

RUBY THOMPSON LYNSKEY
1953

Ruby Thompson has fond memories of Soddy-Daisy High School. Like some of you, she moved to Soddy-Daisy from another state her freshman year. She says she was accepted immediately into the class. She remembers great teachers and received an excellent education which grounded her for the challenges of the business world. Ruby joined the Beta Club and remembers service projects like working concessions at basketball games. She acted in the senior play, "Little Dog Laughed". Her friends were Clarence Shattuck, Charles Elliott, Barbara Elliott, and Tom and Gene Levi.

She loved Ms. Swingle's history class, and remembers how Ms. Swingle took her classes on field trips to local churches, exposing them to their practices and history. After 61 years, Ruby is still active in her class reunions and activities. The class of 1953 still meets together every couple of years and its members remain close.

After high school, she attended Secretarial Science classes at Edmondson Business College while working at American National Bank in Chattanooga. She is active in the OLPH Catholic Church and school, serving on the finance board. She hosted the first McCallie School exchange student in 1974. And she has served in the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary for 17 years. She organized the Memorial Hospital Foundation and managed it for two years. She has worked as a personal secretary and as a bookkeeper.

Ruby states that she received most of her work skills while on the job. She says she "had the good fortune to work with and be associated with many highly successful and accomplished business persons over the years."

Ruby and Bill Lynskey raised a big family, four sons and a daughter. Ruby says that she hasn't done anything worthy of recognition, stating "all I've done is work all my life for family, friends, employees, and those who sought my help. (I've done) Nothing 'outstanding' in my opinion." Sometimes the outstanding deeds feel like just everyday accomplishments. In our world, the name Lynskey stands for family success.

Ruby and Bill owned and operated Southern Industrial Sales Co. along with Southeast Associates Machines, where they distributed woodburning stoves in the 70's and 80's. In 1962, the father of the family, Bill Lynskey, set up a metal production firm in Chattanooga. Their clients at the time included the medical and aerospace industries. By the mid 80's, all of the children had joined the family business. David was the first member of the family to catch the "bike bug," and decided to build his own frame. Frame building would remain a hobby for the next few years, as he built bikes for friends and local racers. But as it became clear that Titanium was the future in the world of cycling, the Lynskey family decided to devote the business to the production of titanium bicycle frames. Now a quarter of a century later, Lynskey-built bikes have won national and world titles in almost every category of competition.

David and Ruby Lynskey developed Litespeed Titanium, which was the first company in America to build Titanium bicycles and sell them globally. It was to be the first of two successful family companies to build bikes. The business prospered from 1985 until 1999, at which time they sold the company. The bikes they built were ridden in races like the Tour de France, and by riders with names like Lance Armstrong and Greg LeMond, both world biking champions. Additionally, Lynskey bikes have been used by Navy Seals, triathletes, Olympians, and in the Hawaii Iron Man competition. In January 2006 the family formed Lynskey Performance Products here in Chattanooga which sells custom made bikes all over the world.

Lynskey Performance truly is a family operation. Toni Lynskey does the welding, Theresa Lynskey Pope handles shipping, David Lynskey does fabrication, Stephanie Lynskey is accountant, Tim Lynskey is in finishing, Mark Lynskey takes care of sales and marketing while Chris Lynskey is the draftsman. And what is the mom, Ruby Lynskey, in charge of? She oversees everything to make sure it all works. She is the matriarch of the most prominent titanium bike-building family in the world.

Each family member has been highlighted in publications by way of magazines, newspapers or books throughout the world. This family is truly a team. It takes lots of sacrifice, pride, and hard-work for a family to work together for so many years. Ruby is the glue that holds the family together. Ruby's grandchildren are successful too. Of the many college graduates in her family, there is a doctor, two nurses, a Navy Seal, and two with degrees in Marketing and Finance. Still others are completing their formal education. Hard-work and pride seem to be contagious in some families. Would the members of the Lynskey family please stand at this time.

As for the future, Ruby admits she would love to find some vacation time while enjoying her grandchildren each and every day. And, of course, she wants to keep building bicycles.

