

Hubert Gene “Gene-o” Shipley
1973

Many celebrities gain fame using a single name: Madonna, Elvis, Prince, Cher, Chyna, Pink.

Let me introduce to you Soddy-Daisy’s most famous “one-name-celebrity” of all time... His name is **”GENE-O”!** He’s a Soddy-Daisy legend! (However, his favorite stars have more than one name: George Jones is his favorite musician and his favorite entertainer...Larry the Cable Guy! “GET R DONE!”)

No one, I mean no one on Planet Earth, loves Soddy-Daisy more than Hubert Gene Shipley, Jr. He has poured his heart and soul into this community for most of his 62 years. Because he loves Soddy-Daisy, he has coached football, baseball, basketball, and girls softball for the KIDS Club. He believes this organization plays a big part in the lives of the boys and girls that participate. It has always been his pet project as a city commissioner to make sure the parks were well-maintained and always funded for upgrades and safety.

Out of love for this city, he decided to run for the Soddy Daisy City Commission in 1987. He wanted to make a change. He wanted to provide an ambulance service for the community. He wanted to see a Soddy-Daisy Industrial Park materialize for the good of business development. His friends encouraged him to run for commissioner, and they rewarded him with the votes for his election. Every year Gene-o has run for office, his number of votes has climbed. And folks, that career in Soddy-Daisy politics stands at 21 years and counting. He believes his success in the political arena is because he treats everyone the way he would want to be treated.

Because of his love for Soddy-Daisy veterans, he helped establish and fund the Veteran’s Memorial Park on the south end of the city. As mayor, he supported building the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in 2009 at that same location. He has served on the Wall of Honor Committee since its inception.

He served on the board to build our first City Hall so the government wouldn’t work out of makeshift buildings. And he is very proud to have initiated the installation of lights around Soddy Lake, an addition that enhanced the lake area’s beauty.

For everyone’s benefit, he helped start the first partially paid Soddy-Daisy Fire Department. Until then, ALL fire service in the city was 100% volunteered. Hiring paid firefighters has decreased the wait time for fire service and has also decreased the cost of homeowner’s insurance. Gene-o says, “In my opinion, we have the best fire department in the county. They have an ISO rating of 2 which is nearly unheard of as a mostly volunteer department.”

He is constantly working with our Police and Public Works departments to give them the funds and support they need to keep our City functioning to its best. At last, he helped bring in the needed sewer system that has brought great growth in businesses, especially in the food

services everyone enjoys (students: Think “Taco Bell”, “Zaxby’s”, “Wendy’s”, “Bojangles”, “El Metate”, and all the others!).

Gene-o was a strong supporter of reconstructing Poe’s Tavern near the city hall. It is one of our city’s most historic features and has been great for our community. Perhaps his biggest vote came when he supported buying the Soddy Creek Gulf and turning it over to the people of Soddy Daisy to enjoy. He has served 21 years as Soddy-Daisy City Commissioner and he says, “I have never thought of it as a job but as a privilege to serve the community.”

And what about on our campus? How has Gene-o helped Soddy-Daisy students? For many years, he has supported sports teams and school groups. When a Soddy-Daisy team plays a game, Gene-O is often seen cheering in the bleachers. And when one of our teams attends a state tournament, he often gets a parade or a send-off party if not a police department escort for that team. Currently, he is determined that Soddy-Daisy High School will have a new TRACK!

As Mayor, he was involved with the Soddy Daisy High Trojan Marching Band and helped support them in their fundraiser and efforts to go to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. During that same term, he had the opportunity to work with Stephanie Whittler (Miss Tennessee) in her journey to the Miss America Pageant. He says, “this was an exciting time for a small town and for me as Mayor.”

Gene-o is a member of the Alhambra Shriners and the Soddy Masonic Lodge #418, both interests he says he got from his grandfather, Raymond Hargis. He says that these groups give back to the community and help many children.

But let’s backtrack to 1973, Gene-o’s senior year at Soddy-Daisy High School. Some of his friends were Ray Sheets, Rocky Privett, and Rick Hamrick, and a very good friend today is 2015 Hall of Fame inductee Mr. George Wright.

At school, Gene-o says he drove the assistant principal Mr. Jimmy Smithson crazy. He may or may not have slipped off campus a few times for some of Rose Gravitt’s sloppy joes down at the diner adjacent to the old high school. Gene-o says that his favorite teacher, Dr. Jess Lasley, understood him well. He told Gene-o that he ought to just “slip on off from school and **go to work!**” It seems that his focus was already on his career and not always on his studies. Have any of you students ever experienced this dilemma? Well keep plugging along. Keep your focus on graduating. Your ship will come in, and you will find your life’s calling if you don’t give up. Gene-o says, “Don’t Give Up!”

