

HONOR OUR VETERANS

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Veteran continues to serve others

Skipper began life of service in Navy

By Marlene Bohr

Joe Skipper's life began in East Texas and after service in the U.S. Navy and in the Houston Police Department, he returned to his roots. The 1951 graduate of Daingerfield High School, he was president of the Daingerfield Future Farmers from 1950 through 1951.

Skipper attended the University of Houston from 1960 through 1968 and Sam Houston State University from 1969 through 1975. He holds a bachelor of science degree in police administration. Skip-

per completed 30 hours of graduate work.

He volunteered for the U.S. Navy serving from 1953 - 1957 and became a signalman. In 1954, he passed security clearance and was assigned to the USS O'Bannon to provide security for the hydrogen bomb test in the South Pacific Ocean. In 1956, he was assigned to the USS Cunningham to go to Melbourne, Australia to represent the United States at the Olympic Games.



JOE SKIPPER
SERVED WITH THE U. S. NAVY

After being discharged from the Navy, Skipper became a state trooper for the Texas Department of Public Safety from 1957 through 1959. He was accepted by the Houston Police Department in 1959 and worked there until 1980, where he attained the rank of Captain - Command Patrol Division, personnel division, the vice squad, the Planning and Research Division and the Juvenile Division. Skipper taught police courses at the University of Houston and was the director of security for Houston Independent School District athletic events.

"In 1971, as a young Lieutenant, I was assigned to the Juvenile Division, where I represented the Houston Police Department at the Delinquency Control Institute at the University of Southern California," Skipper said. "I was chosen as the Outstanding Police Officer, Staff Services Bureau in 1973. In 1978, I was assigned to go to Nashville and Chicago to survey those police department's policy and procedures as well as salary and benefits as compared to the Houston Police Department. I supervised writing the first Policy and Procedure Manual for the Houston Police Department. I was Parliamentarian and vice presi-

dent of Houston Police Officers Association from 1970 through 1980 and commander of the Houston Police Officers Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6010."

Returning to Morris County, Skipper was elected Morris County Sheriff and held that position from 1980 through 1992.

"While sheriff I instituted a 24-hour patrol, a juvenile officer, report writing on all incidents, and wrote the Policy and Procedure Manual for the sheriff's office and the jail," Skipper said. "During my tenure, the jail was certified for the first time ever by the Texas Jail Commission. While I was sheriff, I supervised construction of the new sheriff's office and jail that is still being used today."

After leaving the sheriff's office, Skipper became probation officer from 1992 through 1994 and supervised all misdemeanor probationers in Titus County, plus all out of county felonies. From 1994 through 2003 he worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Internal Affairs.

"In that job, I investigated all criminal activity that occurred inside the prison and presented it to the district attorney for possible prosecution," he said. "I investigated all administrative complaints by citizens, inmates, officers, supervisors and administrators and presented the complaints to the administration for any disciplinary action. I was the training officer for all new investigators assigned to the Telford Unit."

In Morris County, Skipper has operated a 250-acre cattle farm from 1980 to the present.

Skipper has been very active in his church and community. He was president of the Lone Star Kiwanis Club. He was a member and was on the board of directors of the Texas Sheriff's Association and a member of Daingerfield Lions Club. He received a Lions Club Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

Skipper is a member of the Daingerfield Chamber of Commerce and a deacon at the First Baptist Church in Daingerfield. He is a member and past Chaplain of the Morris-Cass Gideon Camp, distributing Testaments and Bibles locally and in over 200 countries. He is also a member of Daingerfield-Lone Star Alumni Association, the American Legion, and served on the board of directors of the Houston Police and Northeast Texas Credit Unions. He was a coach and District Director of Dixie Baseball for 18 years.

Skipper has been married to Marie Miller Skipper for 60 years. They have two children and two grandchildren.

District title on the line

Brahmas play at Hooks

Looking forward to making their 32nd "Running of the Bulls" trek into the state football playoffs and their eighth consecutive trip to post-season action, Pewitt's Brahmas will go to Hooks this week to battle the Hornets.

Tied at 4-0 in district play with once-beaten Hooks, Pewitt needs a victory to win the district title outright.