Soddy-Daisy High School would like to recognize Ruby Thompson Lynskey for her years of commitment to her family, and for her success in building a world-class company, and for improving our world along the way. We induct you into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

Maxie Green
1954

Maxie Green grew up in the Bakewell community. He attended Bakewell Elementary School through the sixth grade and played all the sports that boys were playing. In those days there was no middle school, so for grades seven and eight he attended Soddy Elementary. He would later attend Soddy-Daisy High School which, like today, housed grades nine through twelve.

He remembers that his principal, Mr. I. K. Snyder, was a fair and practical man. Mr. Snyder would later become Maxie's boss. Some of Maxie's high school friends were Jane Shadwick, Thelma Lewis, Jimmy Posey and Fred Skillern. His favorite subject was always math, and he loved his math teachers, Mr. John Tarwater and Mr. Tom Santich. Maxie always took the hard classes which challenged him to learn more. He recalls that the only innovations in the classroom were a textbook, a piece of chalk and a blackboard. But the lack of technology didn't prevent great teaching and learning at Soddy-Daisy.

Maxie received the Math and Science awards at Senior Day. He attended Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee for two years. He graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and then for the next few summers he attended graduate classes in Knoxville. These were the days before online classes, and sometimes a person often had to travel far to go to school. He received his Masters of Science degree from UTK in 1964.

His passion for math and his love for people led him to the education field. Beginning in 1959, he worked for 32 years in the Hamilton County Schools. He taught mathematics at Soddy Daisy High School, and was awarded Master Teacher by the Tennessee Department of Education. He would eventually serve as principal at Sale Creek School.

In 1968 Maxie Green became Soddy Daisy High School's fourth principal in its young 31-year history. But more importantly, he became the first SDHS graduate to serve as principal at his alma mater. It had to be a proud day in the life of the Green family from the Bakewell community. Today Mr. Danny Gilbert serves as the tenth principal in our school's 77-year history. Maxie Green is one of three SDHS alumni whose names were etched on the principal's door.

Maxie later served as the Ganns Middle Valley Elementary principal and finally as a computer and technology coordinator for Hamilton County Schools. After retiring from the Hamilton County Schools in 1991, he worked for Bryan College first as a computer science education teacher and finally as the database administrator for the college. He retired from Bryan College after 13 years and now works occasionally as a computer consultant.

He says he has always loved living in the Soddy-Daisy area where there's plenty of country to roam. And even with the old high school torn down, the feeling here is still the same as in 1954. When asked about his greatest accomplishments in life, he states two things: the first one is that he was able to provide for the needs of his family. Secondly he always looked forward to going to work, and carried with him a great expectation of success in whatever task he performed. Everyone knows Maxie for the positive attitude he carries, and that attitude always transferred to the students and staff with whom he worked.

Maxie is a member and teacher in the Bakewell Bible Church. He has been married to Zoe Martin Green for 49 years and he is the father of two sons and now a grandfather to Greyson and Abigail. A little know fact is that Maxie holds a Private Pilot's license and enjoys flying whenever he can. He recently took a helicopter ride in a rebuilt Bell helicopter (the kind seen in the television show M.A.S.H.). Today at the age of 77, he still enjoys three workouts a week at the gym and takes regular Tai Chi classes which he occasionally teaches.

Soddy-Daisy High School is proud to recognize one of its own: former teacher, principal, and friend to our school. It is with deep gratitude to you, Maxie Green, that we honor you with your induction into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame!

MARTHA CARTWRIGHT MILLSAPS
1961

Martha Cartwright has been an avid student all her life. She grew up in Chattanooga and attended Avondale Grammar School along with Hardy Junior High. There she played first string violin in the school orchestra. When she was 13 years old, her parents moved to a farm in Hixson where she chose to attend Soddy-Daisy High. She was very active at Soddy-Daisy, studying a variety of subjects. She loved French, Latin, and American History, and won awards for each of these at Senior Night. She was a 4-year honor student, member of Beta Club, performed in all the school plays, and was voted Most Intellectual Senior.

