



great graduates

BROKEN ARROW HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



2014 HONOREES



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

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

Great Graduates 2000

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

Great Graduates 2001

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

Great Graduates 2002

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

Great Graduates 2003

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

Great Graduates 2004

William C. Chapman, Class of 1938
Arnold Kunze, Class of 1946
Major William H. (Hank) Miesner, Jr., Class of 1957 (Posthumously)
Lieutenant Colonel 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 (Posthumously)
Elmo Johnston, Class of 1943

Great Graduates 2012

Kristin Chenoweth, Class of 1986
Ivan Brown, Class of 1919
Nick Aston, Class of 1963
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



Broken Arrow High School
Alumni Association
GREAT GRADUATES OF 2014
Recognition Ceremony and Reception

Varsity Club, Broken Arrow High School
Friday, September 26, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies

Justin Rosser
Broken Arrow High School Choir Director
Class of 1995

Dinner

Welcome

Dr. Jarod Mendenhall
Superintendent of Schools

**Greetings from the Broken Arrow High School
Alumni Association**

Kristle A. Lacy, Alumni Association Vice President
Class of 2006

Invocation

Charles Gann
Class of 1955

**Recognition of Former Great Graduates
School Board Members and Special Guests**

**Introduction of Great Graduates
Class of 2014**

Archie Pennington, Class of 1922
Presented by Shannon McKenzie and
Mark Messler

Ina Edwards Dilldine, Class of 1956
Presented by Dr. Clarence G. Oliver, Jr.

Joseph K. Lester, Class of 1963
Presented by Johnnie Lofton
Class of 1963

Philip Gregory Tucker, Class of 1975
Presented by Sharon Whelpley

John W. Lindsay, Class of 1979
Presented by Kent Lashley

Closing Remarks

Derek Blackburn
Class of 1990

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Broken Arrow Public Schools

Dr. Jarod Mendenhall
Superintendent of Schools

BAPS Communications Department

Ken Ellett
Executive Director of Athletic Operations

Bob Lewis
Writer and Editorial Consultant

Printing by Royal Printing

Felix Degeyter
Vintage Automobiles for Homecoming Parade

Broken Arrow High School Honor Society

Broken Arrow High School Jazz Choir

Michelle Lewandowski
BAHS Multi-media Instructor
Program Logo

Great Graduates Escorts
Kylie Hester
Logan Price
Jake Pulliam
Annie Selman
Crystal Trac

GREAT GRADUATES COMMITTEE

Derek Blackburn, Class of 1990
Gwynta Blissit Buchanan, Class of 1970
Carla Dobbins Crow, Class of 1970
Charles Gann, Class of 1955
Carolyn Vaughan Hodges, Class of 1970
Steve Schwab, Class of 1982
Max Smith, Class of 1950
Rowdy Williams, Class of 1958
Glenn Wimpee, Class of 1990

Archie PENNINGTON

Class of 1922

The two most precious things to Archie Pennington were good food and the good times he enjoyed with his family. So, it seemed only fitting that this Great Graduate from the Class of 1922 would combine the loves of his life to find a place in the hearts - and stomachs - of scores of people across the Greater Tulsa Area.

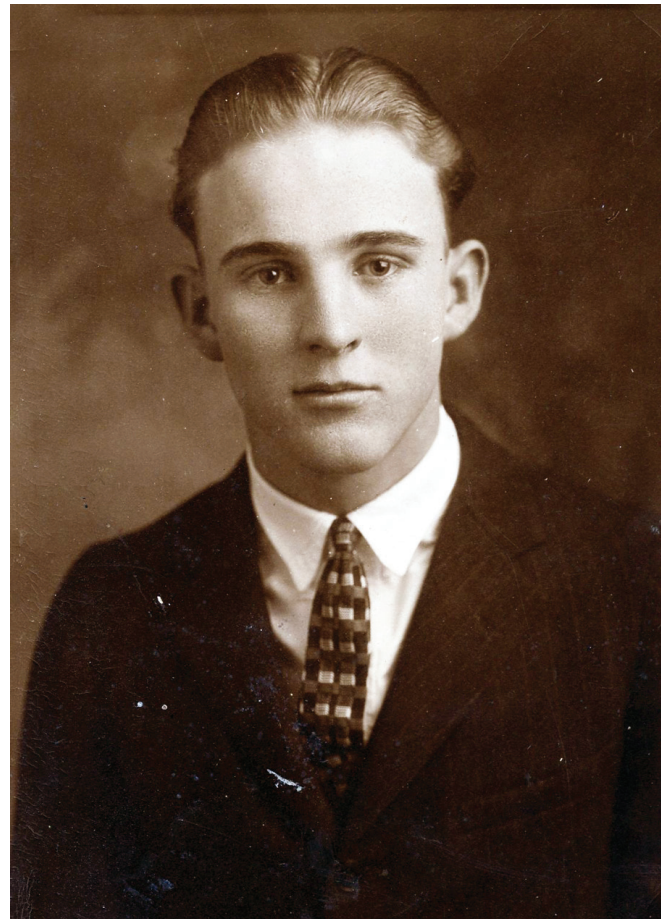
Following graduation from Broken Arrow High School, Pennington attended Tonkawa Junior College (Northern Oklahoma State College) where he majored in business. His first fling at food service came with ownership of three Lindy's Restaurants - one in Tulsa from 1934-1940; one in Broken Arrow from 1940-1942, and another in Tulsa from 1942-1951.

