



PANHANDLE STATE
FOUNDATION



John Hairford Rodeo Alumni and Friends Scholarship

Est. 2005 as Rodeo Alumni and Friends Scholarship and renamed in 2014

In 2005, the Rodeo Alumni Scholarship was established by a donation from Cimarron Territory Quarter Horse Association. Over the years, the fund has been added to by donations from former OPSU Rodeo alumnus and several memorials. The Justin Harrington Memorial Rodeo proceeds are directed to this scholarship. Edward Harland memorial donations were added to the Rodeo Alumni Scholarship Fund in 2011. Paul Latham memorials were added in 2013. In 2014, the name was changed to the John Hairford Rodeo Alumni and Friends Scholarship. Steve and Pat Long, longtime area ranchers and owners of T.E.L. Oil and Gas Corporation, have also contributed to the long term goal of this scholarship. Matt and Cricket Hairford support this scholarships, too.

Buck Jones Family - 2016

Justin Daniel Harrington (2001-2006) Although this little cowboy never attended OPSU, he affected more than one life of the alumnus here. He was the son of J. D. and Fran Harrington. All three of his sisters attended school at Panhandle. Even at a young age,

Justin had a keen sense of dedication and a love of life that was contagious to anyone who met him.

Edward Lee Harland (1933-2011) was an alumnus of PAMC aka OPSU, class of 1955. His children are alumni also, Ronnie Harland of Guymon and Tina Marie Harland Johnston of LaJunta, CO, both class of 1982. Ed Harland is the name he became known by, starting out his rodeo career in college. He was a charter member of The Rodeo Club serving as its first president. He continued competing in rodeo events and winning for the next 15 years. He rode bulls and broncos, both bare back and saddled, with the latter being his favorite. He liked winning the All Around Cowboy which was usually an engraved saddle. He won over 25 saddles adding the events of bull dogging and calf roping when rules changed requiring at least one timed event for All Around. Besides saddles, he had a large collection of buckles he had won and can be said to have made a decent living competing in rodeos in Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. He enjoyed reliving his exciting adventures the rest of his life.

John A. Hairford was born in Plaquemine, Louisiana and lived in Louisiana until his enlistment in the United States Air Force where he served as crew chief on a B-47 Bomber and as an instructor. While stationed in Amarillo, Texas, he met and married his wife, Verna Rae Bostwick, in March of 1956. They settled in Hooker, Oklahoma.

He faithfully attended the Hooker United Methodist Church. He was active with the Masonic Lodge and with the Order of the Eastern Star. He served as Past Patron of OES, Worshipful Master of Hooker's Lodge, two terms as District Deputy Master Grand Lodge Officer, and 32nd Degree Mason in the Guthrie Scottish Rite. He was a member of the India Shrine and Panhandle Shrine Club. Through his efforts as a Mason, he supported numerous fund-raisers for patients needing liver and kidney transplants, cancer patients, and children in need in conjunction with the Shriners' hospitals.

He was instrumental in making Hooker Municipal Airport a reality and played substantial roles in the Texas County Irrigation Association, American Agriculture Movement, Safe Oklahoma Resources Development and Rural Residents for Natural Gas Rights, Hooker

Booster Club (where he served as president in the 1970s), Little League Football and Baseball, All Star Kids, Inc. Football, American Legion, No Man's Land Rifle and Pistol Club, the National Rifle Association, as well as U.S.P.S.A., where he served as National Range Officer. The Foran Scholarship Fund, Hooker Musical Ministry, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Hooker Hedgers, Oklahoma Young Farmers, and Texas County Republican Party were also activities he enjoyed.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he and his friends built a rodeo arena east of Hooker where roping and riding activities, rodeos and a youth rodeo events were held. John dedicated time to youth shooting events including Kinsley Kids Klassic, summer youth trap shoots, and FFA sporting clays.

As grandchildren, and great grandchildren, became a part of his life, he continued his avid fan status at games, meets, and stock shows. During the last several years, a special joy was his granddaughter's participation in rodeo events while in junior high and high school. This encouraged John to pursue a philanthropic barrel race through the Hooker Masonic Lodge, which raised funds to support local projects. Rodeo was always one of his favorite sports and he enjoyed not only competing earlier in life but also as a fan later in life. John passed away in 2011, but he leaves a legacy that will endure for many years to come.

Wesley and Cindy Miller, Stratford, TX – 2017 – donated a horse that was sold and part of proceeds were added to scholarship endowment.

November, 2017 – Memorial donations from Joe Bennett, Guymon, OK were added to the scholarship fund.