



# The Barker



The *official* newsletter of

The Lexington Alumni Association

P. O Box 263, Lexington, OK, 73051 <http://www.lexokalumni.org>

Once a Bulldog...**ALWAYS** a Bulldog!

*Volume 1, Number 1*

## **Leader of the Pack**-a message from the alumni President

Fellow alumni, friends and guests,

Hello. As the acting President of the Lexington Alumni Association, I'd like to take the time to welcome you to the very first edition of what we hope will be a quarterly newsletter spotlighting Lexington alumni, our people and our activities as well as happenings at Lexington schools. It has been a long time in the making and is published in response to a lot of inquires. Since this is YOUR newsletter, it will only be as successful as YOU want it to be. Each edition will feature fellow alumni that have made a difference in the world, have a fascinating story to tell, are somehow unique or do something unique, or have given back to the school in some manner. If you know of somebody whose story you'd like to see profiled, or perhaps you have a story to tell, please send along your request. Also, if you have any information you would like to share with your fellow alumni and the world, we sincerely hope you will send it along. We'd also like to know what you've been up to or just what you want the world to know.

"The Barker" will also feature things that are happening within the Alumni Association itself. This edition includes the proposed changes to the by-laws that will be presented and voted on by the association at the next Alumni Reunion on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Also in this edition is an announcement of our "Pave-the-Plaza" program that will allow our members to leave their legacy to the world by buying a brick that will be installed in the Alumni Plaza at the new Lexington High School. It will also keep you informed of all the news, any fundraising opportunities, reunions, merchandise and all things alumni. There will also be a place for your memories of high school and Lexington. There is a section called "Lost Dogs", which will inform members whatever became of a classmate they ask about. There is even a section that will keep you informed of the latest goings on at Lexington High School.

Since putting a newsletter together is a monumental task,

## **Top Dog**-a message from the Superintendent of Lexington Public Schools

Dear Alumni,

Greetings from Lexington Public Schools!

As the month of September winds down there is a lot of excitement within the school district.

As most of you probably know we passed a bond issue for the construction of a new high school. The dirt work is in progress and the construction site is starting to take shape. For those of you who may not live in this area, the location of the new high school is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile east from the intersection of Main and Broadway, and just north of State Highway 39. Construction on the project will take about fifteen months. Our students and community will greatly benefit from this new facility.

You might be interested in knowing that Mrs. Terri Helvey, formerly Terri Peery, has accepted the position of Intermediate/Middle School Principal this year. Mrs. Helvey graduated from Lexington High School in the class of 1981. She is a loyal "Bulldog" and has been hard at work in her new position. Mrs. Helvey is placing a strong emphasis on academics as well as student activities. She has instituted the "Top Dawg Student of the Month" this year and is working on a positive behavior promotion for the students. This promotion will help to strengthen and reward attendance, punctuality, homework, and academic achievement.

On behalf of the board of education and the faculty we thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Denny Prince  
Superintendent



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we are looking for volunteers to help. If you can research backgrounds, email your fellow classmates to see what's happening, write, whatever, we can use you. You might even be able to write your own story! Just drop us a note and let us know your interest and we'll be in touch.

The newsletter will be free if downloaded from the internet. If you, or somebody you know, would like it mailed, we will do so for \$3.00/year to offset postage costs and handling.

Come on, alumni, get on board. Remember, this is YOUR newsletter and it will only be as successful as YOU want it to be. We need your help and support.

Until next time, buy an Alumni shirt or stadium blanket from our website, go out and support Lexington High School sports. "GO BULLDOGS!"

Thank you.

Greg Yeary, Class of 1976  
President, Lexington Alumni Association

## **Pack Dogs**-class reunion information

If you were a part of the Class of 1982, your classmates are looking for you. They are planning a class reunion and need you, both as a guest and to help plan, if you'd like. For more information, contact Donelda (McKiddy) Ellis @ [DoneldaE01@aol.com](mailto:DoneldaE01@aol.com) or contact the Lexington Alumni Association for her phone number.