While each was a successful operation, none could match the elite status of his next undertaking. It was the second drive-in restaurant built in Tulsa and Pennington co-owned it with W.C. Miller before buying out his partner and turning it into a family owned and operated business in 1958.

The television show "Happy Days" had its Arnold's Drive-In where all the teens gathered for fun and food. But for local diners the eatery frequented by Richie Cunningham, 'Potsie' Weber and the Fonz took a backseat to Pennington's Drive-In.

It has been said that if you want to hear about a fond memory of the place, simply toss a rock into the air. If it lands on or near somebody who grew up in the Tulsa area during the 1950's and 1960's, your mission will be accomplished.

Without question, Pennington's was the hub of social activity



on Brookside's famous restless ribbon. Between heaping helpings of burgers, fried chicken, onion rings, fried shrimp and the establishment's trademark black-bottom pies, teens would cruise back and forth trying to see who was driving what - and who was riding with them.

Pennington's remained true to its promise of serving good meals to families who didn't want to dress up to go out to dinner until 1974 when it was leased to other operators.

An article in the April 24, 1985 Tulsa World announced Pennington's passing and burial in Broken Arrow's Floral Haven Cemetery. He was survived by his wife of 50 years, Lola, daughters Linda Gilbert and Judy Pennington, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a brother, Virgil Pennington, and two sisters, Eula Powell and Dorothy Weirick.

Not listed in the obituary but equally saddened were scores of hungry '50s and '60s teens who to this day swear that Pennington's Drive-In was one of the coolest spots on the planet.



Ina Lynn DILLDINE

Class of 1956

Friends joke that Ina Dilldine has spent more time behind bars than most of the convicts in McAlester prison. That may be true, but only because this year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1956 has been part of a prison ministry for more years than many of the inmates she helps have been alive.

As a volunteer at Behind The Fence Redeeming Love Prison Ministry, Dilldine is one of 50 ambassadors who work with inmates at 13 different men's and women's correctional institutions. Among her fondest memories, she says, was her ability to lead a Muslim man who was on death row to the Lord.

A native Broken Arrowan and one of six children (all of them Broken Arrow High School graduates) born to Clarence and Madge Edwards, she went to work for the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association before marrying the late Cliff Dilldine and becoming "mom" to children Debbie and Dusty.

A licensed minister for the Church of God of Prophecy, she launched a second career in 1976 by joining the Child Nutrition Department at Broken Arrow Public Schools. For 15 years, she served as a cafeteria manager and later Director of Catering. After



both retired, she and her husband served as caretakers of their church's Big Cedars campground where they planned and cooked hundred of meals for scores of hungry campers and retreat and conference attendees.

Our Great Graduate's first mission trip took place in 1996 to Kenya. Later, while helping build a multicultural center in Awasi, the Dilldines recognized how badly that community needed a source of water, so they led a campaign to have a well drilled to tap into the Nile River. She has returned to Kenya numerous times since then along with mission trips to Rwanda, the Congo and Uganda and has helped clothe 300 girls with "African Dresses."