Gene-o recalls that most of his family were plumbers, so after graduation he enrolled in the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 43 apprenticeship program. He worked for local plumbing companies until opening his own business in 1983, Shipley Plumbing. He says the plumbing business has provided a good living but also has allowed him to build many friendships.

During one period in his career, he traveled for eight years to 21 states for the installation of chemical piping.

Gene-o married his high school classmate, Dede Smith, and this year they celebrate 42 years together. They have two children, Amy and Trey. They also enjoy their five grandchildren every chance they get. Will the Shipley family please stand and be recognized.

Gene-o is a member of the Soddy-Daisy KIDS Club Hall of Fame, and is a 43-year member of the Oak Street Baptist Church in Soddy-Daisy.

The citizens of Soddy-Daisy owe a debt of gratitude to you, Hubert Gene Shipley, Jr. And we honor you today, **GENE-O**, with your induction into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame!

Dr. Ken Duggan 1975

Ken Duggan grew up in the heart of Daisy, Tennessee. He could walk to his elementary school and he ran home every afternoon. He played baseball as a boy and he would attend Soddy-Daisy Junior High where he played basketball and football.

At Soddy-Daisy High School, he became sports editor of the yearbook and recalls Mr. Ed Hicks, his English teacher and yearbook sponsor, was a kind man who listened to his students. Ken served as Student Council President and was selected by the senior class in 1975 as Most Likely to Succeed. As president of the student government, Ken became accustomed to speaking in front of crowds. In fact, he loved speaking. This skill would later be honed and turned into a professional career.

Some of Ken's friends from childhood were Jeff Hudson, Mitch Wilson and Don Philpott. His friend, Don, passed away shortly after high school. But his favorite memory of SDHS is the day he looked down the far end of the hall and saw a beautiful new student standing at her locker. No one knew that day that this beautiful young lady, Marilyn Elsea, would someday be his bride. This year they have been married for 35 years.

After high school, Ken attended UTC where he received a B.S. degree in Political Science. He has always been an avid student of history and a political expert as well. He worked in retail management at Miller Department Stores from 1982 to 1985, at which time he went to work as a computer programmer for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Tennessee. He later held that same position with Provident Life Insurance Company in Chattanooga.

Life treated Ken Duggan well. He had good jobs with plenty of income. He was happily married and making his mark in the business world. Ken had come to a relationship with God in his teenage years. But when asked about being called to preach he says, "My call was a desire I did not ask for nor did I plan." Every person comes to a crossroad at some point in life and Ken describes that, while he loved his chosen field of work, it became increasingly difficult to find satisfaction in his career plans. No job fully satisfied him.

In 1998, a small church in the community was looking for a pastor and Ken was recommended for the position. He had been teaching the Bible and studying through an extension program. He pastored there for two years.

In 1990, a cold spell froze the pipes in that small church causing services to be cancelled for the day. So the Duggan's headed to another location to worship that Sunday morning. As they drove past the Dallas Bay Fire Department on Hixson Pike, something told them to pull in and visit a brand new mission church which had recently begun through the efforts of the Hamilton County Baptist Association. That one visit

would eventually lead the small Dallas Bay Mission Church to call Ken Duggan to be its pastor.

This small church had no buildings so it continued to meet in the fire hall and then later in the McConnell Elementary School each Sunday. Later a church member rented a small store in which the church could meet for services. That member would one day donate some 20 acres of property for the present day facilities of the Dallas Bay Church. As the church began to grow, so did its pastor. Ken studied hard and earned his Master of Ministry degree in 1995 followed by his Doctor of Theology in 1996 and then the Doctor of Divinity in 2008. He has held the position of senior pastor of the church for 27 years.

Dallas Bay Church has outgrown its facilities many times over. Ken has preached multiple services, up to four services per day, for several years. His love for people is only matched by his love for teaching from God's word. He is straight forward but caring in his approach. He likes to preach from an angle which draws in the listener and makes them feel comfortable enough to come back for more. But he has never compromised the truth of the message. And this is a major reason the church has always been full of people. His wit and his transparency are what people say they love most about Ken.

Dallas Bay Church has served the Soddy-Daisy, Lakesite and Hixson communities in numerous ways. Maybe you have participated in the Thanksgiving Stuffing Strut which benefits the underprivileged of North Hamilton County. Or many have received help from Joseph's Storehouse, a food and supply depot on campus at Dallas Bay. The annual football rivalry between Soddy-Daisy and Hixson High Schools is sponsored by the church. And the youth building, "The Met", is always open for teams to gather and eat. Maybe someone here enjoyed a free prom dress with shoes and adornment which are shared by Dallas Bay each Spring at prom time. And each summer, Dallas Bay Church hosts a missionary conference in a foreign setting which allows missionaries to have a vacation and go back on the field refreshed.

