

EUGENE H. "CORKY" PARROTT, SR.
1946

Gene Parrott was born in Soddy, Tennessee on June 19, 1928. He was delivered by Dr. Ed Jenkins who held him up and proclaimed, "Here's another Corky!" after the character Corky in the comic strip Gasoline Alley. The nickname has stuck with him for almost 90 years.

Gene graduated from Soddy-Daisy High School in the class of 1946. He not only was a good student but was also a star three-sport letterman. His 1946 basketball team finished runner-up to the state champions. Some of his teammates went on to capture the basketball state championship for Soddy-Daisy High School in 1947.

After high school, he entered the U.S. Air Force Cadet Program in October 1948. He received his wings as a fighter pilot and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. In September 1949. His first assignment was flying the F-86A Saber Jet at Kirkland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Korean War broke out in 1950 and, only four years out of high school, Gene Parrott was assigned to a combat unit in Japan. He volunteered for duty in Korea. After his first 15 combat missions, he was assigned to a British Brigade on the war front as a forward air controller. Soon the Chinese Communists would enter the war. Gene Parrott went on to fly 104 combat missions in five years of service as a fighter pilot.

In October 1952, he was reassigned to Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts, and flew the F-86E serving as an interceptor pilot. In December 1952 Corky married Mary Ella Jones of South Hadley, Massachusetts. Together they raised three sons. In 1953, he was released from active duty and returned to Tennessee where he took a job as a salesman with the Signal Mountain Cement Company. He was assigned to the sales office in Atlanta, GA. While working there, he joined the Georgia Air National Guard as a fighter pilot and continued to stay active until his retirement with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. While in the Guard, he flew F-84D's, C-97's, and C-124's.

In 1966 he took a job with The Boeing Company as a Flight Instructor in Seattle, Washington. There he trained various pilots in Boeing 727's, and 737's. He left The Boeing Company in 1968 and was hired by Transamerica Airlines. Transamerica was a large commercial airlines that flew internationally to almost everywhere. In the DC-8's, DC-10's, and 747's, Gene flew into all the exotic capitals of the world: Iceland, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Guam, Thailand, Norway, Sweden...the list goes on.

Some of his most memorable flights were the Hajj flights into Jedda, Saudi Arabia, carrying Muslim pilgrims to Mecca for the Muslim Holy Period. Muslims are required to visit Mecca once in their lifetime if they are physically able and can afford it. Non-Muslims are not allowed into Mecca, therefore these flights landed in Jedda, 45 miles away. These flights originated in various locations of Africa and Gene was usually there for 10 days or more.

Gene retired in 1988 as a 747 captain with more than 18,500 hours of flight time. He has lived in Soddy-Daisy, Atlanta, Seattle, Danville, CA, and Cape Cod, Mass. After being away from Tennessee for 40 years, he returned home in 2006 where he resides on Signal Mountain.

For his military service, Gene received the U.S. Air Force Medal, the U.S. Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, and the U.S. Air Force Korean War Medal.

At Soddy-Daisy High School, Gene's friends included Gene Elliott and Buck Johnson, both are members of the Hall of Fame. He remembers his typing teach, Miss Bessie Nipper, who taught him to type. This skill turned out to be very useful over the years in the professional capacities that Gene held. His favorite memory of high school is the two basketball teams that went to the state finals. His favorite teacher of all time was Coach Ernest "Big Boy" Eldridge, his basketball coach.

What Gene loves about Soddy-Daisy best is that the two towns merged together to form our current city. And he considers flying to be his greatest accomplishment in life.

Gene submitted the following quote by Phillips on the "Importance of Education" which I would like to read to you now.

***"Education is a companion which no misfortune can depress,
No clime destroy, no enemy alienate;
No disposition enslave- at home a friend, abroad, an introduction;
In solitude a solace- in society an ornament.
It chastens vice- it guards virtue-
It gives at once a grace and ornament to genius."***

For your outstanding military service, Soddy-Daisy High School salutes you, Eugene H. "Corky" Parrott, as a member of the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

LARRY MANGUM 1959

Many of you know Larry Mangum as the school's favorite substitute teacher. What many students don't know about Larry is that he graduated from Soddy-Daisy High School in the class of 1959.