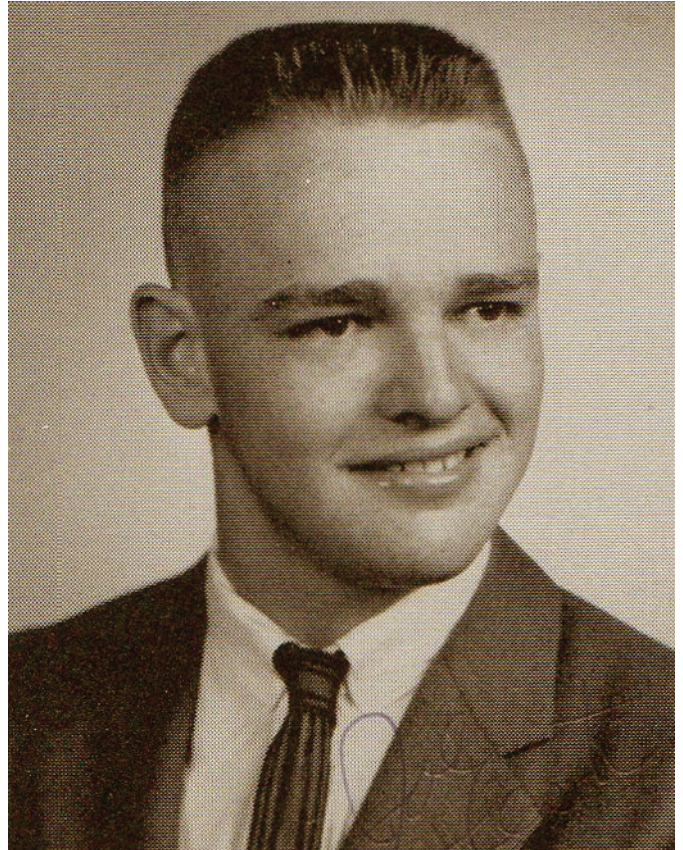
At home, Dilldine ministers to residents of the Broken Arrow Nursing Home and Village Health Care Center, is a member of the Broken Arrow Historical Society board of directors and volunteers as a docent. For the past six years, she "has been blessed" to be head chef for the annual reunion of Education Service Center retirees and to have quality time with her five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

In her spare time, she tends to her flower and vegetable gardens and manages a backyard gold fish pond. But what she does best is make a difference in the lives of others.



Joseph LESTER

Class of 1963



Just about everybody who has been around Broken Arrow for any length of time knows the Lester boys. Dr. Jeff Lester, Class of 1964, was a previous selectee as a Great Graduate for his work as a medical missionary in Africa and Asia. Joe has earned a reputation as one of the nation's top law enforcement professionals. This year he adds to his resume the distinction of being a Great Graduate from the Class of 1963.

Joseph K. Lester is Cleveland County Sheriff, a post he was elected to in 2009 after serving 12 years as Police Chief and Director of Public Safety for the University of Oklahoma. He began his career as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Military Police. After leaving the armed forces, he joined the Tulsa Police Department and served there from 1969 to 1991. Later, he expanded his duties to Vice President of Bridges International Development and began working in the Congo.

Returning to the U.S., he became part of the Homeland Security

operation until being elected to the Cleveland County post he currently holds.

Public and professional service is very much a part of Joe Lester's makeup. His credits include time on the board of directors of the Gatesway Foundation (where he remains active as a consultant), Cleveland County Red Cross, the United Way of Norman and as Vice Chairman of the Norman Crime Stoppers. He was Vice Chairman of the St. Luke's United Methodist Church Administrative Board, President of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission, President of the Oklahoma FBI National Academy Associates, and served on the Executive Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Lester earned a Bachelor's degree in 1973 from Northeastern State University and a Master's degree in 1975 from Oklahoma City University. A life-long learner, he has extensive continuing education and professional training credits, including being a graduate of the national Crime Prevention Institution, the FBI National Academy and the Secret Service Dignitary Protection School.

Despite the many awards he has received, Lester says he is proudest of his family - his wife of 47 years, Jeanne, their three children and six grandchildren.

As for the future, he says he intends to continue to give all he has to the people of Cleveland County, continue going above and beyond in community service, and being an out-spoken patriot for the country he loves so dearly.

It would be hard to imagine anything less from this Great Graduate.



Philip TUCKER

Class of 1975

Very few people have the kind of personality that would make it seem perfectly natural for attendees at his funeral to remember him by singing the Three Dog Night version of Joy To The World that begins, "Jeremiah was a bull frog..."

But that was Philip Tucker, a fourth generation Broken Arrowan, unique and beloved character; devoted husband, father and grandfather; veteran educator; involved city councilor and Great Graduate from the Class of 1975.

Broken Arrow lost its vice mayor and Haskell Middle School its principal when Philip Gregory Tucker passed away in 2010 following a battle with cancer. He was born on Dec. 8, 1956 to Bob and Peggy Tucker and attended Northeast Elementary and Central Junior High before graduating from BAHS. He attended Oklahoma State University and received a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management. He later earned a Bachelor of Education degree from Langston University and a Master's in School Administration from Northeastern State University.

His career at Broken Arrow Public Schools began with his appointment as a science teacher at Haskell Middle School in 1984. Two years after accepting an assistant principal position in Jenks, he



was named assistant principal and later principal at Haskell. An avid outdoorsman, his office was decorated with all sorts of fishing gear.