Ken is also an author of several books, and has written seven Christmas plays for the church performances. He is always a popular speaker around this region and has been recognized by many groups. For his work, he received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Secretary of the U.S. Army, from the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, and in 2008 was selected the Covington Theological Seminary Alumnus of the Year. And the tiny church of 20 members continues to grow upwards of 4,000 members today, placing it in the top one percent of Baptist churches nationwide.

What does Ken love about Soddy-Daisy? He says, "I love the geographical diversity. As a person who loves the outdoors every outdoor activity imaginable is available within a walk or short drive from my home." Ken loves to deer and turkey hunt and he also fishes as a hobby.

Ken and Marilyn have two sons, Adam and Andy, a daughter-in-law Kate, and a grandson, Graem. Will the Duggan family please stand.

Soddy-Daisy High School is honored to induct Dr. Kenton Reid Duggan into the 2017 class of the Hall of Fame!

CARL A. BARNES
1976

At Soddy-Daisy High School, Carl Barnes ran track and cross-country. In track he was a long-legged hurdler and he ran on the relay teams. He also was a member of the photography club. His favorite SD teachers were Mr. Ed Hicks for English and Doctor Eddie Owens in Chemistry. He says they both made the work challenging but interesting. He always enjoyed the friendships with his classmates in school and the fellowship of the track team. It seems to be very common that one's comradery with a team or group from high school is remembered for many years after that group has disbanded. After joining the Navy, Carl lost touch with many of his classmates.

Carl enlisted in the Navy in April 1983 under the delayed entry program while working as an airplane mechanic. After boot camp, he attended Aviation Technical Training in Memphis, TN. From there his Aircraft Maintenance training took him to many stops: San Diego, Meridian, Mississippi, Pensacola and Jacksonville, Florida. He applied to attend Flight Engineer School and was accepted.

Upon graduating, he reported to Jacksonville, and served as a Flight Engineer and Powerplants Mechanic and Inspector completing deployments to Sigonella, Sicily and Keflavik, Iceland. In May of '92, Carl was promoted to Fleet Replacement Squadron Instructor Flight Engineer and served as a Classroom and Foreign Military Instructor.

As Flight Engineer, Carl was responsible for safety during all phases of the flight. He provided logistical support for emergency repairs of aircraft at foreign operating locations and approved funds to coordinate with outside agencies to ensure timely delivery of required aircraft parts.

Carl attended Embry Riddle Aeronautics University in Daytona Beach, FL, the world's largest, fully accredited university specializing in aviation and aerospace. He graduated cum laude with his Master degree in Aeronautical Science in 1998.

In May of '96 he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer and deployed to Keflavik, Iceland, Puerto Rico, and Sigonella, Sicily and flew over Bosnia-Herzegovina. In October of '99 Carl was assigned as Leading Chief Petty Officer.

In September of '02 his years of service paid off when he was promoted to Senior Chief Petty Officer. In this capacity, Carl flew executive transport missions in support of the Chief of Naval Operations, Commander Fleet Forces Command, Commander Joint Forces Command and numerous foreign dignitaries. Basically, Carl was assigned to fly with the top military officials in the United States Armed Forces and around the world.

In Feb '06 he was assigned to prepare and perform ground training, examinations and conduct in-flight evaluations for foreign students in the host country of Pakistan.

Today Retired Senior Chief Petty Officer Carl Barnes is contracted with the U.S. Government and assigned duties with the **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**. Among other duties, they seek and capture illegal drug runners, making a dent in the drug trafficking into the United States.

In his military service, Carl completed six deployments lasting six months at a time. There were countless other detachments, some for only a few days and others lasting for weeks. He saw every kind of deployment, from tracking Soviet submarines to transporting the highest-ranking admiral, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Vern Clark. The Admiral even brought his own chef with him on the flights, so the crew ate really well.

Carl's Naval service record includes the Air Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Marine Achievement Medal and various unit awards and ribbons. In his home of Jacksonville, Florida, he plays basketball in the Southern Baptist Basketball League, serves as a Little League baseball coach, and is a Homeowners Association board member. In Carl's 34 years of service to the United States of America, and with his hundreds of flights around the world, we could easily regard him as the most well-traveled Trojan of all-time!

He feels that the greatest accomplishment of his life is marrying his Soddy-Daisy High School sweetheart, Miss Sheila Frizzell! And after that completing his college degree and being chosen for the executive transport crew chief and serving his country in the U.S. Navy, and continuing to serve with the Department of Homeland Security Customs Border Protection.

