

# Ken COLLINS

*Class of 1967*

The story of why Kenneth L. Collins is this year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1967 is best told by some of the people who sent in letters supporting his nomination. Our only regret is that available space makes it impossible to recite all the glowing comments received.

One endorser, Retired Brigadier General Thomas P. Mancino, said, "Perhaps the best example of (Ken's) dedication to Broken Arrow, his fellow students and veterans was the relocation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial from the city park to the Military History Center. Ken spent his own time and money to complete this memorial and sought no recognition for himself."

Jean E. Bailie, executive assistant at the Center, added, "He has driven miles to help collect artifacts from veterans who live in other areas and used his carpenter skills to build shelves and display cases. He also organized the annual Vietnam Veterans Reorganization Event."

William Scarbrough, Collins' former boss at APAC-Central, Inc., told the committee, "Ken was undoubtedly the finest employee I ever had. He literally turned his division's safety

program around from lip service to actual verifiable improvement. I firmly believe he is responsible for saving the lives of many of our employees."

Ray Odor, an instructor and coach at Tulsa's Town & Country School, said Collins "worked very hard at keeping our facility in great working order so the faculty, staff and especially the students were safe. He was always quick to come fix things at a moment's notice, even on weekends."

Ronald A. Stover served with Collins in the U.S. Navy in Naples, Italy. During that time, he said he saw firsthand his friend's exceptional work ethic. He wrote, "No matter what time of day or night, it seemed Ken was always there. His duties were always carried out in the most concise and conscientious manner."

Teri Goodner-Dorshorst said since the time she was born Collins called her his little sister even though they were unrelated. "When I was six weeks old, he gave me Chicken Pox. I believe we even have matching scars," she joked. "But as I grew up, I learned why so many people looked up to him. This man stands out for no reason other than who he is."

