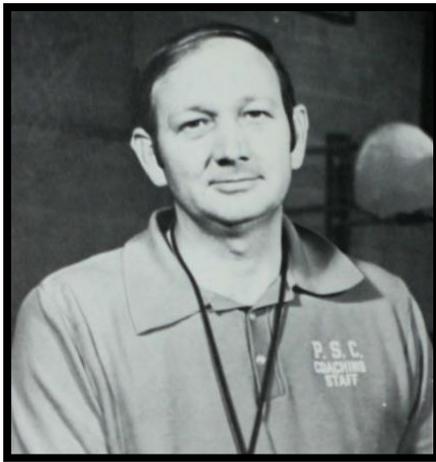




**PANHANDLE STATE**  
FOUNDATION



## Jack V. Begley Memorial Scholarship

Est. 2006

Jack V. Begley died in April of 2004 in Oklahoma City after another bout with cancer. Begley, a former education administrator, coach and member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, was 70.

The son of Verla Daryl (Staiger) and Ralph Brown Begley, he was born January 27, 1934 in Kellyville, Oklahoma. The young Jack Begley grew up there and graduated from Kellyville High School with the Class of 1952. He attended Northeastern A&M Junior College, where he played basketball and earned an associate degree. Following a semester at Oklahoma State University, he enlisted in the United States Army. After his service to the country, Jack enrolled at Panhandle A&M College, where he played basketball, earning All-Conference honors and met many lifelong friends. He graduated from Panhandle A&M in 1958 with a degree in commerce then accepted a coaching position at Texhoma, where he coached baseball and girls and boys basketball. Coach Begley led the THS to

the state tournament. While in Texhoma, he met and married Christene LaVern Jones on Dec. 26, 1959 in Holdenville, Oklahoma. Their first son, Rafe, was born in 1961 in Guymon. The family moved to Clinton, where he coached basketball, baseball and was an assistant football coach, with all teams advancing to the state tournament. With basketball teams winning two state titles and a runner-up title, Begley was honored as the Tulsa World's Coach of the Year. A second son, Eric, was born while the family was in Clinton and Jack completed his Master's degree from Oklahoma State. Jack then coached at Caprock High School in Amarillo before returning to Panhandle State and Goodwell. Over the next 20 years, Begley served as head basketball and golf coach, head of the HPER (Health, Physical Education and Recreation) Department, athletic director, registrar and director of admissions. Also active in church and civic affairs, Jack was a member of Panhandle Centenary United Methodist Church and the Goodwell Lion's Club. In 1988, Begley was elected to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives for District 61. During his 14 years, while becoming one of the most well-known and important legislators in the state, he took special interest in education issues, agriculture, transportation and promoting the best interest of OPSU. In 2002, Governor Brad Henry appointed Begley as commissioner of the transportation department. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Christene Begley; sons, Rafe Begley and his wife, Joyce, of Hugoton and Eric Begley of Goodwell. He also leaves three sisters, one brother, three grandsons and thousands of friends.

## Jack V. Begley Memorial Highway

- 01-13-2006

OPSU hosted a ceremony and reception to dedicate the Jack V. Begley Memorial Highway on Monday, January 23, 2006 in the Noble Activity and Cultural Center. Oklahoma lawmakers passed legislation for the memorial. Begley served in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives for District 61 for 14 years and was instrumental in procuring the funds to expand the portion of Highway 54 that spans the Oklahoma Panhandle from

the Texas state line through Optima, OK. He passed away in April of 2004, but he will always be remembered as a friend to citizens of the Panhandle.