The SDHS staff had a reputation for excellence. Under the tutelage of Rose Smith, Clara Bond, Wilma Small, and Ruth Swingle, Martha gained her own passion to teach. She served as president of the Future Teachers of America. Martha was crowned the 1961 class Valedictorian. She earned another high honor when she was awarded one (1) of two (2) Hamilton County Scholarships for students pursuing a degree in education.

Martha continued learning and going to school for the next 35 years. Her impressive accomplishments are as follows: she graduated ***Magna cum Laude*** from the University of Chattanooga in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in the Classic languages - Greek and Latin. At U.C. she even taught a few classes while her professor was ill. She was inducted into the Mortar Board Society and the Alpha Society. And as a result of her hard work, she received scholarships from U.C. which fully paid her way to college...tuition, room, and books. Students, don't trip over the first hurdle, *make a way or find a way* to continue learning and pay for college.

Martha attended Kansas State University in 1968 where she was awarded a National Science Foundation Scholarship with an emphasis on Linguistics and Literature. One hundred teachers from the United States were invited to attend. Their major assignment focused on creating from scratch a language that was unlike any other that existed.

In 1974 she attended Middle Tennessee State University's Graduate School. She served as a graduate assistant and taught college English for two years. While attending MTSU, her family served as dorm directors for Sims Hall, a dorm in which 116 men lived. She says "I received an education during that time that I would never have

received in a classroom!”

Martha says that she and her baby son, Jarett, knew every inch of MTSU and the people there because they strolled in a stroller, and rode his big wheel, his tricycle, and his bicycle all over campus. In 1976 Martha again graduated from college, and again she was honored with ***Magna Cum Laude*** (this Latin expression means “with high honors”). She received a Masters in Teaching degree with a major in English.

Martha began her teaching career at Soddy-Daisy High where she taught Senior English and Latin 1 & 2. For five years she served here as cheerleading sponsor and yearbook adviser before teaching a short stint at Hixson High. There she represented Hamilton County at the National High School Principals Convention in Anaheim, California where she presented a student created, directed, and produced video of *The Merchant of Venice*.

For the next 25 years Martha Millsaps bloomed in the classroom of Smyrna High School near Nashville. There she taught all levels of English, Latin 1 through 4, World History, and Journalism. She created the AP English programs and the Latin program there. She also produced a national award-winning yearbook. She was the Kiwanis Club Teacher of the Year, the Rutherford Courier Teacher of the Year, and won the Optimist Club *Achievement in Education Award*. She earned the rank of Tennessee Master Teacher Level III.

She would return to college studies one more time in 1994 where she would graduate again from MTSU with a Specialist in Education degree majoring in Administration and Supervision. She was awarded ***Summa Cum Laude*** (for our students, that translates “With Highest Honors”). For the next 15 years, Martha served in leadership capacity in Murfreesboro, Tennessee schools. She began as assistant principal at Oakland High School then later she would supervise the opening of the new Seigel High School. In 2011 she retired from a 46-year career in education.

She is a member of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, where she has served as Sunday School Teacher, sang in the choir and performed in the handbell choir. And her little son Jarrett who rode the big wheel around Murfreesboro, well he attended West Point Military Academy, served in the U.S. Army, and now serves as CEO of East Ridge Parkridge Hospital. Martha has six family members who attended SDHS, two of which are students today...John David and Emory Holcomb.

Martha remembers many high school friends: Jimmie Ruth Wilson, Gene Penney, Judy Hurley and Rosanne Levi are some of them. She has too many fond memories to tell them all, but a great memory is how 21-year principal Mr. I.K. Snyder loved this school and loved its students. Also she remembers students sneaking down to Gravitte's restaurant next to the campus to get a burger. But she states that she will always be indebted to the teachers for the education she received here. Through their influence she was able to touch students' lives for 46 years. What special feeling that must give!

The SDHS student body would like to recognize Martha Cartwright Millsaps as one of the most studious and decorated graduates in the history of our school, and we honor you today with your induction into the SDHS Hall of Fame!