Tucker began his service to the city as a member of the Civitans Club before being elected to the City Council. He was named Vice Mayor in 2009.

During his time in office, he worked to promote Broken Arrow's historic downtown, was instrumental in attracting St. John Hospital to the community and in building working relationships between the city and school system. He also served on the Downtown Advisory Board, Arts and Humanities Council, BA Historical Society and the INCOG board of directors.

Those who knew him best continue to speak in glowing terms of Tucker's sense of humor, his commitment to public education and his love of Broken Arrow.

At the time of his passing, then Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Gerber summed up the feelings of many when he said, "He will be greatly missed by all of us who had the privilege to know him and benefit from his leadership, wisdom and humor. He impacted countless young people and made Broken Arrow a better place."

To recognize his life and accomplishments, the school district established the Philip Tucker Memorial Scholarship and awards it annually to deserving seniors pursuing degrees in education.



John LINDSAY

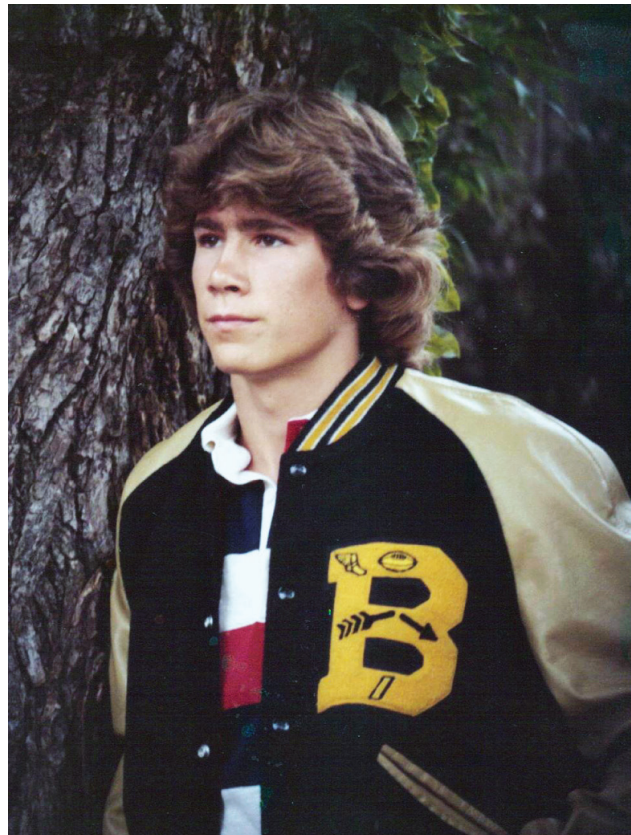
Class of 1979

This year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1979 is the kind of leader writer Thomas Carlyle was describing when he coined the term "Captain of Industry" in the 1800's.

Friends, teammates and those who have gone up against him agree John W. Lindsay is a tough competitor, and has been ever since he earned a place on the Broken Arrow Tigers football and tennis teams followed by athletic careers at Northwest Oklahoma State University and Missouri Southern University.

After earning a degree in computer technology at Missouri Southern, Lindsay returned to Oklahoma and enrolled in the University of Tulsa where he earned a degree in Petroleum Engineering. Then, he set about combining his acquired knowledge and competitive fire to carve a storied career.

As President, Chief Executive Officer, and a Director of Helmerich & Payne, Inc, he is clearly at the top of his profession and, in fact, holds the distinction of being the only person not named Helmerich to hold the CEO position.



Lindsay began his career there in 1987 as a Drilling Engineer. As he climbed the corporate ladder, he served in a variety of management positions, including Operations Manager, Vice President of U.S. Land Operations, Executive Vice President of U.S. and International Operations and Chief Operating Officer.

In addition to meeting the demands of his job, he finds time to play key roles for Monte Cassino Catholic School, the Tulsa Area United Way and the TU Petroleum Engineering Advisory Board. He was 2008 chairman of the International Association of Drilling Contractors and remains on that organization's executive committee.

Harry Lindsay, said he saw his son's athletic potential in the sixth grade when he served as his football coach. A few years later, he witnessed the kind of self-discipline that would become his son's hallmark when the handed him the keys to a Pontiac GTO he had just purchased.

"I told John the car was his, but I reserved the right to take it back and park it beside the house if he ever gave me reason to do so," the elder Lindsay said. "He never did, and in fact, he still owns that car today"

Harry Lindsay said he is impressed with the career his son has built.

"He is a fine man who has always pushed himself to be the best he could be at everything he did," his dad says. "That's why I am so proud of him."