What does Carl love about Soddy-Daisy? He says, 'I love the family community, I love to visit as often as possible. And Downtown Chattanooga has changed so much on the Riverwalk. It's a great place to go.'

Carl and Sheila have three children, Holly, Heather and Jonathan, and eight (8) grandkids with one more on the way. Today he is accompanied by his wife, Sheila, and his mother-in-law, Gladys Frizzell. Would Carl's family please stand.

For your service to our nation and for excellence of the contributions in your life, the Soddy-Daisy High School students and faculty honor you, Retired Senior Chief Petty Officer Carl A. Barnes, with your induction into your high school's Hall of Fame.

Ken Thomas

Class of 1976

At this time, the Hall of Fame would like to honor a very special person. In 1976, a young man left Soddy Daisy with his high school diploma and a desire to teach. Several years later, he graduated from Carson Newman with a B.A. in Spanish and a minor in Bible History and ultimately gained a M.Ed. from Trevecca Nazarene. Returning to Chattanooga, he began his career teaching both Spanish and Bible History, splitting the school day at both Ooltewah and Brown Middle Schools. Since that time he has taught at Soddy Daisy Middle, Red Bank High, and Soddy Daisy High, where he has been teaching Spanish since 2006. In addition to teaching during those years, our honoree – Mr. Ken Thomas –also coached track, baseball, basketball, football, tennis, and wrestling at one time or another. In 1996, he was named Red Bank High’s Teacher of the Year. Ken has served as sponsor to both the STARS program and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and he was once named Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle Coach of the Year. As a member of the community, Ken has served as Youth Director for First Baptist Church of Soddy Daisy, as well as deacon and Sunday School teacher for Dallas Bay Baptist. He is a member of the Soddy Daisy History Fair Committee and is responsible for establishing the Soddy Daisy Hall of Fame Program.

As a student at Soddy Daisy, Ken was active in sports - wrestling and managing football. He was on the yearbook staff and was active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was named Fellowship of Christian Athletes Christian Athlete of the Year his senior year. Ken was also senior class president in 1976. He spent time with his friends – Lee Coffman, Tonya Wilson, and Mark Rawlston, and his favorite teacher in high school was Jo Ellen Craze, who took his Spanish class on a field trip to Mexico, but rumor has it that he took Spanish because that was where all the girls were. He also enjoyed teachers, Tom Travers, Peggy Moore, and Walt Wood. In middle school, he held Merle Crawley and Boodie Fox in high esteem; however, his all-time favorite teacher was his second grade teacher, Mrs. Corinne Rose.

While teaching at Red Bank High in 1996, Ken met a beautiful young teacher in the teacher’s lounge one day. Her name was Chris, and by August of 1996, they were married. They have two children, Hunter and Mattie, who are students here at Soddy Daisy. Anyone who knows Ken definitely knows how much he loves his family and how proud he is of them. (Would Ken’s family please stand?) An inside source tells us that Ken loves the sense of community he feels in Soddy Daisy, and he treasures being able to come back here to teach where he himself went to school. Of course, his favorite memory of Soddy Daisy High is teaching his own children, Hunter and Mattie.

To say that Ken Thomas is a “good” man seems so inadequate; however, look the word good up in the dictionary and you will find a litany of synonyms: moral, honest, respectable, fair, honorable, charitable, kind, reliable, devout, skilled, and dutiful, to list only a few. So, yes, Ken Thomas is certainly a “good” man, and it has been a privilege to be in his presence.

Ken is retiring at the end of the school year, and he will be missed by colleagues and students alike. As you retire, Ken, know that this school loves and appreciates you for all you have done for the school, the students, and the community. So, because of the man you are and what you have represented in your life, we are thrilled to welcome you to the Soddy Daisy Hall of Fame.

Rees Skillern 1980

Rees Skillern was a friend to many in the SDHS Class of 1980. He was a smart and tough kid. His chemistry teacher, Doc Owens, called home one day and said that Rees should be making 100's on his tests, but that he was deliberately leaving out the answers to the last 5 questions of the tests so that he wouldn't show the other students up and no one would know he was smart. Rees Skillern was humble.

He played football for the Trojans and was as tough as a bulldog. His friend Sharon Irwin Wood says that she went to his house one day and he was riding his pony with a long rope attached to a cement block. He would get on the pony and it would take off running. Rees would fall off the pony and terrify Sharon. After his first fall, Rees looked up at her and said, "After I fall off three times, it's your turn!"

Sharon says that Rees Skillern was her lifelong friend. She tells how as sophomores at Soddy-Daisy Rees once acted as her bodyguard when a rough-and-tough girl at the locker beside her tried to bully her. Years later when Rees read an article about a student paying another student \$150 per week for bully protection, he promptly wrote up a bill with compounded interest for all these years and sent it to Sharon. With his business mind and keen sense of humor, Rees concocted that she owed him well over One Million Dollars!