DAVID UREN
1962

In your mind put this group of characters together: a novelist, a poet, a certified public accountant, and the owner of two baby clothing companies. Does it seem like a group of people who usually hang out together? Our next inductee wears each of these hats. More on this intriguing story in a moment. Let's meet David Urén. David played football for four years at Soddy-Daisy, lettering twice. He was a member of the school play cast his junior and senior years, performing in "Footloose". And he was layout editor for the yearbook. These activities speak of man with many talents. He once won a state-wide poetry contest as well. Coach Harland Burnett spoke highly of David's dedication to any task.

His favorite teacher was his English teacher, Mrs. Clara Bond. She claimed that David "*couldn't figure out how to put periods on his papers.*" So she arranged for him to have a tutor in 11th grade. But Mrs. Bond also played matchmaker that day and this tutor, Linda Lee Johnson, would one day join David in marriage. Another of his favorite teachers was Mr. Maxie Green, math teacher, who is another honored guest at today's program.

David attended Tennessee Tech and then the University of Chattanooga after high school where he made the Dean's List and earned his business degree in 1967. He soon became a Certified Public Accountant where he has carved his professional niche for the past 45 years. He was selected as a member of a CPA delegation to Russia and Estonia in 1993 to give those countries assistance. He has actively served in many churches and organizations where his skills were needed. He is a former Chattanooga Jaycee, Kiwanis Club member, and active with Big Brother-Big Sisters of Chattanooga. He has also served as a Company Leader with Junior Achievement.

David says that volunteering for community service has enriched his life in many ways, and that there is no better feeling than helping others. He has worked with prison inmates, has moderated the TV show "Jaycee Question of the Week", and took part in sponsoring the Tennessee Junior Miss Pageant which was held for many years in Chattanooga. He once was a 'big brother' to a young Soddy-Daisy boy who grew up in a difficult home environment. A short time later the young boy told David "I want to do my best in school, avoid crime like my two brothers have been involved in, and make something of myself."

Another young man once tapped David on the shoulder at a basketball game and thanked him for taking the time to get him involved in Junior Achievement activities and helping him see how to become successful. The young man is now a CPA. "*The rewards you get from touching others' lives is priceless,*" says David.

David joining Skyland International Corporation (You may know this company as Buster Brown Apparel in Chattanooga) where he served as Secretary, Controller and Treasurer for 11 years. David owned ten per cent of Buster Brown Apparel at the time of its Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Reorganization. This bankruptcy occurred in part because of a federal investigation of the company concerning International drug trafficking. One day two guys showed up in his office and pulled up their pants legs to display pistols. They were FBI agents and they took David to meet with the U.S. Attorney, a lady who put the fear of God in David.

David cooperated with the FBI in this investigation, and this series of events is the background for a novel that David later wrote entitled, Codename: Hot Rags. It is the story of a fictitious character but it portrays what David went through in losing much that he had accomplished.

That incident resulted in him later helping the FBI and U.S. customs in half a dozen incidents, tracking down drug smugglers from the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Mexico. The drug dealers were putting cocaine in with clothing from Gerber Children's Wear in freight containers on cargo ships. David was the senior vice president and chief financial officer for Gerber Childrenswear, Incorporated in Boston, New York City and Greenville, South Carolina from 1987 through 2003.

He became one of three principal owners owning 85% of the company. He had international responsibilities and served on the boards of directors of affiliated companies in eight countries. Today David is retired but serves as a volunteer counselor to Small Businesses with the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) in Chattanooga.

Upon retiring and coming back home to Soddy-Daisy, David says he is thrilled at the high achievements by Soddy-Daisy High School in academics, music and sports. He offers this advice for students today: "Take charge of your life with a passion and strive to be the very best you can become at whatever you decide is your life ambition. Recognize you are responsible for the decisions you make in your life and give yourself the best chance for success."

David is an avid outdoorsman, a Sunday School teacher, When asked what is his greatest accomplishment, David humbly stated that it is "living a Godly life."