It will be the 46th meeting between the two schools in a series that dates back to 1950 and the Hornets lead the series 27-18 but have lost the last six to the Brahmas.

Hooks opened the season with a 21-36 loss to Harmony then won eight straight include four district games.

The win streak started with a 45-14 win over Redwater and con-

tinued 14-0 over Mt. Vernon, 47-8 over Clarksville, 27-6 over Chism, 40-13 over Linden-Kildare, 50-0 over Hughes Springs, 35-7 over DeKalb and 27-6 over Queen City.

In pre-season guessing Texas Football picked Hooks third in the district behind Hughes Springs and Pewitt but ahead of L-K, DeKalb and Queen City.

Coach Chris Birdwell started the season with 17/13 O/D returning lettermen and 4/5 returning starters from an 8-3 bi-district team that was 3-2 in district play.

TF said players to watch include WR Montrell Estell (6-3, 191, 4.4), RB Reshawn Parker (6-2, 223, 4.6), LB Malik Estell (6-0, 187, 4.7), LB Jordan Soper (5-11, 202, 4.9) and LB Seth Mahar (5-10, 187, 4.8). OL Alec Smith was listed as the top sophomore.



The Balloon Man

Remembering his childhood days and some of his favorite toys, Ernest Baugh still enjoys playing with balloons. He set up shop at the recent Marietta Pickle Festival and made lots of children happy with his balloon animals and other inflated figures. The youngster at the top right didn't have to ring the old school bell to draw customers ... Baugh said the kiddos were coming from everywhere to stand in line and wait for one of his creations. Neil Abeles will have a following story later about the Dalton native and his fun profession.

photo by Neil Abeles

Highest fiscal rating awarded

Pewitt CISD gets top rating

It's report card time and the students aren't the only ones to receive passing marks. Pewitt School earned top scores on its report card from the state.

Pewitt Consolidated Independent School District officials announced this week that the district earned the maximum score of 30 and a rating of "Pass" under the state's school financial accountability rating system known as the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) for 2014-2015.

A Pass rating, which is the state's highest possible rating for 2014-2015, demonstrates the high quality of Pewitt CISD's financial management, and reporting, district officials said.

This is the 13th year of School FIRST, which is a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. The primary goal of School FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas's school finance system.

"We are very pleased with Pewitt CISD's School FIRST rating, as it shows that our district is

being responsible with our taxpayers' dollars," Pewitt CISD Superintendent Dr. Andy Reddock said. "This rating shows that Pewitt CISD schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results in a financially responsible manner."

TEA converted School FIRST to a two-rating system of either "Pass" or "Substandard Achievement" for 2014-2015. Pewitt CISD has achieved the top rating of Superior Achievement from 2002-2003 through 2013-2014. During those years, the School FIRST accountability rating system assigned one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being "Superior Achievement" followed by "Above-Standard Achievement", "Standard Achievement" and "Substandard Achievement" ratings.

Veterans' Day Monitoring Main Street



Veterans' Day is next week, Wednesday, November 11, and for those who will be attending special patriotic events — be on the lookout for some of the "Old Geezers" who will be milling around the site.

The "Geezers", a slang term for an old man, are easy to spot.

At sporting events, during the playing of the *National Anthem*, Old Geezers hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

Old Geezers remember World War I, the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into an Old Geezer on the sidewalk, he will apologize.

If you pass an Old Geezer on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady.

Old Geezers trust strangers and are courtly to women.

Old Geezers hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

Old Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth on TV or in movies.

Old Geezers have moral courage. They seldom brag unless it's about their grandchildren.

It's the Old Geezers who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Geezers with their decent values. We need them now more than ever.

Thank God for Old Geezers, and God Bless America on this year's Veterans' Day.

The public and all the "Old Geezers" are invited to a Student Council Veterans' Day program at Pewitt High School on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., in the auditorium.

A reception for the Veterans will be hosted in the high school library following the program.

HONOR OUR VETERANS

The public and all area veterans are invited to a Veterans' Day program November 11, at 9:30 a.m., at the Pewitt High School auditorium.

A reception in their honor will be at the school library following the program.