If you are planning a class reunion, we would LOVE to know about it. We can supply you with a list of classmates and their addresses, help you plan it and announce it for you. We will do everything we can to help you make your class reunion a complete success! Just email us at: [info@lexokalumni.org](mailto:info@lexokalumni.org).

## **Dog Star**-spotlighting alumni that are giving back

The alumni association is dedicated to acknowledging our members that have given, or are giving, back to Lexington Public Schools in some way, whether it is their time, energy, talent or resources. One such person we believe meets the requirement is our Dog Star feature this month, teacher and Coach Brian Snow.

Brian Lynn Snow, is a legacy. His dad, Charles, is also a Lexington grad (Class of 1965). Brian was born on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1970, in Norman, Oklahoma, to Charles and Delores Snow. He attended Lexington schools for thirteen years, graduating with the class of 1988. While attending school, he was involved in basketball, baseball and Student Council. He says his favorite "in class" teachers were Cheryl Dills and Karla Shackelford. He says they did a great job with their classes and how they managed their students. His favorite "out of class" teacher was George Thompson and the students enjoyed building his Pizza Hut memorabilia collection after they "survived" his class. His favorite class, believe it or not, was Chemistry.

While a student, Brian enjoyed hanging out with "a lot of different people from all over the area." He says his fondest memory of Lexington High School is the many friends and teachers that made all the great times that he experienced. His fondest memory of growing up in Lexington and Purcell is both meeting so many great people in high school and growing some of those initial acquaintances into even greater friendships. There is a lesson we should all learn.

Brian always thought he would love to coach, but also thought chemistry was always interesting, as well as being a challenge. That interest served him well. After graduation from high school, Brian went on to Rose State College from 1988-1990, then transferred to East Central University in Ada, graduating in 1994 with his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry Education. In 1999, he returned to Lexington to give back to his high school alma mater by living both his dreams, teaching two sections of Chemistry, one section of AP Biology as well as coaching high school and junior high football, high



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## In the pack:

### Our friends in memoriam.....

Harlie Anson Shockey, 92, **Class of 1934**, 11/12/1914-6/8/2007

Omega (Smith) Northcutt, 84, **Class of 1941**, 3/11/1923-7/30/2007

Ola B. (Blackburn) Boatright, 79, **Class of 1943**, 8/12/1926-7/1/2006

Louis Kieth Wilhite, 70, **Class of 1954**, 1/12/1937-8/31/2007

Marilyn Sue (Sweetman) Skaggs, 65, **Class of 1959**, 10/20/1941-8/3/2007

Donald Gene Scott, 66, **Class of 1959**, 9/2/1941-9/4/2007

Betty Jean (Combs) Cossey, 62, **Class of 1962**, 10/3/1944-1/20/2007

David Oscar Pruitt, 61, **Class of 1966**, 2/5/1946-8/4/2007

Reece H. Hunt, 58, husband of Judith Nan Johnson-**Class of 1970**

Gilbert Ray Poe, 50, **Class of 1975**, 10/29/1956-5/9/2007

Grace Lavern Tilson, 48, **Class of 1976**, 9/4/1958-5/21/2007

Stephanie Amanda (McGee) Harmoning, 33, **Class of 1991**, 8/27/1973-7/2/2007

Jim John Newman, 21, **Class of 2004**, 10/22/1985-7/3/2007

Robbie Glenn Wootten, 57, husband of Sandra Wootten, former teacher in Lexington.

**Congratulations to.....**

school slow-pitch softball and junior high boy's basketball.

Besides staying busy with all his teaching and coaching duties, Brian occupies whatever free time he has with traveling, riding his motorcycles and sports, both watching and participating. Among his travels, he says he really enjoyed his two trips to Europe, one to the Czech/Slovak republics while in college and the other to Belgium in the summer of 2006. The latter one was with a mission group called Sportquest. While here in America, he enjoys snow skiing in Colorado and New Mexico. He rides his Yamaha C-Star 650 for short day trips and his Honda VTX 1300 C for longer, overnight trips. Besides his coaching duties, he likes to play basketball and softball when he gets the chance. He also likes watching college football when he gets the chance, however coaching takes up most of that time.