Thank you, David, for being with us today. We are proud to call you a fellow Trojan! We admire your life's work and applaud your successful endeavors. It is our privilege at this time to honor you as a member of the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

Bill Hutcheson 1970 Inventor

Bill Hutcheson was born with an inventor's heart. He grew up in South Daisy close to the Veteran's Park, and was known by his classmates as "Hutch". He had a reputation for curiosity and for tinkering with things that others knew nothing about. For fun he learned to build rockets from scratch, blasting them high above Springfield Road. In high school, he served on the Audio-Visual club which meant he could put his tinkering to good use. In his day the A-V club was probably the equivalent of today's broadcasting class. But Bill could figure out anything. In high school he worked at Newby's American Service Station where he learned to repair European cars.

From those days Bill has fond memories of the football games on Friday nights, the humor surrounding his classmates, and the beauty of Soddy-Daisy. Some of his friends were Wayne Ingle, Jim Barker and Arnie Stulce. After graduation he attended Chattanooga State while working several jobs in town, including with GAF and Planter's Snacks.

One day at Planter's Snacks, Bill was tinkering with a production machine which made common snack foods. With a twist here and a turn there, he taught the machine to make round edible objects that became known as "Cheez Balls"! That's right, a favorite national snack food for many years was invented by a Soddy-Daisy High School graduate. Some people have a mission in life to make the world a better place to live. Bill's passion for discovering and inventing newer and better ways would really take off at Steward Advanced Materials in Chattanooga.

He began to work in research and development, at first developing magnetic ceramics. He later enrolled at Purdue University where he studied Chemical Engineering Technology as well as Electrical Engineering, Physics, and Thermal Dynamics. He has worked to invent materials that improve your cell phone, your car, copy machines and high-speed laser printers around the world with names like Xerox, Sharp, Toshiba, Mita and Kodak.

After World War II, U.S. technology in the areas of electronics and magnetic ceramics lagged behind that of Germany. Bill developed new formulas and atmosphere firing profiles that have brought about new materials that did not exist before. His focus was to develop materials that are environmentally friendly and present no human health risks. His work has improved microwave cooking and powder antenna technology. And how many of you have heard of the Stealth Bomber? Bill developed the radar-absorbing material that was used on the original B-2 Stealth bomber aircraft for the U.S. military.

He holds U.S. patents for microwave absorbers and lithium ferrite carriers. He received the MVP Award in 1988 and 1999 as well as the President's Award in 2012 from his employer, Powdertech International Corporation in Valparaiso, Indiana. He also received an award for his work with Environmental Cleanup in Indiana. The Indiana Steel Industry had left hazardous material such as asbestos, barium and lead in the ground, and it became Bill's year-and-a-half mission to clean it up. The cleanup was costly but it removed all liability from property owners upon selling the land. For his cleanup work, Bill was rewarded both monetarily and with a dinner in Tokyo, Japan!

He also introduced the first microwave heating materials for companies like Rubbermaid, Permatex®, and Anchor Hocking. In summary, Bill's inventions have removed dangerous carcinogens from the environment, machines are smaller and more efficient,

microwave cooking is better, and airplanes can hide more easily. Asphalt patching can now be done with microwave technology. And don't forget how we love those Cheez Balls!

Today he serves as the Technical representative for Powdertech Corporation in the U.S. and Europe. His job takes him to many countries where he works with scientists to develop new magnetic materials for different applications. He enjoys teaching young engineers how to think out of the box, and he offers that many educated people have still not learned how to think.

He has been active in the Boy Scouts of America as a leader and Merit Badge Counselor. When asked about his greatest achievement, Bill says without hesitation that it is his family. He and his wife Cindy raised two boys, Chris and Sean.

For his passion to invent, for his success in research, and for making the world a much safer place to live, SDHS recognizes Bill Hutcheson as a new member of the SDHS Hall of Fame.

