



Regarding the Vietnam Memorial Wall: (A Vietnam veteran came up with the idea for the memorial; The wall was designed by a college student; It took less than eight months to build the memorial; The wall is made of black granite from Bangalore, India; No federal funds were needed to create the memorial.)

David Walsworth: "Sobering reminder. God bless America and those who have served and are serving."

Howard Dudgeon: "One of the Medal of Honor winners lived in Waco, Texas, Robert Lewis Howard. He died December 23, 2009."

Larry Thomas: "Thanks for sharing "

Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff: That was really interesting---sure hit home with me---we can't forget. As a military wife I remember many who didn't return from that conflict. When we lived in Calif my husband flew transport planes into RVN and often returned with coffins loaded in the plane. We left Calif for Hawaii where his squadron flew 24 hour command post support and frequently flew to RVN to pick up General Westmoreland for a conference on Oahu. Those were early stages of the war.

In 1972 he went unaccompanied to Taiwan. They flew cargo into RVN and dropped paratroopers and supplies. I often wonder how many of those boys are listed on that wall. I was in Waco during that time, and every time a C130 was shot down I waited for a notification. Fortunately none came. Lots of bullets had to be removed from those transports. I know many other WHS grads have stories of these turbulent times, and most are more relevant than mine. My memories are from a woman's perspective. We waited and worried just as wives and husbands of those deployed do today.

We still live in a military community near Offutt AFB, and Memorial Day is always a day to remember those times and the ones we knew who never returned. Our community commemorates the day with ceremonies and flags and tries to help us remember the holiday isn't about cookouts and vacations but about sacrifices and loss.

I posted this on Facebook---so many of those soldiers were very young---many went into the service hoping to come home and begin a new life using benefits earned -- but so many didn't return -- really hit home today.

Ken Freeman (class of 1961) "Correctly put, too. There are no noble wars, unfortunately and under the surface, they're all bankers' wars."

Jim Maxwell: "Thank you for reminding us of the incredible tragedy of war — especially one that was so especially unnecessary and that so many of us so regretfully blindly bought into. Memorial Day is especially poignant for those who so bravely served in Southeast Asia. HUZZAH to the heroes!"

Tommie Ruth Blair Toler: "Interesting and terrible."

Tim Lasseter Latta: "This really brought tears. I believe that war is immoral even though John was in Vietnam."

Sissie Blair Shandalow: "Very sad and sobering to think about. I was very lucky - my husband, brother, and cousin all served in Viet Nam and all returned home. A truly rough time in our history and lives."

Bonnie Burson Chapman: "Thank you Jeanne, very interesting."

Anitra Harrell Henrion: "Very Interesting and very eye-opening..."

A bit of Trivia

According to Reader's Digest: Most Famous House in every State

Alabama: Helen Keller's birthplace- Tuscumbia
Alaska: Governor's Mansion- Juneau
Arizona: Taliesin West- Scottsdale
Arkansas: Johnny Cash's boyhood home- Dyess Colony
California- Hearst Castle and Playboy Mansion (tie)
Colorado: Molly Brown's house- Denver
Connecticut: The Glass House- New Canaan
Delaware: Nemours Estate- Wilmington
Florida: Ernest Hemingway House- Key West
Georgia: Birth home of Martin Luther King, Jr.- Atlanta
Hawaii: Iolani Palace- Honolulu
Idaho: The former Idaho State Penitentiary- Boise
Illinois: The 'Home Alone' house- Winnetka
Indiana: Culbertson Mansion- New Albany
Iowa: The American Gothic House- Eldon
Kansas: Amelia Earhart's birthplace- Atchison
Kentucky: Mary Todd Lincoln's house- Lexington
Louisiana: Oak Valley Plantation- St James Parish, Vacherie community
Maine: Harriet Beecher Stowe's house- Brunswick
Maryland: Mount Clare- Baltimore
Massachusetts: Lizzie Borden's house- Fall River
Michigan: The Ford House- Grosse Pointe Shores
Minnesota: Paisley Park- Chanhassen
Mississippi: Elvis Presley's birthplace- Tupelo
Missouri: Mark Twain's boyhood home- Hannibal
Montana: Moss Mansion- Billings
Nebraska: Buffalo Bill's farmhouse- North Platte
Nevada: Governor's Mansion- Carson City
New Hampshire: Castle in the Clouds- Moultonborough
New Jersey: Walt Whitman's house- Camden
New Mexico: Kit Carson's home- Taos
New York: Gracie Mansion- NYC- upper east side
North Carolina: Biltmore Estate- Asheville
North Dakota: Lawrence Welk's birthplace- Strasburg
Ohio: The "A Christmas Story" house- Cleveland
Oklahoma: The Marland Mansion- Ponca City
Oregon: The Hughes House- Port Orford
Pennsylvania: Fallingwater- Mill Run
Rhode Island: The Breakers- Newport
South Carolina: The John Joyner Smith House-Beaufort
South Dakota: The Summer White House of 1927- in the Black Hills

Tennessee: Graceland- Memphis
Texas: Yates House- Houston
Utah: The Beehive House- Salt Lake City
Vermont: Robert Frost's house in Shaftsbury
Virginia: Mt. Vernon- Mt. Vernon
Washington: Kurt Cobain's house- Seattle
West Virginia: Lockwood House- Harper's Ferry
Wisconsin: Birthplace of Laura Ingalls Wilder- Pepin

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

6- Rik Spencer
7- Janice Player Howell and Joyce Player Dorsey
11- Dorothy Bryan McCook
28- Allan Myers

From Our Graduates:

Rik Spencer: "Great issue! Especially the piece about Dave."