Rees' friend Wade Siler remembers the football game when Rees' glasses were broken in the game, and Rees was very dependent on his glasses. In the locker room at halftime, the coach scolded Rees for missing a blocking assignment. The coach said, "Rees, will you just LOOK and see where that linebacker is coming from, and BLOCK him?" Rees simply responded, "Yes sir, I would look for him if I could see him!"

Wesley Roberson also played football with Rees at Soddy-Daisy Junior High and Soddy-Daisy High School. He recalls that Rees was very quiet and smart with a dry sense of humor. He says many times you wouldn't realize the joke he was making until you were walking away. He describes his friend as honest, smart, and having good morals, saying he always stuck to his beliefs.

Friends say that he often spoke of being a physician and helping others. In fact, he planned to be a medical specialist. His senior class voted him "Most Likely to Succeed." And SUCCEED Rees Skillern did. After graduation, he attended the University of the South at Sewanee, but he withdrew from college early to join the family business. The entrepreneur in Rees would not allow him to stay in school. He returned to his home in Soddy-Daisy and announced to his parents that he was ready to **"become a junk dealer!"** That was his humorous way of saying that he fully intended to work in the family business, Dixie Souvenirs, and learn the skills necessary to make a good living.

He worked hard in the souvenir business, and eventually assumed ownership of Dixie Souvenirs in Soddy-Daisy. He made many purchasing trips to manufacturers in the Far East for supplies for souvenir customers throughout the Southeastern United States.

Rees had a keen eye for business, he learned to play the stock market and played it vigorously and with much success. It would be years later that his parents, Fred and Bettye Skillern, learned he had contributed many of his stock market profits to Vanderbilt Hospital.

Rees was an avid reader and his favorite topics were History and the Holy Bible. He was an active member in the First Presbyterian Church of Soddy-Daisy where he was an elder and served as a member of its Session. Tobin Davidson said, "He was always upbeat and willing to help the less fortunate. Throughout the time that I knew Rees, I never heard a complaint nor a negative word come from him. He was an inspiration and true friend to me. Rees Skillern sure made the world a better place."

Rees was a fighter. Catastrophic disease like cancer can challenge a person to fight for his or her life. When he was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2004, Rees did not quit. He fought. He looked the illness in the eye and said, "You can't beat me." With a tenacious Soddy-Daisy Trojan will to win and a rock-solid faith in God, Rees battled his foe. Relentlessly. He was treated for cancer in Nashville's Vanderbilt Hospital. There he not only fought for himself, but he fought for others by donating funds to cancer research. Sometimes life calls for a warrior to go "all-in", to leave all of your effort out on the playing field. The warrior in Rees Skillern was born in him. He went "All-in" in every challenge of his life.

On one trip to see Rees at Vanderbilt Hospital when he was very susceptible to germs, Sharon Irwin Wood gave him a huge hug. Rees asked her if she was "trying to kill him?" His sense of humor never abandoned him in his long struggle.

In January 2012, the final battle of Rees' life ended. He was 49 years old. Soddy-Daisy classmate and 2015 Hall of Fame inductee, Julia Smith, said of the battle, "Most importantly Rees succeeded in his spiritual journey and has now rested with his maker. He lived a Christian life and was an example of Jesus Christ's love. I look forward to the Soddy-Daisy reunion with Rees in Heaven."

Honoring their son's wish for his estate to benefit others, Fred and Bettye Skillern made a \$3 million gift to the CHI Memorial Foundation for advancement of cancer care in the Chattanooga area. This donation came from Rees' own funds. And to honor Rees' memory, on December 9, 2015, CHI Memorial Hospital dedicated the Rees Skillern Cancer Institute. The comprehensive program includes seven centers of excellence, each dedicated to a specific type of cancer and supported by interdisciplinary tumor boards, clinical trials and advanced technologies. The Rees Skillern Cancer Institute is now considered a top research and treatment facility.

Wesley Roberson says, "I was working on a job at Memorial Hospital when Rees was there as a patient. I would stop in and talk with him. Reese always followed the doctor's orders and then some extra. If they asked him to do an exercise three times, he would double up and do it six. He always went above-and-beyond what was expected of him. Wesley adds, "When the time came, I was very honored to be one of Reese's pallbearers. He was always someone that I looked up to."

And Sale Creek principal Tobin Davidson initiated the "Rees Skillern Warrior Award " while he was principal at SDMS and then established the same award at Sale Creek. This award is given to both a Senior and an eighth grader at their awards nights to recipients who have battled adversity sometime during their youth.

