

David BEVERLY

Class of 1964

It is fitting that the late W. David Beverly be honored as a Great Graduate from the Class of 1964 in the same year that the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of man's first steps on the moon – an event he played a big part in helping make possible.

Trent Mills, senior systems engineer for NASA, told the BAHS selection committee he worked with Beverly for more than 10 years at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in the area of flight and hardware electronics reliability testing. He specifically called attention to the esteem his colleague earned for his technical knowledge and support of the manned space program.

Mills also told of their love of motorcycling and his friend's tireless efforts to boost this shared passion.

Beverly was instrumental in bringing some 400 enthusiasts together across the space center and led an organization dubbed Space Riders (now renamed Dave's Space Riders in his memory). To benefit fellow cyclists, he developed a database of riders, distributed a weekly news brief, organized plan rides, shared safety and technical tips and mustered considerable rider support for charitable organizations across the Gulf Coast area.

Mills wrote, "Dave left a vibrant legacy and was honored in many ways, including a motorcycle patch flown to the International Space Station that now hangs in the safety and reliability laboratory that was named after him."

As a student at Broken Arrow High School, Beverly played football and was on the basketball and track teams. He was active in the Spanish Club, speech and received the Danforth Award. Following service in the U.S. Air Force – including two tours of duty in Korea – he returned to school and graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1978 with a degree in electrical engineering.

His wife, Linda Webb Beverly, told the selection committee her husband was active his entire life in a multitude of Christian activities. An active contributor, promoter and participant in a number of charitable organizations, he was especially involved in efforts to help people following the devastation of Hurricane Camille in 1969.

Many classmates agreed when she said, "his character and leadership were realized in virtually every endeavor he undertook. He lived a robust life and died a true hero."