Tommye Ruth Blair Toler: "I enjoyed reading about David McPhail. David, you had two wonderful careers! Congratulations on both of them. Thank you for your service to our country. You and Janie have had a great life together."

Crozier Brown: "Particularly enjoyed David's life story. So proud of him and so proud that he's a member of our class!"

Richard Quick: "Wow! David's bio was amazing! Great to read more about his life after WHS."

Cynthia Kirkland Mazza: "Great to know we have such special graduates like David Mcphail. And the tributes to those we have lost. Lots of good folks".

Linda Shelby Lyons: David McPhail has had a wonderful and "moving" career. He has seen so many places. Some people have had various vocations and have moved around; but some, like me, stayed in the same town at the same job for 30 years. "Different strokes for different folks". Thanks to David for his service and thanks to all of our other graduates who served in the military. Thanks, Jeanne, for giving us a glimpse into the lives of some of our graduates. I know everyone has something to contribute, and it will be interesting to see what we will see in future newsletters.

Stan Lennard: "To David McPhail, thank you for your meritorious service to our country, especially during those Vietnam war years."

UPDATES

Allan Myers: Allan is having a cardioversion on May 29th.

Phyllis Brooks: "So far, I have tolerated the Chemo infusions and will have the fourth one which is scheduled for May 29. A visit to the oncologist and a blood draw Friday, 24th will determine if the May 29 infusion goes as scheduled. Thank you again for your prayers." Phyllis

Jeanne Harman: "My son's body responded favorably regarding his chemo treatments. Curt will start radiation June 11. He will have radiation 5 days a week for 4 weeks to kill any lingering cancer cells. Thanks to all of you for your concern regarding Curt."

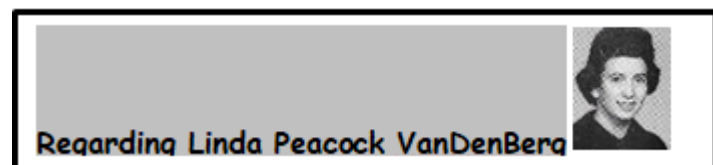


Regarding Frank Neel:

"So sorry! Happening too often!" - Betty Luedeker Gatlin

"Sorry to hear about Frank. He was a dear, sweet man. My condolences to his family."

-Bev Murphy Wells



Regarding Linda Peacock VanDenBerg

"I'm so sorry to hear this. These messages come too often now". - Tommye Ruth Blair Toler



Texas HS Football Hall of Fame: Casner dominated up front at Waco High, Baylor

- By JOHN WERNER jwerner@wacotrib.com
- Apr 30, 2019



1960

Waco High's Ken Casner was an all-state star for the Tigers before moving on to All-America acclaim for the Baylor Bears. Texas Sports Hall of Fame photo

Few people have been more integral to Waco sports history than Ken Casner. Not only was he an all-state football player for Waco High, he became an All-America defensive lineman for the 1951 Baylor squad that reached the Orange Bowl. He later coached at Waco High, Richfield and Baylor.

On Saturday (May 4), Casner will be inducted posthumously into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame. Before he died in 2009 at age 79, he had already been inducted into the Baylor and Waco Independent School District athletic halls of fame.

"He was very quiet about honors and things, he was very humble," said his daughter Kathy Goodrich. "He was so glad that he could play football and excel because it was a way he got to go to college."

Long before offensive and defensive lines were overtaken by 300-pound behemoths, Casner looked like a giant to many of the players he matched up against in his era. He stood 6-2 and weighed 230 pounds.

"They called him Tank because he was the biggest man on the team," Goodrich said. "If you look at a team picture, he was a head above everyone else. He stayed pretty injury free in high school, probably because he was bigger than every else."

Casner's final season at Waco High was 1947, a year before the Tigers won the state championship. Before Casner's senior year, head coach Bill Dubose took the entire team to a YMCA camp near Valley Mills for a set of grueling preseason workouts. The Waco High players called it "Death Valley."

Casner survived and delivered a tremendous senior year that led to a scholarship at Baylor where he developed into a dominant defensive lineman. Flanked on the line by All-American

Bill Athey and Gale Galloway at linebacker, Casner helped Baylor's defense emerge as one of the best in the Southwest Conference during his three varsity seasons from 1949-51.

"I told him one time after we played, if we ever go back to war I want you as my wingman," Galloway said. "He's one of the few that could still play today, he and (former Baylor offensive end) Stanley Williams. He was one of the finest gentlemen and most outstanding players I've ever had the privilege to be around."