MARILYN PENNEY CHENEY
1971

Marilyn Penney grew up only walking distance from Soddy-Daisy High School. She rode her bicycle all over Soddy. She also rode the bus with her friends from Soddy to Chattanooga. They would go to a movie in town (usually an Elvis flick), have lunch at Krystal, and ride the bus back home, all for two dollars! From a young age, she studied piano at a studio in Red Bank behind her dad's store, Penney Furniture and Appliance. She practiced on that piano every day. She also was a Brownie and Girl Scout, and played flute in the band. Later she would become a majorette and then drum major for the Soddy-Daisy Marching Trojans.

Soddy United Methodist Church was a huge part of her life growing up. She was active in the Methodist Youth Foundation and her entire family sang in the choir. Music played a big role in the Penney family. As she became accomplished on the piano, she would play for the worship service. After church, her family loved to eat at a local favorite, Pierce's Restaurant which was up the road in Graysville. And every Christmas, teenagers would gather at Christine Ewton's house to make fudge and sing Christmas carols to the home-bound.

At Soddy-Daisy High School, Marilyn was a member of Beta Club, student council, the Latin Club, and Future Teachers of America. She was also on the yearbook staff, was a Class Beauty, served on Homecoming Court, was chosen for Senior Court, and was voted Most Popular her senior year. Her favorite teachers were Ms. Swingle and Mrs. Bond. She has vivid memories of band practice, football games, prom, and Rosie Gravitte's sloppy joes.

As a young girl, Marilyn and her dad, Jess Penney, would watch every beauty pageant on television and he constantly reminded her with a quote, "*Pretty is as pretty does.*" He convinced Marilyn that one day she would be one of those contestants. Her very first job was at the Daisy Prescription Shop. The owners, Ralph and Doris Gibbs, worked with the Soddy-Daisy Junior Miss Pageant for many years. They encouraged her to take part in the program.

Marilyn did enroll in the Junior Miss program (today the program is called "Young Woman of the Year"), and was crowned Soddy-Daisy's Junior Miss for 1970. She earned a trip to the state pageant in Chattanooga at the Tivoli Theatre.

She felt so honored to represent our town in that event and said she had no aspiration of winning. She says that the Chattanooga Jaycees (one of whom is on this stage today, Mr. David Urén) treated the girls so special. It seems that all of Soddy-Daisy was at the Tivoli that night when Marilyn Penney was crowned as Soddy-Daisy's first Tennessee Junior Miss!

Marilyn recalls that she was in full shock...and full of pride to represent our school and community.

She would later feel overwhelmed to take part in America's Junior Miss Pageant in Mobile, Alabama. There she met girls from all 50 states. Marilyn would finish one of ten (10) semifinalists and again bring great pride to her family, and to our city. She says today that the most memorable part of the event was the amazing number of people from Soddy-Daisy who drove 400 miles to support her. It was one of our community's proudest moments.

Marilyn graduated from Georgia State University with a B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education. She had planned for many years to become a teacher. But after having three children, Julie, Brennen and Tyson, she was unable to start a full-time teaching job. Her career plans shifted as she took a part-time job selling real estate. She pursued her real estate license with the intent to one day return to teaching. It turned out that Marilyn would love real estate so much that she never looked back. And a 35-year career began to blossom.

She was in sales for seven years before expanding to Managing Broker, a job she still holds today. Marilyn says she looks at her career as a way of helping people make the biggest purchasing decision of a lifetime. She served as Principal Broker and Chief Operating Officer for Coldwell Banker, heading up a staff of 25 employees and 100 sales associates. For her leadership she was named 3-time Realtor of the Year and 4-time recipient of Coldwell Banker National Manager's Award for Excellence. She later became Broker/Owner of Sutton Group Real Estate Professionals, and today serves as Coach/Trainer for ERA Sunrise Realty in Atlanta.

Marilyn is Past President of Cobb Association of Realtors, and received the President's Award of Honor from Coldwell Banker. Today she is actively involved with March of Dimes, Habitat for Humanity and National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She is very active in Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta. She says her greatest accomplishment is raising three wonderful children who have become successful adults and whose values she is extremely proud of. She has two grandchildren, Jessa and Jacob.