Brian is single and makes his home in Lexington. If you would like to email Brian and say hi or let him know that you appreciate his taking the responsibility for shaping the minds of tomorrow's leaders, his email address is: [bsnow@lexington.k12.ok.us](mailto:bsnow@lexington.k12.ok.us).

So, thank you, Brian Snow, class of 1988, for giving back to the school system from which you came. You can be as proud of yourself, as the alumni association is proud of you! Brian is living proof that, "Once a Bulldog... **ALWAYS** a Bulldog!"

*(Editor's note: We'll be featuring another alumnus that is serving Lexington schools in some capacity. If you are an employee of Lexington schools or involved in the school system in some manner, please let us know).*

## Dog House-a look at the new Lexington High School

Lexington Public Schools is proud to announce the beginning of construction of the new Lexington High School. They (and WE) are very excited about it and will continue to publish photos so those of you that can't go by and see it under construction can see the progress.



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James G., **Class of 1955**, and JoAnn (Trussel) Rose, **Class of 1956**, of Norman for celebrating their golden wedding anniversary March 1.

Mark Easton, **Class of 1973**, and Shelly (McGregor) Martin, **Class of 1983**, for being re-elected to the Lexington City Council.

David Tompkins, **Class of 1977**, for his retirement as Purcell's Chief of Police.

Terri (Peery) Helvey, **Class of 1981**, for being named the new middle school Principal at Lexington. Terri is the former President of the Lexington Alumni Association.

Rod Cleveland, **Class of 1986**, for being elected a Cleveland County Commissioner for District 1.

Jared Garrett, **Class of 2006**, for making the 2006 All State, All City teams and playing in the Oil Bowl and for being named the best football player in Lexington school history, as selected by The Daily Oklahoman.

## Big Dog: - Fellow Alumnus worth noting

Our unofficial slogan for the Alumni Association, "Once a Bulldog...ALWAYS a Bulldog!" was never truer than with our first alumni profile. You'll see what I mean as you continue reading.

When little Johnnie was a mere lad growing up in Lexington, he had absolutely no idea that he would travel the world and become a highly decorated aviator. He couldn't have foreseen the future and how the world would come to know "Smitty" (often referred to as "Meat Ball Smitty" on the internet, but that's only on the internet) as an "ace" fighter pilot in World War II. He was a man whose face graced the cover of, and whose story was told in, Life Magazine. He even had John Wayne play him on the silver screen. How many of us can say that?

John Lucian Smith was born in Lexington the day after Christmas in 1914, the youngest of three boys born to



The future site of the new Lexington High School.



The pictures were made looking north from across SH 39 to what will be the front, which will face the highway. The sports complex can be seen in the background.

## Dogs at Play: -sports schedules

### Football:

#### Varsity

Oct. 12 Lindsay	Away
Oct. 18 Hobart	Home
Oct. 26 Bridge Creek	Home



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rural mail carrier and school board member Robert Owen and Pearl Fennel Smith. Like older brothers Robert Owen (Class of 1923) and Haskell (Class of 1924), John was a good student at Lexington schools. Former classmates remembered him as a good football player, in spite of his rather small stature, and a "shark at cards." He graduated high school in the class of 1932, during the depression. After high school, Smith enrolled in the University of Oklahoma in Norman, where he majored in accounting and was a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. In the ROTC, he rose to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant. Upon graduation in May, 1936, Smith would begin his long and very distinguished military career by accepting an appointment as second lieutenant in the United States Army Field Artillery. After only two months, in July of 1936, he resigned his Army commission to accept a commission in the United States Marine Corps as a second lieutenant in field artillery. He was ordered to Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he underwent Marine Basic School.

After basic training, Smith was assigned to Quantico, Virginia, Washington D.C. and at the famous Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, in 1937. After he finished his required two years with the artillery unit, he got what he had hoped when he was transferred to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, in July, 1938, to begin flight training. That's where his life would be forever changed.