During Casner's three varsity seasons, the Bears finished 23-7-1 overall and 12-5-1 in the SWC. One of their biggest wins of the 1950 season was a 27-20 decision over Texas A&M on Baylor's homecoming.

Texas A&M's offense was built around All-American Bob Smith, who rushed for a then-SWC record 1,302 yards. When the Bears faced the Aggies that season, they let Smith know how seriously they played defense.

"In 1950, A&M came to Baylor and they had an outstanding fullback named Bob Smith," Galloway said. "The first time he took the ball, he ran 35 or 40 yards for a touchdown. I told Ken and the rest of defensive team that we hadn't seen a guy like this before. The next time, Ken hit him low and I hit him high and broke his nose."

Casner was a force for the 1951 team that finished 8-2-1 and earned a spot in the Orange Bowl where the Bears dropped a 17-14 decision to Georgia Tech.

After his college career, Casner was a fourth-round pick by the NFL's Los Angeles Rams. While he was playing for the Rams, he once recalled how movie star Kirk Douglas bought his lunch at the studios of Twentieth Century Fox.

Casner served in the Air Force and then played in the Canadian Football League, where he once played three games in four days as a member of the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

After his playing days were over in 1957, Casner came back home to coach Waco High and Richfield before joining John Bridgers' staff as a defensive coach at Baylor in the mid-1960s. In the 1970s, he began working as a parole officer in Waco and later became a commissioner for the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles before retiring in 1991.

Near the end of his life, Goodrich said Casner suffered from dementia, and was asked if he wanted to join a lawsuit by former players against the NFL. He wouldn't even consider it.

"He said 'No, football is the way I got my education,'" Goodrich said. "He told me to throw it away because it was his choice to play football. He was a very smart man and wanted to do well in his life."



Ken Casner and the 1947 Waco High Tigers endured a Junction-like preseason workout in Valley Mills that the players labeled "Death Valley."

Texas Sports Hall of Fame photo



Ken Casner, shown here as a freshman at Baylor, helped the Bears go 23-7-1 overall during his three years playing on BU's varsity team.

Texas Sports Hall of Fame photo

https://www.wacotrib.com/sports/texas_sports_hall_of_fame/texas-hs-football-hall-of-fame-casner-dominated-up-front/article_68166195-2056-56e5-8f4b-b90f5e644ee6.html

PICTURES:

JIM WOODSON and TIM LASSETER LATTA-

Our very famous graduate-artist, Jim Woodson, had an exhibition on May 4th at the Valley House Gallery and Sculpture Garden. Tim Lasseter Latta attended. She said it was a very nice affair with at least 100 people in attendance. She missed George and Laura Bush by 10 minutes. Timing is everything!



David Dibb and wife, Anita, have recently returned from a week-long trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. There is quite a bit of history around that area --some of which include The Lost Colony, Wright Brothers Memorial, and Cape Hatteras Light House. David and Anita stayed in Kitty Hawk and found a seafood restaurant by the name, "I GOT YOUR CRABS". They enjoyed the food so much that they returned there for 4 consecutive nights. Keep that in mind if you are planning to go that direction any time soon.

Wright Brothers Memorial



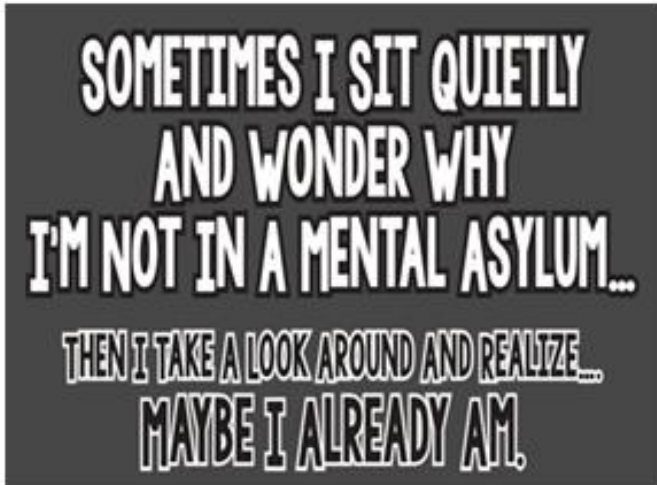
Cape Hatteras Lighthouse



These pictures are from the 2019 US Open Pickleball Championships that took place in Naples, FL. Over 2,000 players from US and 17 countries competed. [Pat Payne](#) and his partner, Chip Bachman, won this year's age 75+, skill level 3.5 championship. Ironically, one of the teams they played was from Houston. Congratulations Pat and Chip !!!



THINK ABOUT THESE:



I went to the liquor store Friday afternoon on my bicycle, bought a bottle of Scotch and put it in the bicycle basket.

As I was about to leave, I thought to myself that if I fell off the bicycle, the bottle would break.

So I drank all the Scotch before I cycled home.

It turned out to be a very good decision, because I fell off my bicycle seven times on the way home

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