In high school, Larry's favorite teacher was Coach Ernest "Big Boy" Eldridge, who taught Civics and Economics, and was the legendary coach for boys basketball for 44 years. Coach Eldridge's fast and simple method of doing mathematics has stuck with Larry to this day.

Some of Larry's high school friends were Vance Wilson, Stanley Wilson, Don Watts, Leland Millsaps, and Kenneth Varner. He says that he has so many fond memories of high school that he can't list his favorites.

Right out of high school, Larry went to work for Dixie Yarns where he was employed for five years. Next he had the opportunity to join the United States Postal Service in 1964, and he would retire as a postal supervisor after 28 years with the Post Office. There he earned the U.S. Postal Service Award. He has also been actively involved with the Hamilton County Election Commission where he helps conduct local elections each year.

But where Larry Mangum made his greatest impact was through substitute teaching in Hamilton County Schools for 26 years, first at Soddy-Daisy High School and then for the past 14 years at Loftis Middle. In the classroom, "Mr. Mangum" has learned most of the students by name. And after school, he supports the students by attending their athletic contests, sometimes as the umpire or referee and, often, just as a fan. He watches them wrestle, sees them play baseball, basketball, football, softball, track, and almost any other event where students compete.

When students see "Mr. Mangum" in the classroom, he compliments them on a good performance and lets them know that they were noticed and appreciated. By the next time they play ball, they automatically look behind home plate or up in the stands to see if their "teacher" has arrived to watch them again. Larry has been faithfully watching Soddy-Daisy student/athletes perform for most of his 70-plus years. No other individual in our community has invested as many hours encouraging students as Larry Mangum.

Larry has also served his community as a TSSAA baseball umpire for 40 years. During that long tenure, he has likely called a million balls and strikes. He would later officiate football games for 34 years, basketball for 25 years, and eventually would umpire softball as well. **If you compile his years of officiating, Larry Mangum has umpired or refereed 115 seasons of TSSAA sports!** He was honored by the Southeast Football Association with a plaque for 34 years of service and was twice recognized with outstanding service awards.

Loftis Middle School recognized Mr. Mangum for his years of service to the student body. Larry considers the highlights of his officiating career to be in 1980 when he was chosen to umpire the 14-year old Dizzy Dean World Series in Tupelo, Mississippi.

And in case you didn't know it, Larry Mangum is a movie star. That's right, he made it to the big screen along with a former Soddy-Daisy High School faculty member, Ron Pongetti. They both earned parts in the baseball movie "42", a film which told the true life story of Jackie Robinson, the first African-American player to play major league baseball. The movie was filmed at historic Engel Stadium in Chattanooga, and Larry played the part of...you guessed it...a baseball umpire!

Outside of school and sports, Mr. Mangum is very active in his church community. He served as a clerk at Red Bank Church of God for 28 years and taught an adult Bible class there as well. He currently attends North Hixson Church of God, where he teaches a men's Bible class. He has also traveled on two mission trips to Honduras.

Larry married Pat Woodward, his Soddy-Daisy High School classmate, and they have been married for 54 years. They have three children- Stephanie, Laura, and Jeff. They also have four grandchildren- Josh, Michael, Austin, and Braden. Will the Mangum family please stand?

Larry feels one of his greatest accomplishments in life is his involvement with young people in the classroom and on the ballfields. For his enthusiastic commitment and faithful support of the students of this community, we honor Larry Mangum today with his induction into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

CHUCK WILLIAMSON
1968

Chuck Williamson recalls having the best teachers in the world at Soddy-Daisy High School. Some of his favorites were Jimmy and Janie Smithson, and his uncle, Coach Frank Cofer. At the original high school on Dayton Pike, he remembers the squeaky wooden floors, the lunchtime fun with friends, and the many social events like ballgames and proms. He remembers being scared of 21-year Principal I.K. Snyder although Chuck says Mr. Snyder was always nice to him.