Smith earned his wings when he graduated in July, 1939, earning the designation as a Naval Aviator. Shortly before the war, he was assigned to a dive-bomber squadron before transferring to a fighter outfit. That squadron was sent to relieve the garrison at Wake Island after December 7<sup>th</sup>. The squadron never got to Wake in time and was left at Midway. There, Smith became a skilled fighter pilot. After only a few months in that squadron, now Captain Smith found himself commanding his own squadron at age 27. He was called back to Pearl Harbor in the late spring and was ordered to organize a new squadron. In just one month he transformed a bunch of new student aviators into combat pilots. Marine Fighter Squadron 223 (VMF-223) was commissioned on May 1, 1942, at Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, Oahu, Hawaii. The new squadron, designated the "Bulldogs" (as they still are

Nov. 2 Bethany Away

## Junior High

Oct. 11 Little Axe Away

Oct. 16 Bridge Creek Home

Oct. 23 Wynnewood Home

Lexington's varsity football team currently is sporting a 4-2 record with a shining 3-0 record in District 2A-3 and is tied for first with Bethany.

## Under the Fence: *-catching up with fellow alumni-by Darlene (Lawson) McGonigle, Class of 1963*

I am Leota Darlene Lawson, and graduated from Lexington High School in 1963. We were the first to graduate from the new High School. (whoopee) Oh Gosh, I hope I remembered it correctly and we WERE the first ones. You know how memory goes.

It is like the energizer bunny, it goes and goes and goes. When you start remembering more of your childhood than what happened yesterday, that shows we are turning into our parents and we vowed we would NEVER go there.

Some of us were privileged to have some classes in the old high school building. Remember the 2 storied building that had an outside stairway to study hall? I think there were other rooms up there, but us junior high kids, we only got to go to STUDY HALL with the BIG KIDS. I am sure everyone remembers Miss Altaffer. Boy she was rough. Tommy Wilhite and I got so many demerits in her class. And her class was Study Hall for us. Imagine how good we could have done if it had been a real class. We could have lived in Mr. Burkett's office, instead of just going in there to get our 3 licks with his paddle. Some of you may never have met any of these people, but the ones who graduated before 1963 will know what I am talking about. And how much fun we had. Did anyone ever find out who put the donkey and cart on top of the old high school building? How did they get it up there? Did that teacher ever find out who put the outhouse in his



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known today-thus "Once a Bulldog....ALWAYS a Bulldog!") left Hawaii on the transport William Ward Burroughs and their Grumman F4F Wildcats fighter planes aboard the small carrier Long Island.

They were on their way to the Solomon Islands to help gain control of the skies over Guadalcanal. They became the first fighter squadron committed to combat during the Battle of Guadalcanal when they landed at Henderson Field on August 20, 1942, and became part of the Cactus Air Force. The "Bulldogs" were the first Marine fighter squadron to arrive in the Solomons. For the next 2 months Smith would lead his squadron on sorties against Japanese pilots, based out of Rabaul. Between August 21 and September 15, 1942, Major Smith's group of fighters accounted for 83 Japanese aircraft destroyed, including a confirmed 19 by Smitty himself.

On August 30, 1942, he had two confirmed victories in a less than five minute span. His plane was grounded by enemy fire on October 2, 1942, when two Japanese Zeros riddled it with 20mm cannon shells and machine gun fire, hitting the oil cooler. He was forced to make a dead-stick landing in a clearing about six miles from Henderson Field. Before they left the island on October 11, 1942, Smith and his "Bulldogs" (VMF-223) had accounted for 110 1/2 enemy aircraft shot down.

At the start of their campaign, Captain Smith and his brave pilots and ground crew lived on good food-meals that included chicken or steak from a supply ship. Over time, they were forced to live off canned meat for breakfast, lunch and dinner. After that ran out, they survived on captured Japanese rice that wriggled with worms that had to be picked out. Sometimes they would get a dozen bars of candy and a few cartons of cigarettes brought to them on a torpedo plane from a nearby carrier. That would be divided into equal portions between pilots and ground crew.

While on the ground, the squadron tried to forget the war. After a few days, their nightly talk changed from the past day's fighting tactics to blondes in Honolulu and what they would do when they got back to the states. At night, they would sit around in front of their tents in their pajamas drinking their precious whisky (the only thing that

yard? We had some very interesting Halloweens. Did others hear the story about the lady that never came out of her house and we were scared and warned by our older siblings NOT TO KNOCK ON HER DOOR. Or does every town/school have the same stories? Oh those were the good ole days.