Rees' dad, Fred Skillern, spoke of the donation from Rees' estate, "Rees was so giving and we wanted his giving spirit and his memory to live on at Memorial. It was very important to us that part of this gift would be used for additional research opportunities in this community, where it would be most beneficial to our friends, family and neighbors." Would Fred & Bettye Skillern, as well as all of Rees' family and friends please stand.

So no, Sharon Irwin Wood, our friend Rees never became a medical doctor. He never wore that lab coat and stethoscope. And he never performed surgery or wrote a prescription. But the medical care his "patients" are receiving at the Rees Skillern Cancer Institute, is simply irreplaceable. It is heavenly. And as Rees looks down from Heaven today, the Soddy-Daisy High School students and faculty would like to honor you, Frederick Rees Skillern, with your well-deserved place in the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame!

DAVID KARNES 1986

When you wake up for school or work each morning, if your television is tuned to Channel 3, you will recognize this next Soddy-Daisy Trojan.

David Karnes grew up in many locations. His dad was a pastor, and preachers' kids sometimes move around a lot. He lived in Hampton, South Carolina, Fitzgerald, Georgia, and Memphis, Tennessee before moving to beautiful Soddy-Daisy. Bill Karnes pastored the Soddy-Daisy First Presbyterian Church near Soddy-Daisy Middle School.

David's favorite activity at Soddy-Daisy High School was hanging out with his friends in the marching band. It was the one class he looked forward to the most. He says he will always remember the feeling of camaraderie with his band friends and that he learned a great deal about life through the band.

He was also especially fond of Mr. Bill Morgan's English class because Mr. Morgan was kind and patient. David remembers thinking he really did care about his students as individuals. He says he also learned a great deal about writing which has helped him in numerous ways over the years in his chosen career path.

David had many good friends in high school and while he runs into old high school friends routinely, the only one he has maintained a close relationship with is the former drum major of the Soddy Daisy High School marching Trojans. Her name is Denise. The two of them started dating in school and, right after college, they were married. They have now enjoyed 27 years of wedded bliss!

After graduation, he and Denise attended King College in Bristol, Tennessee, where he received a B.A. in Psychology. From there he entered Middle Tennessee State University and graduated with a B.S. in Broadcast Communication. Later he would study Meteorology at Mississippi State University.

David admits that, at some point in high school, his only goal was to leave! But after being away for several years, he now lives about five minutes from his former home in Soddy-Daisy and would not have it any other way. He says he had to leave home to really appreciate it. For the past 22 years, he has worked as a broadcast meteorologist. He began working for the NBC network in Yuma, Arizona where he served as chief meteorologist. While there he had the unique honor of covering a tropical storm that came up the Gulf of California and made landfall in Yuma.

His next move was to SNN News 6 in Sarasota, Florida, where he was chief meteorologist for nine years. His most memorable moment there was covering Hurricane Charley as it moved onshore in the Sarasota viewing area in August of 2004. Charley was a category 4 hurricane with 150 mile-per-hour winds and was responsible for 15 fatalities.

Much to the good fortune of Chattanooga viewers, David and Denise were finally able to return home in 2007 where David was hired by WRCB-TV, our local NBC affiliate. He is part of Channel 3 Eyewitness News Today, the WRCB morning show. He has earned seals of approval from both the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Association.

He has also won an Associated Press Award for “Best Light Feature” and his team earned the Times Free Press Best of the Best Award for “Best Weather Report” 2007 through 2016.

David and Denise have two daughters, Allie, a sophomore at Lee University, and Emma, a home-schooled junior with an incredible singing voice. The Karnes take an active part at Dallas Bay Church. Would the Karnes family please stand and be recognized.

In David’s spare time he serves as Director of the Chattanooga Home Education Association “Gilbert and Sullivan Homeschool Players.” He loves directing plays and working with the teenage actors and singers. He also hosts a radio show on Sunday afternoons with WGOW Talk Radio.

Comparing Soddy-Daisy to the many places he has lived, David says it is a great community with a strong history and “honestly some of the nicest people you will ever meet.” As for David’s future, he replies that his biggest goal is to be a positive influence on people (especially young people) for Christ. He says that his life is truly an exciting ride.

For his positive influence on television viewers, for his commitment and service to the greater Chattanooga community, and for blessing our school with many wonderful “snow-days”, Soddy-Daisy High School wishes to honor David Karnes by inducting him into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

Kevin Ward 2001

The Soddy-Daisy High School wrestling program is nationally-known. In our state, Trojan wrestlers are feared for their competitive edge and for rising to the top. Soddy-Daisy wrestling produces winners. Since Anthony Reynolds won the first individual state title in 1981, the Trojans have produced 23 individual state champions who have earned 38 first-place medals. 75 medals have been awarded to individual Trojans at the State Tournament. The teams have won seven state titles with 10 runner-up finishes. But no Trojan grappler has equaled this next inductee's success on the mat.