He especially recalls how he made lifelong friendships at Soddy-Daisy High. Some of his friends were Benny Parker, Jody Norris, Sue Gibson, Leland Redden, and Grant Chauncey. After high school, Chuck attended Cleveland State and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Chuck's mother, Betty Coulter Williamson, grew up in the funeral business. Her father owned the Coulter funeral home. She married Chuck's dad, Jimmy Williamson, who founded and opened Williamson & Sons Funeral Home in Soddy-Daisy in 1950. In the beginning, the family lived upstairs in the funeral home building while the downstairs served as the funeral home. So very literally, Chuck and his brother, Gabby, grew up in the business. Their funeral home was one of the first locations in the community to have a telephone, so people would come by to call their relatives. Army and Navy veterans would call the funeral home to let their families know when and where to pick them up as they returned home from military service.

Chuck Williamson says, "I have either lived in the funeral home or within walking distance from it all my life. Being in the funeral home business is more than just a job to us; it is part of our lives and always has been. Our father taught us to treat people like we would want to be treated, with dignity and respect." Chuck received his Funeral Director License and the funeral business is the only career he has ever known.

Those who are blessed most often bless others. Chuck Williamson learned to be a giver. He has always given to others of his time, talents, resources, and encouragement. Many of you have been recipients of such gifts, as the schools you have attended have always received generous donations from Williamson and Sons Funeral Home. Every Soddy-Daisy event for the past 68 years has had the Williamson brand of support. The Williamson Scholarship is given each year to a deserving Soddy-Daisy High School senior. And many ball uniforms, yearbook ads, and Junior Miss programs were paid for with Williamson funding. Students, please learn this life lesson: when you love your school and your city, you WILL GIVE BACK. It's a willing sacrifice that comes straight from the heart.

Chuck is personally involved in many community events and organizations. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and is a past member of the Kiwanis Club where he helped start the local chapter. He has supported our nation's veterans, the Boys Club of America, St. Jude Hospital, the Sale Creek Lions Club, and other Soddy-Daisy and Sale Creek organizations, churches, and events.

Professionally, Chuck was awarded Honorable Colonel by Tennessee Governor Ned McWorter. He has been awarded several awards for years of service in the funeral industry, including the Pinnacle Award from the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association. He also received awards from the Kiwanis Club. He is a lifetime member of the Tennessee Walking-Horse and Breeders Association. He also earned the beautification award from the Chamber of Commerce.

Chuck says that his greatest accomplishment in life is his faith in God and his relationships with family. He holds dear the many friendships he has made in the service of our great community while helping others in the difficult time of losing a loved one. Chuck has been happily married for 31 years to the love of his life, Terry. Will the Williamson family please stand.

When asked what he loves about Soddy-Daisy, Chuck replied, "The people!" He appreciates the small town atmosphere, the city's lakes and mountains. He mostly loves knowing hundreds of people by their first names. Chuck is an avid outdoorsman and has been active in many local bass tournaments, and owning and showing those Tennessee Walking-Horses has been a favorite pastime for many years.

For your love of our great community and for giving of yourself to others for 50 years, Soddy-Daisy is honored to induct you into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame!

PAUL ARP
1981

Paul Arp grew up in South Daisy at the foot of Montlake Mountain, near the Veteran's Park. His favorite high school activity was band. Most of his friends were band friends and it was a very tight knit group. Some of his friends included Kevin Horne, John O'Neal, Darlene Wright, Debbie Adams and Sheila Henderson. Paul says that his band director, Dr. Wayne Dorothy, taught students how to compete and made us want to push ourselves. He says, "It was through his leadership that we greatly improved as musicians, earning awards, recognition and respect. This hard-earned recognition and respect taught us all some valuable life lessons."