Any one else have memories? We are wanting to get feedback from any and all. They will be posted in the coming issues. You can write about what has happened to you in your life after school, tell us all about yourself, or you can write about any of your funny memories. There may be special people that made an impact on your life. Tell Us. We are all ears.

I need to let you know that I am now Leota Darlene McGonigle, pronounced Mac gone e gil. I am a retired Letter Carrier, mother of 4, wife of an over the road truck driver. Moved from Oklahoma in 1980 and have lived in Kansas since then. Oklahoman by heart and birth.

Darlene

*(Editor's note: if you would like to respond to this article or would like to update the rest of the world of what you are up to in the next edition of "The Barker", please email Darlene at [ariesdancer63@cox.net](mailto:ariesdancer63@cox.net))*

I live in the southeastern part of the state of Oklahoma, on 20 acres, away from everyone and I love it. I am married to Randall Coffman. I have 3 kids, 2 stepkids and 8 wonderful little people know as "Grandchildren". I am their nana and I dearly love it. I ride a motorcycle, love to cruise and am seriously thinking about retiring soon. I now work for Community Action as a group coordinator for self help housing, helping moderate to low income folks become first time homeowners. A definite "feel good" job.....would love to hear from my classmates.....Kaye Deaton Coffman

**Old Dogs Rules:** *-proposed changes to our By-Laws*



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would loosen their taut nerves and permit a few hours of sleep) sparingly. They would talk and kid each other, pausing in numb silence whenever someone would unthinkingly mention the name of a man that was no longer there.

While on temporary duty in Washington after his return from the Pacific, he was awarded and presented the Medal of Honor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 24, 1943.

After several months' duty in Washington, he was again shipped overseas in the fall of 1943 to serve as Executive Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 32, then located at Oahu, Hawaii. A few months later, he moved to the Philippines and took part in the aerial offensives in the Bismarck Archipelago in November and December 1944; moved up to Luzon in the Philippines in January and February 1945; then on to Mindoro and Mindanao, and finally up to the Sulu Archipelago.

For his services in the Philippines during the period November 1944 to June 1945, he was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceedingly meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service. It was for his leadership as Executive Officer for Marine Aircraft Group 32 in extensive support of ground and surface forces in the liberation of Luzon, Zamboanga Peninsula, the Sulu Archipelago, and Mindanao.

On his return to the United States in June 1945, he served at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida, until December 1945, when he was transferred to Quantico, Virginia, to serve as station operations officer. After his duty there and after performing various duties at Cherry Point, North Carolina, Washington, and Havana, Cuba, in 1946 and 1947, he was detached from duty at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia, to perform duty involving flying on the staff of Commander, Air Force, Atlantic Fleet. In November 1948 he was on temporary aviation duty in England, France, and Germany.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith was detailed as Marine Corps Aide to the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, in December 1949; promoted to colonel on January 1, 1951; and in May, 1951, he joined the Staff,

The following are Proposed Amendments to the Lexington Alumni Association By-Laws as previously established and the reason for the proposals. They will be voted on at the next meeting of the general membership of the association. That will occur at the next scheduled All School Reunion on June 19th, 2010.

Proposition This proposition shall amend Article VIII, 1: Section 1, Duties of the Treasurer. This proposal shall delete the line, "**No checks will be written without the signature of the Treasurer, and consent of the local Alumni officers.**" It shall be replaced with proposed Article XII, Section 2, and shall read, "No checks shall be written without two (2) signatures of Alumni officers in good standing at the time, and consent of the Alumni officers."

**REASON:** Article II, Section 4, reads in part, "**Resignation or death of an Officer during the five (5) year period shall constitute a vacancy and cannot be filled except at the regular business meeting.**" Should the Treasurer resign anytime during his/her term or be unable to complete his/her term, the Lexington Alumni Association would be unable to conduct the business of the Association. That business consists of the annual awarding of the Alumni Association scholarships, paying Post Office box rent and all other necessary expenses. If two remaining officers have the ability to sign checks, business shall continue uninterrupted. Two signatures also allow for a set of checks-and-balances as to the Association money and how it is spent.