Kevin Ward says he was fortunate to have some very good teachers at SDHS. He recalls, "Although I didn't know it at the time, Mrs. Cheryl Clingan is a teacher I really appreciate. I remember her class being very tough and she challenged us every day. It wasn't until I breezed through my first college Math course that I really appreciated how much she taught us."

His absolute favorite memory of high school is the camaraderie he enjoyed on the wrestling team. He says, "I made some really good friends and was lucky to have incredible coaches. The experiences of being on that team are memories I'll always enjoy." Some of his teammates were Jake and Jared Yost, Shane Ritchie, Morgan Howard, Moose Smith along with Kevin's brother Dustin. Kevin and Dustin lived right next door to our very own Coach Jim Higgins. Kevin says that he was also very close to a classmate, Cassie Clements, who passed away in 2005.

Kevin Ward was a 4-time state finalist. He came to Soddy Daisy his Sophomore year and wrestled for Coach Steve Henry for three years. He was a runner-up his Freshman year losing in overtime and won the State the next three years. Kevin was Soddy Daisy's FIRST 3-time State Champion. Kevin also competed in the High School Nationals where he placed 4th becoming the school's first "High School All American" in Wrestling. His overall high school record stands at 183 wins with only 8 defeats. He says that it is those eight defeats that stand out in his mind the most!

At Senior Celebration in 2001, Kevin Ward was named by his peers as Mr. Soddy-Daisy.

Of his days at Soddy-Daisy High School Kevin says, **"I would just say that looking back on my time in high school, I am very appreciative of all of the people that were willing to make an investment in my life. The people at Soddy-Daisy shaped my life and helped give me an opportunity to succeed. I'll always be grateful for that."**

No other Trojan has taken his wrestling skills to the next level like Kevin. He was recruited by Penn State, Northern Iowa, West Point, along with Oklahoma State. He chose Oklahoma State University and suited up in the orange and black for the Cowboy wrestling team. In four seasons at Oklahoma State, he compiled a 62-25 record. In the Big Twelve Championship, he upset wrestlers from Oklahoma, Iowa State, and Missouri to win the title at 157 pounds. At OSU, Kevin wrestled on four Big Twelve and NCAA National Championship teams and on two undefeated squads. Oklahoma State was the most dominate team in College Wrestling during his stay as a Cowboy.

Kevin graduated from OSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Sociology and a Master's Degree in Applied Exercise Science. After graduation, he put on a coach's whistle. He began his coaching career as a graduate assistant with the Cowboys while earning his master's degree in health and human performance. He assisted legendary head coach John Smith with drill sessions and preparing the team for competitions, as well as coaching at open tournaments.

He would get his first head-coaching job at Ouachita Baptist University in 2010. There he built a program from scratch and turned it into a national contender, coaching 10 All-Americans and two NCAA finalists. In 2014, after leading Ouachita Baptist University to a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Championships he was named NCAA Division II Coach of the Year.

That same year Kevin Ward was appointed the 10th head wrestling coach at the United States Military Academy at West Point. West Point's athletic director, **Boo Corrigan**, said of Kevin, **"We had a tremendous pool of candidates and Kevin's success building a program, his leadership and passion made him our top choice....** He is an overachiever that knows how to win."

Kevin says of the Academy, **"It's quite a privilege to lead such a proud program with as much tradition as Army wrestling. The cadet-athletes at West Point are the best of the best, and I look forward helping develop them as leaders of character in the United States Army and champions on the wrestling mat."**

When asked what the greatest accomplishment in his life is, Kevin says **accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, followed by marrying his wife Hannah.** The Wards are expecting the arrival of their first child any day now.

What Kevin loves about the Soddy-Daisy community is that **"It's home to me and always will be. I love that I can go back after not being there in years and still feel like I never left. The people are genuine and caring. It's a place that helped mold me and shape me into who I am today."**

Would all of Kevin's family and friends who are with us today please stand.

Kevin, Soddy-Daisy says "Welcome Home friend!" And thank you for representing your town and your school. You have made us proud! Our students would like to honor you today with your induction in the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

STEFANIE WITTLER BEAVERS 2005

This next inductee is one crown jewel of a lady and a very special Lady Trojan. Some of Stefanie Beavers' friends at SDHS were Miranda Wasmer, a fellow Cheerleader, Heather Clark Rogers, and her best friend, Tara Nunley Freeman.

She loved all her teachers but she was able to name a handful of favorites. She says, "Gloria Cox encouraged creativity in us all...was always so kind, patient and supportive of her students. She's the essence of what a lady is...(and) she inspired me as someone I wanted to model myself after. Mr. Jim Parker made me learn to love and appreciate algebra." And she loves Sergeant Ed Barnes. She says of Sarge, "I've never met a more fun-loving, positive, inspiring, or crazier person!" She thanks him for serving on his tour in Viet Nam.

