

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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Smaller crowd, but spirit still there at A.H.S. Reunion



Teacher of 2024 honor, Lloyd German, received a plaque honoring his service to the school and village and received a standing ovation at Saturday night's annual A.H.S. Alumni Reunion. - Riata Remund Photos

By Darlene Rimpley
Class of 1952

Countdown! As I get writing this, I am counting 364 days until the next A.H.S. Alumni Banquet. How can I wait?

The crowd was a bit smaller, maybe, but the spirit was just as great. Two-hundred-thirty-seven meals were served, with sisters Kisha Gracey Ziffell and BoDell Gracey Jordan in charge. States represented were Washington, California, Tennessee, North Carolina, Maryland, Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, Florida, Kansas, and of course,

Nebraska, and I maybe missed a few.

Alumni who we have lost during the last year were honored, as John Phillips read the honor role, and Gene Purcell led in prayer.

It was then a pleasure to see the Teacher of 2024 honored. Lloyd German received a plaque recognizing his service to the school system and the Village of Arnold. Lloyd taught in the school system from 1976 to 2005, and received a standing ovation.

Then came a part that I always enjoy: seeing which class had the best attendance. The first number is those who

graduated with that class, the second number is those still living, and the third number is those in attendance.

The Class of 1944: 32-1-1. Norma Oman Erikson is the one remaining member of that class and lives in Gothenburg. Of course, with 100% attendance, her class was the winner.

1954: 28-14-8
1964: 30-24-15
1974: 36-30-17
1984: 21-17-9
1994: 19-18-5
2004: 18-18-4
2014: 4-4-0

And champs in attendance, with no prize, was the Class of 1964 with 62 percent.

And then the program, “Back in the Day.” The honored classes were themselves the program. Under the direction of 1st Vice President Tammy Milne Weinman, facts about each class were brought out, and then un-



Norma Oman Erikson, the only remaining member of the class of 1944, was honored during the program.

der the able guiding hand of our master of ceremonies, Don Swanson '73. We learned a lot more about each class, and we especially loved his interpretation of Mr. Story (Don is a lawyer, and he learned this some place – AHS?). Thank you, Don, for your part in the program. It was so enjoyable!

After the parade of honored classes, the Class of 2024 was welcomed

into the Association and reminded that we want them to be active!

And so, we come to the end of our 2024 alumni reunion. I have to admit, I was sad because we didn't close with singing “Arnold High!”

Editor's note: Watch next week's issue for pictures of the 2024 honored Classes.

Tire Cleanup Event Starts May 30 In Arnold

Imagine this: In the USA alone, a staggering 317 million waste tires are discarded annually—9 tires every second. And every year, there's a new waste tire for every person in the country. What happens to all these tires once they're no longer on the road? A significant portion of them, around 75%, end up in landfills. ELTs make up nearly 2% of total global waste, leading to environmental and health hazards due to improper waste management. Fortunately, technology exists to recycle nearly all tire components, from rubber to steel.

Waste tires that are laying around and hidden in buildings in our area will have the chance to be recycled at tire cleanup event hosted by the Village of Arnold beginning today, May 30 through June 1. Funding for the cleanup is being made available to the Village from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Fund through the Nebraska Department of

Environmental Energy.

The tire collection, held at the south edge of Old Mill Park by the tree pile, will be limited to 150 tons and is open to Arnold, Callaway, Dunning, Stapleton, and surrounding residents.

There are a number of regulations listed including: (1) no tire retailers, Nebraska tires only, (2) must be able to unload tires, (3) must be able to provide tire count or weight, (4) must show valid Nebraska ID, and (5) call ahead if you have more than 50 tires, or you may be turned away at the collection site.

Approximate tire weights follow:

- Passenger tire: 20# each
- Light pickup tire: 35# each
- Semi and trailer tire: 100# each
- Farm rear tractor tire: 150# to 350#

The times of the collection follow:

- May 30-31: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- June 1: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Booker Family Makes Memory of a Lifetime

By Janet Larreau

The U.S. Army christened its newest combat vehicle, the M10 Booker, on April 18, 2024, during a ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground. This

historic event marked the first vehicle named in honor of fallen soldiers since 2002, and both had the same surname - Medal of Honor recipient Pvt. Robert D. Booker, who perished in World War II; and Distinguished Service

Cross recipient Staff Sgt. Stevon A. Booker, who died from injuries sustained in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Both Booker families came together to meet for the first time at the ceremony, joining Army leadership and

former and current soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division and the 34th Infantry Division – units in which both soldiers served.

All but three of Robert Booker's nieces and nephews, some of their spouses, and Rose, Robert's 91-year-old sister, were present for the ceremony. The story of how all 19 family members made the journey there is one to remember.

Mike Booker, who lives in North Platte with wife Paula (Hardin), and whose family lived in Arnold for a time in the late 70's/early 80s, received an “out of the blue” phone call a few days after Memorial Day 2023. The women, from Virginia, asked if Mike would be available to talk with a couple of generals the next day in a conference call. He said sure and found himself talking to Major General Glen Dean, Executive Officer for Ground Combat Systems, and Brig. General Jeffrey Norman, Director of Next Generation Combat Vehicles Cross Functional Team.

“The first thing they asked me was if I was related to Robert D. Booker,” said Mike. “Then they asked if I thought the family would be alright with naming a new armored protective vehicle after him. I said, ‘No problem,

it would be a great honor.’ They must have searched for relatives in the Callaway area, where my uncle is buried. They probably know more about me than I do.”

So that's how it all started. Mike was told that he would be contacted in the future about having the family there to dedicate the vehicle.

As the dedication approached in the spring of 2024, Mike worked with Ashley Johns, who was in charge of everything to do with getting the large family to Aberdeen, Maryland, a proving ground for testing new equipment. For blood relatives, almost all costs associated with the trip would be covered.

When the family arrived to board the plane at Lincoln, Nebraska, a big sign read, “Welcome Booker Family.” Military personnel were there, and Pvt. Booker's story was told. There were snacks and drinks. The family was allowed to board first. Mike said it was just the beginning of what he described as “V.I.P. treatment.”

“The airlines knew who we were the whole way. Ashley Johns informed the airports, and they made a special day for us. We were allowed to board first at Chicago, and the pilots talked to Aunt Rose. At Philly, it was the same

New Army Combat Vehicle Named After Family Member



The M10 Booker was named after Medal of Honor recipient Pvt. Robert D. Booker (pictured above), who perished in World War II; and Distinguished Service Cross recipient Staff Sgt. Stevon A. Booker, who died from injuries sustained in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

thing. The whole trip, we were treated like royalty.”

Three or four generals picked the family up from Philadelphia, and the family found themselves in a “presidential” motorcade. Vans were in the back of the line carrying luggage. On Wednesday, the two honored Booker families met at a big party, with some 150 people in attendance, and were taken to some historic sites by Majors. The next day, everyone was taken to the proving grounds, where Mike and Stevon's sister christened the M10 Booker.

“The military spent over

See Memory of a Lifetime, page 2



Mike Booker, Greg Booker, Marcie Booker, and Rod Booker, children of Wanda and the late Roy Booker, near the newly christened M10 Booker at the Aberdeen, Maryland, Proving Ground. - Courtesy Photo