Marilyn has traveled to many places, including London, Paris, Italy, Costa Rica and the Dominican. But her roots are right here on Dayton Pike, and she says it still feels like home each time she returns. And through the magic of Facebook, she feels a little like she never left Soddy-Daisy.

Marilyn, Soddy-Daisy will always remember your talent, your smile, and your friendship. You have reached heights of success that we admire and applaud. And today the spotlight shines brightly once again on a favorite daughter, Marilyn Penney Cheney. Please accept your hometown's gratitude and a new sash which reads Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

STEVE SLATER
1972

The Slater family played lots of sports growing up, brothers Al and Carl each played football and baseball. Steve Slater loved sports. In high school he earned twelve (12) varsity letters and may be the only 5-sport letterman in Soddy-Daisy High School history. He played football for Coach Harland Burnett and basketball for Coach Sid Levi. He also played baseball and ran track. In the 100-yard dash, Steve was clocked at ten seconds flat. And back in the day when wrestling was still new to Soddy-Daisy, Steve lettered in that sport too, winning four out of his five matches that year. He wrestled in the afternoons and played Trojan basketball at night. However, he admits confidentially that he really didn't know a "half-nelson from a Willy Nelson!"

He excelled in baseball and went on to play at Tennessee Temple University. He was drafted by the New York Mets but chose to pursue other avenues. He was a member of the National Softball All-Tournament team in 1980 and, incidentally, his son Joel was selected to that same team exactly 30 years later. Last Spring both father and son suited up in the alumni football game against Red Bank. Steve was one of two players at age 59 to play in this full-contact contest. And in case you weren't there, the Trojans beat the Lions.

Steve met Leisa Barker when they were in the first grade class at Soddy Elementary. They were classmates all the way through high school. Their senior year they took one class together. Leisa "tutored" Steve through Economics class, and later they attended Homecoming dance together. After twelve years of friendship, they were officially an item! Steve did marry his high school sweetheart, and he says "She is the best thing to EVER happen to me." Last November they celebrated 40 years of marriage.

The Slater's have two children. Tiffany was an all-region soccer player at Soddy-Daisy and ran track. And Joel played three sports in high school while earning a football scholarship to Shorter University where he started for two years at defensive back. Steve's granddaughter, Lauren, has been a bundle of joy for all the Slater's.

Steve's high school coach, Burr Elliott, talked him into taking a job with Farm Bureau Insurance where he has made a 30+ year career providing insurance needs to our community. He opened the Soddy-Daisy Farm Bureau branch office in 1999. Steve takes great pride in serving our community. He says that Soddy-Daisy prepared him for his life's events. He will always be grateful for his education. He says that Mr. Bill Morgan made even literature likeable, and he loved his classes with Lynn Thompson and Ralph Greene.

Steve began coaching in the Soddy-Daisy KIDS Club his junior year in high school. He was a founding member of that league and he coached the kids for several years, even before he had children of his own. He has served in the Kiwanis Club and with the Chamber of Commerce.

Jerry Lewis once said, *"I have a loyalty that runs in my bloodstream..."* Steve Slater is loyal to Soddy-Daisy. At our school Steve has mowed grass, lined the fields, and washed the bleachers. He has moved the wrestling mats, washed the towels, hosted tournaments, and painted the buildings. He has supplied uniforms, rings, and travel funds. He supports us with time, effort and money. What's his reward? It's seeing the smile on the faces of the basketball girls, the baseball boys or the football team when they put on new uniforms. He says he just wants to make a difference in students' lives.

Steve is very active in Stuart Heights Baptist Church. There he started a young couples Sunday School class. He is active in Senior Olympics, where he was the 100-meter dash champion and qualified for the national tournament. He has helped raise money for Habitat for Humanity and Make A Wish Foundation. He loves Elton John and has seen him *live* seven times. And, from the cradle, Steve has loved the Tennessee Vols.