While attending the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Paul joined the United States Navy. Upon graduating, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and was commissioned with the rank of Ensign in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. His first duty assignment was at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. Additional assignments have included tours in Naples, Italy, Washington, D.C., Jacksonville, Florida, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Pensacola, Florida, and multiple assignments in the Tidewater area of Virginia.

In 1998, he was competitively selected to pursue anesthesia training at Georgetown University, graduating in 2001 with a Master of Science degree and board certification as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. As a CRNA in the Navy, Paul possessed a highly deployable skill set, and spent much of his career overseas in support of military and humanitarian operations. His deployments include 15 months in Afghanistan, 10 months in Kuwait, and eight months on board the USS WASP conducting maritime interdictions in the Indian Ocean. The Humanitarian missions included providing medical relief following Hurricane Katrina onboard the USS Bataan, and multiple missions to Haiti. Just as a matter of information, on the morning of September 11, 2001, it was the USS Bataan that was called to New York Harbor to treat the wounded victims of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Paul's mission in Afghanistan was to teach modern anesthetic techniques to Afghan physicians. He lived on an Afghan military base, and worked shoulder to shoulder with the Afghan Anesthesiologists in their military hospital. In Kuwait, he served as the Director for Nursing Services, where he provided medical support for combat operations in Iraq.

From 2012-2015 he served as Specialty Leader for the Nurse Anesthesia Community. As Specialty Leader, he was the Surgeon General's advisor on all issues related to Nurse Anesthesia and a special advisor to the Director of the Nurse Corps.

When Paul received his last promotion in the Navy, of all the places in the world where he has traveled and could have taken the oath of office, he chose to return to his hometown for the ceremony. His family gathered at the Soddy-Daisy Veteran's Park where the oath was administered by Paul's uncle, Colonel Richard Easterly of the U.S. Army. Paul's mom, Carol, and his wife, Kelly, were by his side to change the rank on his uniform.

Paul officially retired from the Navy December 1st, 2017 with the rank of CAPTAIN (which is the Navy equivalent rank to U.S. Army Colonel). His last assignment was as the Director for Nursing onboard the USNS COMFORT Hospital Ship, where he helped maintain a constant state of preparedness to respond to any contingency. He was instrumental in educating high level military and civilian leadership about the unique capabilities of this great national asset, resulting in abandoning the effort to decommission the ship and instead, she received an extension of service life for several more years to come.

Paul currently serves as the Chief CRNA for Sentara Albemarle Medical Center, in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Five times, Paul received the Meritorious Service Medal, and has received the Navy Commendation, Navy Achievement and Army Achievement Medals. He is an Active member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Paul says, "I share my greatest accomplishment with my wife, Kelly, in the raising of our son, Zachary. It was a challenge, given that my duties frequent pulled me away for extended periods, but in spite of it all, he grew up to be a fine young man and I couldn't be prouder." Will the Arp family please stand.

Professionally, Paul is proud of his work in Afghanistan. He was able to teach modern anesthetic techniques to their anesthesiologists. His 15-month deployment made safe and painless surgical procedures possible for a multitude of patients where that capability didn't exist.

Paul Arp loves Soddy-Daisy. He says it will always be home to him. He remembers the sign on Dayton Pike at the entrance to the city that once read, "Soddy-Daisy, Home of 9,000 Friendly Neighbors". He says he is glad that the friendly small-town feel still lives today. He remarks, "I am proud to call Soddy-Daisy home!"