Proposition This proposition shall amend Article II, 2: Section 1, Officers, and shall add Article XIII



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Standing Group, of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), for two years. Following duty with Marine Training Group 10, at the Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California, he began a year's duty in Korea in July, 1953. He served first as Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 33, until February, 1954, then as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4 of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Upon his return from Korea, Col. Smith was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps in August 1954, and entered the National War College, completing the course in June 1955. The following month he was assigned to Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, as a member of the Advanced Research Group, serving in this capacity until July 1956. That August he assumed his duties at Pensacola Naval Air Station as Liaison Officer on the Staff of the Chief of Naval Air Training.

As if all those accomplishments weren't enough, Smitty also found time to be a loving husband and a caring father. With a 6-foot tall frame and hazel eyes, Smith was a natural athlete. He managed to find time to coach baseball when his children were young. He also enjoyed playing tennis and was an outstanding golfer, playing with a zero handicap. Colonel Smith, along with Robert Trent Jones, designed the golf course at Quantico, Virginia. He never outgrew being a "shark at cards" as he spent many hours playing poker and canasta with his children. Though he had seen the world, he never forgot his roots. He brought his family to visit his boyhood home in 1956 and in 1966. They visited with old friends and made pictures by the sign that stood in front of his boyhood home. As proud as he was of his hometown, the citizens of Lexington were equally as proud of him. As is printed in the book *As We Remember*, "One Morning in December of 1942, the Palace Drug Store in Lexington received 100 copies of Life Magazine instead of the usual 2 copies. And there on the cover page of Life was big picture of a Marine labeled "Marine Ace Smith". That was John Lucian Smith of the Class of 1932".

Colonel Smith retired from the Marine Corps on September 1, 1960, to live a quiet life after the rages of war. As a civilian, he briefly worked in the defense industry for the very company that had supplied the planes he and his squadron had flown, Grumman. He

to the By-Laws. The amended Article II, Section 1, shall create the position of Historian. The proposed Article XIII shall define the duties of the Historian as follows. **Section 1.** The Historian shall be in charge of all items of a historic nature that are donated to the Association. **Section 2.** It shall be the responsibility of the Historian to record all historic donations, storage of historic items and research all historic data as needed. Historic donations shall be defined as items of a historical significance relating to Lexington schools or the Lexington Alumni Association. Those items shall include, but shall not be limited to, yearbooks (annuals), school wear (letterman sweaters/jackets/jerseys, cheerleader uniforms, FFA jackets), trophies, photos, films, grade cards and school newspapers. **Section 3.** The Historian shall also research historical material and facts for the newsletter, if needed.

**REASON** All previously donated historic items have been lost through the years due to various reasons. With the creation of the position of Historian, those wishing to donate items to the Alumni Association shall be assured that their legacy gifts shall be logged and stored for Alumni Association use. Those persons donating items shall be recognized for their donations.

## Do you remember....

...when Lexington had a movie theater?

...when Lexington had a swimming pool?

...catching the latest movies at the Canadian theater in Purcell?



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then worked for North American Aviation until his position was ended. While you can remove the pilot from the war, you can't always remove the war from the pilot. Col. Smith suffered the rest of his life with what was called battle fatigue, the forerunner to today's post traumatic stress syndrome. In those days, it was largely neglected and untreated, much like today. Colonel Smith became increasingly affected by the battle fatigue and became even more despondent over the loss of his job. Sadly, our hometown hero took his own life on June 10, 1972, in Encino, California. He is buried in Section 3 of Arlington National Cemetery.

Colonel Smith left a wife, Louise Maddox Outland Smith, who died this past April. She was a graduate of William and Mary and held a master's degree from Old Dominion (and whose sister married Walter P. Chrysler, Jr., the son of the famous automobile designer, president of the Buick Corporation, Executive Vice President of General Motors and the founder of Chrysler Corporation). John and Louise had three children, Dr. Caroline Maddox Smith Wilson of Charlottesville, Virginia, Owen Ballard Smith of Brunswick, Maine, and the late John Lucian (Jack) Smith, Jr. He also left behind five grandchildren-John Lucian Smith III of Charlottesville, Virginia, Clarke McIntyre Smith of Norfolk, Virginia, Owen Ballard Smith, Thomas Brereton Smith and Suzannah O'Hara Smith-all of Brunswick, Maine.

