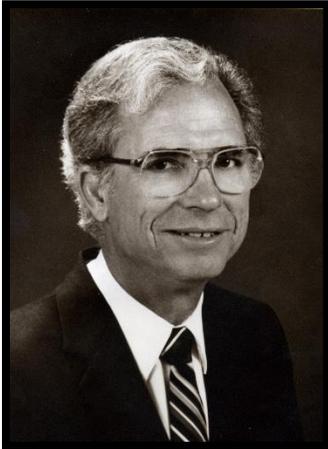




PANHANDLE STATE
FOUNDATION



Dr. Thomas Palmer



Dorothy Palmer



"Doc and Doe"

Doe and Doe Palmer Memorial Scholarship

Est. 2018

Dr. Palmer served as the ninth President of Panhandle State College from 1971 until his retirement in 1987. The 16 years of Dr. Palmer's leadership at Panhandle State brought many positive changes to the campus as the university was strengthened academically, financially, physically, and athletically during his time.

One of his many accomplishments at Panhandle State was his role in the growth of the Panhandle State Foundation. He saw the foundation grow from the start to what has now become a major source of student scholarship funding. New construction came in the form of the meat laboratory, the agricultural activity center, several married student apartments, the nine-hole golf course, outdoor tennis courts, and a plaza in addition to numerous renovations. Athletic records steadily improved throughout his time and women's athletics were added. Dr. Palmer was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame in 1991. He served on the Foundation board of directors for 24 years.

Thomas L. Palmer, Jr. passed away surrounded by his family on July 9, 2016. Born south of the Red River on March 31, 1925 to Thomas and Grace Palmer, he grew up during the Great Depression on a farm near Eldorado Oklahoma, and was still raising wheat and cotton on the family farm at the time of his death. As a young man at nearby Lincoln School, he met his true love, his future wife of 71 years, Dorothy Corley, while also discovering a lifelong love of basketball and baseball. Hours spent shooting a ball into a homemade hoop nailed to the barn helped him lead Lincoln School to the state tournament finals, riding with his teammates on a hay truck all the way to Oklahoma City. Upon graduation in 1944, Mr. Iba offered him a scholarship to play basketball at Oklahoma A&M. Instead, Tom chose to enlist in the U.S. Navy and marry his sweetheart Dorothy by year's end. After World War II, the G.I. Bill afforded him both an education and a chance to play basketball at Southwestern State College, where he graduated in 1949. He then began what would become a long career in education, teaching shop and coaching and later becoming Superintendent of Schools at Balko, Cherokee and Sapulpa, Oklahoma. He earned his Ed.D. from Oklahoma State University in 1966, while working and raising his family. In 1971, he became President of Panhandle State College where he retired in 1987. Tom enjoyed his retirement, playing golf, gardening, serving as a Trustee and Chairman of the Oklahoma Teacher Retirement System and ministering to others as an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He was a dedicated educator and remained an avid sports fan with loyalties to his state's colleges and universities. He found great enjoyment following his children and grandchildren in their athletic successes and academic pursuits. Tom could work with wood, fix anything, and grow the finest tomatoes. He was generous to all, never knew a stranger, and considered himself the luckiest of men.

Dorothy Palmer, who liked to be called "Doe," was born Dorothy Mae Corley on Dec. 10, 1926, to Luther E. and Frances A. (Basinger). She died on Feb. 21, 2018. The youngest of eight, Doe faced a hard scrabble existence during the Great Depression in southwestern Oklahoma, but her family surrounded her with love, loyalty, creativity, generosity, humor, and music. On Dec. 26, 1944, she married Tom Palmer, her classmate from Jackson County's Lincoln School. Tom brought gregariousness, tenacity, and drive to the marriage. Together, they passed on these combined values to three generations.

Doe was a teacher by profession, and she taught her family the love of books, a few lullabies, how to play with our babies, how to make peanut brittle and coconut cream pie, and to always say something nice. She was a true Christian in belief and deed. None of her children can remember her ever being really mad at them. Her disease took from her the memories and stories she passed on to us, but it could not take her smile and sweetness. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Doe was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Tom. She is survived by four children, Corley Mark Palmer and wife Linda, Patti Palmer Ghezzi and husband Albert, Stacy Metcalf and husband Eddie, and Tracy Dawson and husband Michael; her twelve grandchildren; her seven great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews for whom she represented the last connection to their own parents.