Soddy-Daisy is proud to call Captain Paul B. Arp, U.S. Navy (Retired) a "Trojan for Life" and a new member of the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

MELANIE HILL SCOTT
1985

Melanie Hill Scott was a true Trojan scholar. She took advantage of every academic moment and challenged herself to stretch her horizons. Consider this list of accomplishments while she was a student at Soddy-Daisy: She was Valedictorian of the class of 1985, Beta Club, National Honor Society, 1st Runner Up Junior Miss and Junior Miss Scholar, Captain of the Toss Up Team, was selected by her classmates as Most Intelligent, Senior Class President, and a member of the Mr. and Miss Soddy-Daisy Senior Court. Melanie was recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar and she received a scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Melanie says, *“Soddy-Daisy High School prepared me well to accomplish all that I have dreamed.”* But she notes that even when she didn’t love a particular teacher’s method of instruction, that she developed the skill of learning independently. And this became an asset when college courses challenged her.

At Vanderbilt University she made the Dean’s List and was an honorary Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta member. She earned a B.S. degree in Molecular Biology, graduating Magna Cum Laude, before entering The College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee, Memphis. In med school she graduated Summa Cum Laude and earned the faculty medal. Melanie was ranked first in her class of 145 medical students, and she was awarded the Doggett Fellowship, a full tuition scholarship. Following her time in Memphis, Melanie performed four years of residency in Diagnostic Radiology at the University of Washington in Seattle.

After completing her medical training, including the radiology residency and a breast imaging fellowship, she served as medical director and lead interpreting physician at numerous hospitals. She served in Huntsville Hospital, Crestwood Hospital and Athens Regional Medical Center, Athens, Georgia before opening her own practice. Today Melanie H. Scott, M.D., P.C. serves in Huntsville, Alabama where she specializes as a radiologist in breast imaging and diagnosis. She is president of the company and lead interpreting physician.

Melanie has published extensively in the medical arena. She holds memberships in the Society of Breast Imaging, The American College of Radiology, Medical Association of Alabama, and Madison County Medical Society.

While studying at Vanderbilt, Melanie met her future husband, Reid Scott. They were married while Melanie was still in medical school. Reid is a retired naval officer and a Gulf War veteran. Today he manages the family medical practice. This month, Melanie and Reid will celebrate 25 years of marriage. They have two daughters, Caroline, a junior at Georgia Tech and Lauren, a junior at Huntsville High School. They each enjoy ballet dancing. The family loves horse-back riding, skiing, and traveling to Europe together.

Melanie is also accompanied today by her parents, Charles and Carolyn Hill. Will Melanie's family and friends please stand.

Melanie's high school friends include Myra Carrol, Kim McClendon, Gina Frizzell, Lora Franklin, Lisa Hale, and many others. Her favorite teachers were Mechaele Nebben and Janice Newman. She admired these women because they were unapologetic for the amount of effort their classes required, and they held students to a high standard. She says that she appreciated their warm encouragement and their witty humor, and she wanted to be just like them. Melanie remains a big advocate of public education and believes that it is the best preparation for life in the real world.

Her favorite high school memories are of ballgames and the school spirit, fun times together at Toss Up matches, Latin conventions, ROTC parades, and any other event representing Soddy-Daisy High School. She loved being proud of her school, her classmates and the community. She says that the people of Soddy-Daisy support one another and foster a sense of pride and responsibility in all who live here. She loves the support the community has for its citizens, schools, churches, and civic causes.

Likewise, Soddy-Daisy is proud of you, Melanie. You are a shining star of achievement! And it is for your hard work, your spirit, and your accomplishments in the field of medicine that your hometown inducts you, Dr. Melanie Hill Scott, into your high school's Hall of Fame!

JERMAINE SWAFFORD
1992

Jermaine Swafford says that, of all his teachers in school, Mrs. Jeanie McKenna was the one who inspired and challenged him to think about life beyond the present and how to accomplish his goals in the future. He says, "She influenced me to think about life outside of the walls of Soddy-Daisy High and about what skills would be needed to have continued success. She brought reality into the classroom!"

Jermaine's reality was that he was a good student and a highly gifted athlete. He excelled at any sport he played: football, basketball, wrestling, and track. His best memories of high school involve not just the ball games and practice times but also the social gatherings like going to the Pizza Hut with friends after the games on Friday nights. He fondly remembers Robert Talaska ("Rob T") singing the fight song in the locker room before games, and the road trips with his track coach, Steve Henry.

Some of Jermaine's friends were Tim Martin, David Pastusic, Chad Hixson, Jennifer Flippo, Doug Uren, Mark Upton and Kevin Faulkner. He recalls that Soddy-Daisy was one huge family; and he includes the school janitors, the cafeteria staff, and his coaches along with his classmates in his circle of friends. This feeling of family still returns for him when he comes back to visit.

Jermaine was the MVP of his Soddy-Daisy High School track team, and in 1992 was crowned the Tennessee State Champion in the discus throw. But it was on the gridiron where he made his mark. He played linebacker and running back, was All-District, All-Metro, and All-Times selection. He was voted Best Offensive and Best Defensive Player his senior year. The spring of 1992 was a record-breaker for SDHS. Four (4) Trojans signed football scholarships to Division I schools that year: Mark Upton with the University of Tennessee, David Pastusic with Appalachian State, and Tim Martin and Jermaine Swafford both signed to continue their education with Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Tim and Jermaine were recruited by Marshall head coach, Jim Donnan, who would later coach the Georgia Bulldogs.

If you have seen the movie "We Are Marshall!" you will remember how the team charter plane crashed, killing 75 team members, coaches and fans. That school debated whether to ever field a football team again. 26 years later, two Soddy-Daisy Trojans helped restore the Marshall football program back to prominence. Jermaine and Tim played on the '92 Thundering Herd National Championship team, and again for the '96 undefeated National Champions. Jermaine was captain of the '96 team and was an All-American linebacker, perhaps the first Soddy-Daisy student-athlete to reach this pinnacle. At Marshall, he played with NFL greats Randy Moss, Chad Pennington, and Troy Brown. On one occasion, Jermaine played against Appalachian State University and his high school teammate, David Pastusic.

While at Marshall, Jermaine also participated on the track and field team and, in 2012, he was inducted into the Marshall University Athletic Hall of Fame. He holds a Bachelor degree from Marshall University.

After graduation, Jermaine began his tenure as an assistant trainmaster with CSX Railroad in Russell, Kentucky. There he rose through the operations ranks at CSX and was promoted to a management role at the Locomotive Distribution Center in Jacksonville, Florida. Under Jermaine's leadership, the Atlanta Division achieved the company's Service Excellence Pinnacle Award. In 2015, CSX appointed Jermaine to Vice President over regional transportation-southern region.

Today he serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Transportation Officer. In this capacity, he is responsible for the daily operations of CSX's transportation network that encompasses 21,000 miles of railways in 23 states, the District of Columbia and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Two recent publications, Savoy Magazine and Black Enterprise Magazine, recognized Jermaine Swafford for outstanding business achievement as one of the 300 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America! Friend, our hat is off to you!

Jermaine lives in Jacksonville, Florida with his wife Sarah, and their three children, Layne, Madison, and London. Joining them today are Jermaine's parents, James and Linda Swafford. Would the Swafford family please stand.

In 2013, Jermaine attended the Harvard Business School Executive Leadership Program. Today he serves on the Board of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, which helps build character and teach critical life lessons to at-risk young people living in America's most distressed communities. He served as a volunteer to help plant trees in the Chattanooga Southside neighborhood.

When asked "What do you feel is the greatest accomplishment of your life?" Jermaine replied, ***"Although I understand our work is never done, getting to a place in my life where my success and happiness is defined by how I live my life and what's in my heart rather than any title, accolades, or awards. Being a husband and a father and understanding my role and the importance of the role is something that I feel the greatest about."***

Soddy-Daisy would like to say a heart-felt Thank You to Jermaine Swafford for carrying the Trojan torch across the land. You have made us proud, served mankind, and grown into a model of business and personal success for the rest of us. We want you to come back to visit often, and wear proudly your newest honor as a member of the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.