A complete list of Colonel Smith's medals and decorations includes: the Medal of Honor; the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" the Distinguished Flying Cross; the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" the Air Medal with three Gold Stars, indicative of four awards; the Presidential Unit Citation; the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon with one bronze star; the American Defense Service Medal with Base clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one silver star, indicative of five bronze stars; the American Campaign Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; the Navy Occupation Service Medal with European clasp; the National Defense Service Medal; the Korean Service Medal with one bronze star; the United Nations Service Medal; the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze star; the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation; and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

## **Barkings:** *-happenings of your Alumni Association*

There are a lot of exciting events happening with your alumni association. First, we are offering engraved bricks for sale that will be used on the Alumni Plaza at the new Lexington High School (see more on that in the other column). The bricks are \$30 and can have up to three lines of text with a maximum of eleven characters per line. Do you consider yourself a good cook or perhaps you have that one special dish about which your family and friends just rave? We can use it. Your alumni association is currently taking recipes that will be included in an alumni cookbook that we will publish. We are also offering a full line of embroidered Lexington High School and alumni merchandise. It includes everything from tee, golf and dress shirts, hats, shorts, jackets, warm-ups, bags, aprons, stadium cushions and blankets. A wide variety of sports are featured, including many that aren't even offered at Lexington. Get your fall gear today and wear them to the games. Also for sale is the song you hear on the website. It's called "Heart of Oklahoma" and it was written by a former Lexington student, Mark D. Whitehead. Of course, you can also buy a 1995 or 2005 directory. Perhaps you'd like to volunteer-we can use you.

Also on the website (lexokalumni.com) is your opportunity for vote on who the Alumni Plaza should be named after. The biographies of the worthy candidates are there as well as voting buttons.

## **Dogs in Training:** *-alumni members furthering their education*

**Congratulations to.....**

Kindra Lianne Gregory, **Class of 2002**, for graduating from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha, spring 2007, with a Bachelor of Science degree.



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*Volume 1, Number 1*

The colonel was also awarded Britain's Distinguished Service Order "for conspicuous gallantry and distinguished service..." in the Solomons. His Navy Cross was presented to him by Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

You can find out more about Col. Smith and Guadalcanal by watching "Dogfights, Guadalcanal" on the History Channel. If you've seen the movie "Flying Leathernecks" starring John Wayne, it is based on the life of Smitty. It's available at your local movie rental store.



We are proud to honor the life of our "ace" and fellow alumnus, Colonel John Lucian Smith, part of the Class of 1932. He left us a legacy of greatness for which we should all strive to achieve; the legacy of braving the odds no matter how great and do your best. So, Smitty, thank you for your service and "Semper Fidelis", we will be "Always Faithful" to you. As we like to say, "Once a Bulldog...**ALWAYS** a Bulldog!"

Fonda Dawnell (McCalip) Scott, **Class of 1990**, for making the President's Honor Roll for the fall 2006 semester at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Leah Ashley Bryant, **Class of 1994**, for making the President's Honor Roll for the fall 2006 semester at Rose State College in Midwest City.

Jennifer D. Dodd, **Class of 2002**, for making the President's Honor Roll for the spring 2007 semester at East Central University in Ada. She is majoring in elementary education.

Toby Ray Blair, **Class of 2003**, for making the Dean's Honor Roll for the 2006 fall semester at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Trent Andrew Tarp, **Class of 2003**, and Matthew Lewis Murnan, **Class of 2004**, for making the spring 2007 honor roll at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Matthew Scott Hamm, **Class of 2003**, for making the President's Honor Roll for the spring 2007 semester at THE Oklahoma State University in Stillwater

Cody B. Barton, **Class of 2004**, Amber C. Blanchard, **Class of 2004** and Chelsea D. Huddleston, **Class of 2004**, for making the Honor Roll at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha.

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