Every school vitally needs a Steve Slater. Steve puts his money where his heart is! We can't thank him enough for his support of our students and student athletes. So next football season, when you hear John Rawlston announce these words, *"That is another Soddy-Daisy Farm Bureau First Down!"*, you will remember Steve Slater's loyalty to Soddy-Daisy. And this degree of loyalty has earned our friend, Steve Slater, an honored place in the SDHS Hall of Fame.

Ted Mooney 1991

Like many of you, Ted Mooney and his friends loved the outdoors. After school he, Jason Grizzard, Michael Neal and Shane Carter would hike up the Falling Water trail. They hiked every weekend too. If they weren't hiking, they were up on Montlake Mountain rock climbing or knee-boarding at Soddy Lake.

At school, Ted participated in Students Staying Straight and was a member of the golf and tennis teams. His friends nicknamed him "Theo". One of his favorite memories from school was performing a lip sync of "*Friends in Low Places*" at the talent show. Ted still believes that one of the great things about Soddy Daisy High School is the people. He met great friends every year, and though they are now scattered throughout the country, they still stay in contact...over twenty years later. His favorite teacher was Jo Ellen Craze who taught him Spanish. She became a life-long friend of Ted's family.

When Ted was around eight years old, his dad and grandfather took him to Cape Canaveral to see a space shuttle launch firsthand. Ted still remembers how the energy from launching such a huge rocket shook his body as he sat on top of his granddad's Volkswagen bus. Such a memorable event would stick in Ted's mind throughout his school days. His curiosity followed him to his physics class at Soddy-Daisy, and later inspired him to major in physics at UTK. An Advanced Optics class at Tennessee gave him the bug to focus on Optics.

Huntsville, Alabama will always be known for NASA scientist, the U.S. space program and rocket research. Ted would attend the University of Alabama at Huntsville to pursue the Master of Science degree in Physics, Optics and Photonics. And in 2013 he was awarded the PhD in Optical Science and Engineering from UAH.

In outer space research, there is a continual demand for larger and higher quality telescopes. Ted's work has enabled scientists to develop larger telescopes with great optical resolution so they can see further and further into the universe. The current challenge in raising the bar in Precision Optics is launching into space and then unfolding a telescope with a mirror measuring 21 feet in diameter. The long-range plan includes the assembly of telescopes with mirror measurements as large as 150 meters, or 450 feet. The military is also dependent upon science to provide optics that give better and better intelligence and target identification. Thanks to Ted's ingenuity, his employer, ITT Excelis, is a leader in the market of optical component manufacturing.

Because of his expertise, Ted was named by Aviation Week & Space Technology to the "Top 40 Physicists in America under 40 years old". He earned a patent for work that emerged from his doctoral thesis. He is highly regarded within the photonics and optics community.

Ted has been active in the Huntsville Electro-Optical Society and the Rochester Chapter of the Optical Society of America. He has at least 15 publications of his work. Of all his accomplishments, Ted says that his best work of all was in finding his wife, Semra, and in fathering his two children, Aleyna and Ricky. He says that his professional achievements are due to his family's support. Ted's niece, Allie Magee, is currently a sophomore at Soddy-Daisy. Will Ted's family please stand and be recognized.

Ted has traveled the world. He spent his 40th birthday summiting Mt. Ranier in Washington state. He offers this advice, *"there will always be barriers to realizing great opportunities, and some of those barriers make failure a high probability."* But in his time at Soddy-Daisy, he learned that you get up when you fall, and you never, ever quit. He adds that "Soddy-Daisy will always be my home."

I'll close with a quote from Aviation Week & Space Technology: *"Ted is far and away the linchpin of Precision Optics' success."* A linchpin is defined as "that which is vital and indispensable to an enterprise or organization." Ted's success in his life is an indispensable part of what we do at Soddy-Daisy High. This school has always prepared students well for the life's challenges.

Ted, we are proud of your accomplishments and we want you to know it. And, incidentally, of the previous 52 Hall of Fame members, Ted holds the distinction of being the youngest inductee to date!

We stand in awe of your adventure, courage, and success. At this time your high school would like to induct you, Dr. James Ted Mooney, scientist, inventor, and friend, into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.