Stefanie said, "Soddy Daisy High School provided me the foundation I needed to be a successful, hardworking and service-minded adult." While at SDHS, Stefanie served on the Student Council Core. David Sneed's class allowed her to develop a heart for service and sparked leadership qualities in her. Core inspired her to serve as a volunteer for Ronald McDonald House, and she would later serve a three-year term on the Chattanooga Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors and was a two-time recipient of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Big Red Shoe Award for community service. She was Grand Champion of the "Dare to Dance" ballroom dancing competition that benefitted the Chattanooga Kidney Foundation.

Also in high school, she was a member of Soddy Daisy's FIRST NCA National Championship Cheerleading team with Coach JoEllen Craze (point to the National Championship banner overhead). Winning those Jackets and that ring was a special memory. She later served as Cheerleading/Tumbling Instructor for The Spirit Barn of Chattanooga.

Her top memory, though, was the day she met a young boy named Kevin. He was the Captain of the Football team, JROTC Battalion Commander, and at senior day would be named "Mr. Soddy Daisy High School." He stole her heart that day, and now Kevin Beavers is her husband. Stefanie says that 15 years have passed and that boy still has her heart!

Stefanie is no stranger to the performing stage. She was selected as Soddy Daisy's Junior Miss for 2005 (also known as Young Woman of Distinction). She would reign as Miss Hamilton County in 2006 and in 2009. Later that same year, Soddy-Daisy's Stefanie Wittler would be crowned Miss Tennessee for 2009. She earned the chance to compete in the Miss America Scholarship Pageant and in 2010 was chosen as 2nd Runner Up! She served as the spokesperson for both Governor Phil Bredeson and the Tennessee Department of Education elementary schools spokesperson as Miss

Tennessee 2009. She was recognized on the senate floor for her service to the state during her year as Miss Tennessee. And she served as the Tennessee Ambassador for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Her place in the spotlight would propel Stefanie into future job opportunities. She was chosen a staff member for the National Cheerleaders Association and she would work in sales and marketing for the Chattanooga Times Free Press. But where you may have seen her face is as the Friday Night Football Sideline Correspondent for WRCB-TV Channel 3 News.

Because of her success in the Miss Tennessee and Miss America Pageants, she was awarded scholarship money which helped her to complete her education. She says, "I'm proud to be the first person in my family to graduate from college with a four-year degree!"

Stefanie graduated Summa Cum Laude from Belhaven University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. She was included in "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges & Universities" and was a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Collegiate National Honor Society. Her next goal is to earn her MBA degree. Stefanie says, "My education is what I am MOST proud of. It took me longer than four years to finish, but I NEVER gave up. It was a challenge...but a challenge I didn't let defeat me!"

Perseverance, hard work, good grades, and a business degree opened the door for her dream career in the pharmaceutical industry. She currently works as Pharmaceutical Sales Territory Manager for Arbor Pharmaceuticals' Cardiovascular Specialty Division in Louisville, KY. It is, indeed, her dream job.

When asked what she loves about Soddy-Daisy, Stefanie replied, "What don't I love about Soddy Daisy? I'm a born and raised "**Soddy-Daisian**" and I can't imagine having grown up anywhere else. Not only did Soddy Daisy provide me with a wonderful education, but it played a vital role in making me the person I am today! The love and support I received from the city of Soddy-Daisy when I was serving as Miss Tennessee was overwhelming. The board of commissioners, the schools, local business owners, and area churches showed me an outpouring of kindness and support, and it's something I could never thank them enough for. One of the hardest things for me when I got married and moved to NC then to KY was leaving my beloved hometown. And when my husband, Kevin, and I are home visiting is when I feel most like myself and I'm the happiest. We look forward to and pray for the day when we can settle down here and raise our family, just as we were so blessed to have been raised in Soddy Daisy."

About her Hall of Fame induction, Stefanie comments, "This is an honor of a lifetime. So many people on the list of current Hall of Famers are community leaders and educators whom I've admired since Elementary School! Some of them have impacted my life on a very personal level (Including Colonel Paul Lasley and Mayor Rick Nunley who

officiated our wedding in 2015). To be listed among them truly overwhelms my heart and gives me an even deeper pride for being a Trojan!"

The Spirit of Soddy-Daisy lives on in Vine Grove, Kentucky where Stefanie and Kevin Beavers reside. Until that day when your family returns here for good, Soddy-Daisy will remember you, Stefanie Wittler Beavers, as its newest and youngest member of the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame!