the Regional Metropolitan Utility Authority and represents his hometown in a regional cooperative partnership between Tulsa Owasso, Jenks, Bixby and Broken Arrow.

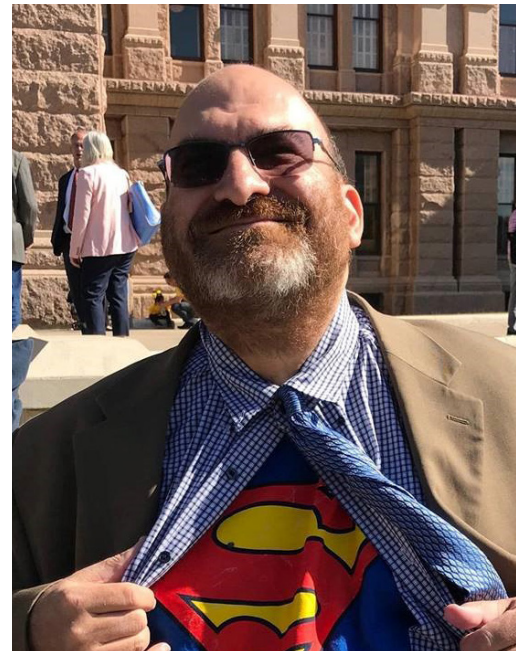


James MEADOURS

Class of 1986

2020 Great Graduate from the Class of 1986 has devoted his adult life to advocating for the rights of individuals, like himself, who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities. One of his most powerful and influential campaigns came in 2018 with airing of the National Public Radio series “Abused and Betrayed.” In it, he shared his own experience to help shed light on the fact that both men and women with disabilities face physical and sexual abuse at higher rates than most people know.

A tireless worker, Meadours has served as President of People First of Oklahoma and as a VISTA volunteer. He was Chairman of the national organization Self Advocates Becoming Empowered and was recently appointed President of Texas Advocates, a statewide self-advocacy group.



DARRIN DAVIS

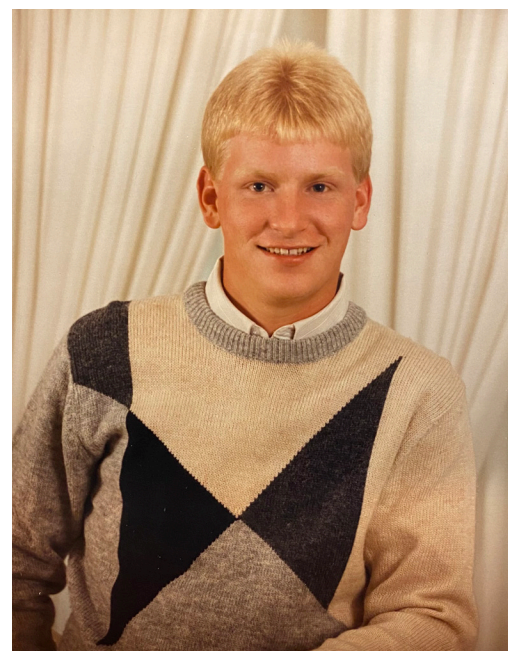
Class of 1987

At first, it seems like a joke when a musician as skilled as Darrin Davis says he hates tooting his own horn. But the reality is this Great Graduate from the Class of 1987 would much rather have the spotlight shine on the district's award-winning 1,500 band students and 15 instructors.

Since he began teaching band at his alma mater in 1993, national acclaim for the district's music department has never been greater. Among its accomplishments are three Bands of America Grand National championships, 15 regional championships and 21 state titles, including the last 18 in a row.

Davis has led his students as they performed during the inauguration of President George W. Bush in 2005, the Parade of Roses in 2009, 2013 and 2017 and in New York's fabled Carnegie Hall in 2015. In recognition of his accomplishments, Davis has been inducted into the Bands of America Hall of Fame and is one of only 300 people to become a member of the American Bandmasters Association.

Here at home, he has been named Broken Arrow Citizen of the Year, the Tulsa Signature Symphony's Signature Champion of Education, and a 2021 inductee into the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame.



Brigadier General Thomas H. MANCINO

Class of 1998

Brigadier General Thomas H. Mancino is a true American hero.

Known as Tommy to friends, associates and classmates, Mancino now holds the distinction of being a Great Graduate from the Class of 1998.

Following high school, Mancino earned a B.A. degree in political science from Oklahoma State University and M.B.A. and Juris Doctorate degrees from Oklahoma University. For 10 years, he served as associate dean of the northeast campus of Tulsa Community College before accepting a fellowship to attend Harvard's Kennedy School of International Studies.

Mancino first became involved in the military when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the ROTC at Oklahoma State and held dual responsibilities as an educator and Guardsman.

One of his first full-time military assignments was in the 1st Battalion,

179th Infantry Regiment, which happened to be the same unit as his brother, Chris, who served as a supply sergeant, and his father, General Tom Mancino, who commanded it in Afghanistan. In 2003, he once again served under his father who commanded the 45th Infantry Brigade during its deployment in Afghanistan. Along with these two deployments, he served a year-long combat tour in Iraq.

The senior Mancino, who became president of the board for the Oklahoma Military History Center in Broken Arrow, said he was proud of his son's accomplishments despite the extra scrutiny he received as a general's son.

Military officials obviously agreed and promoted him to the rank of general in 2019. Making that event extra special was the fact it marked the first time a familial legacy of general officers had ever happened in the Oklahoma Army National Guard.



great graduates

HISTORY OF THE GREAT GRADUATE HALL OF FAME PROGRAM

The Broken Arrow High School Alumni Association honors a select group of “Great Graduates” who have exhibited – throughout their adult lives – strong leadership and good citizenship, which the Broken Arrow Schools helped develop during their formative years of schooling. The recipients are individuals who exhibit through a variety of activities a purposeful drive that helps them remain dedicated to service within their community and compassionate towards others. Each one has proven to have personal integrity, courage and has achieved in both his or her personal and professional life. As they continue to soar and live a commitment to excellence, they serve as role models to all of us. Nominations are solicited throughout the community of Broken Arrow and in the media for alumnae who have modeled a selfless life of achievement and service to others for at least 20 years. The Broken Arrow High School Alumni Association was revived in 1999, starting the tradition of the Great Graduates. The very first Great Graduates class was formally honored as part of the Broken Arrow Public Schools Foundation Banquet festivities in the spring of 1999. In 2001, the Alumni Association began to host their own event, specifically honoring the Great Graduates and their guests. This tradition continues to the present.

Great Graduates 1999

Virginia Watts Johnson, Class of 1948
Millie Marshall, Class of 1955
Jim Brewer, Class of 1956
Dr. Alan Keller, Class of 1965
John Hudson, Class of 1966

Great Graduates 2000

Howard Fisher, Class of 1935
Ed Cobb Jr., Class of 1943
Carl Martin, Class of 1943
Max E. Smith, Class of 1950
Roy Sturgeon, Class of 1959

Great Graduates 2001

Herb Karner, Class of 1934
Robert Eskridge, Class of 1944
Frances McNeely Leonard, Class of 1953
Dr. Jeff Lester, Class of 1964
Doug Lanier, Class of 1968

Great Graduates 2002

Letha Phillips Nichols, Class of 1931
Floy C. Pepper, Class of 1934
Bill Perry, Class of 1948
Richard Gilliland, Class of 1956
Brad Gahm, Class of 1977

Great Graduates 2003

Max Brissey, Class of 1948
Rick Medlin, Class of 1963
Larry Deonier, Class of 1964
Dr. Gary Gerber, Class of 1968
Janice Worthington Lisko, Class of 1975
Luke Garrett, Class of 1977

Great Graduates 2004

William C. Chapman, Class of 1938
Arnold Kunze, Class of 1946
William H. (Hank) Miesner, Jr., Class of 1957
Rowdy Williams, Class of 1958
Johnnie Parks, Class of 1965

Great Graduates 2005

Dr. Jack L. Griffin, Class of 1940
Maxine Layton Dark, Class of 1944
Bob Henry, Class of 1948
H. Delbert Frieze, Esq., Class of 1961

Great Graduates 2006

Paul Hayes, Class of 1940
Onis Lemon, Class of 1956
Mitchell Wilson, Class of 1970
Rebecca Righter Bluestone, Class of 1972
Russ McKinnon, Class of 1977

Great Graduates 2008

Bert Kennard, Class of 1940
Nile Clark, Class of 1955
Elmo Johnston, Class of 1943

Great Graduates 2012

Ivan Brown, Class of 1919
Nick Aston, Class of 1963
Kristin Chenoweth, Class of 1986
Dr. Amy Sturgis, Class of 1990
Dennis Sagely, Class of 1992

Great Graduates 2013

William T. Autry, Class of 1925
Dr. Robert A. Rosser, Jr., Class of 1959
Dr. Jill Edwards Steeley, Class of 1968
Tim Lynn, Class of 1984
Dr. Denise E. Dutton, Class of 1990

Great Graduates 2014

Archie Pennington, Class of 1922
Ina Lynn Dilldine, Class of 1956
Joseph Lester, Class of 1963
Philip Tucker, Class of 1975
John Lindsay, Class of 1979

Great Graduates 2015

Rev. William L. Couch Jr., Class of 1956
Dave Alexander, Class of 1974
Jeff Roberts, Class of 1980
Amy Waller Ford, Class of 1982
John C. Wolfkill, Class of 1993

Great Graduates 2016

Charles Gann, Class of 1955
Larry Pennington, Class of 1963
Kelley Kimbrough Rash, Class of 1974
Michelle Sutton, Class of 1989

Great Graduates 2017

Jerry Rosser, Class of 1960
Marcella Giles, Class of 1961
Lee Schoeffler, Class of 1962
Jennifer Robertson, Class of 1977

Great Graduates 2018

Billie Sue Hood Thompson, Class of 1961
Loutitia Denison Eason, Class of 1964
Dr. LaMont Cavanaugh, Class of 1984
Oklahoma Sen. Joe Newhouse, Class of 1996

Great Graduates 2019

David Beverly, Class of 1964
Ken Collins, Class of 1967
Russell Gale, Class of 1974
Debra Wimpee, Class of 1990