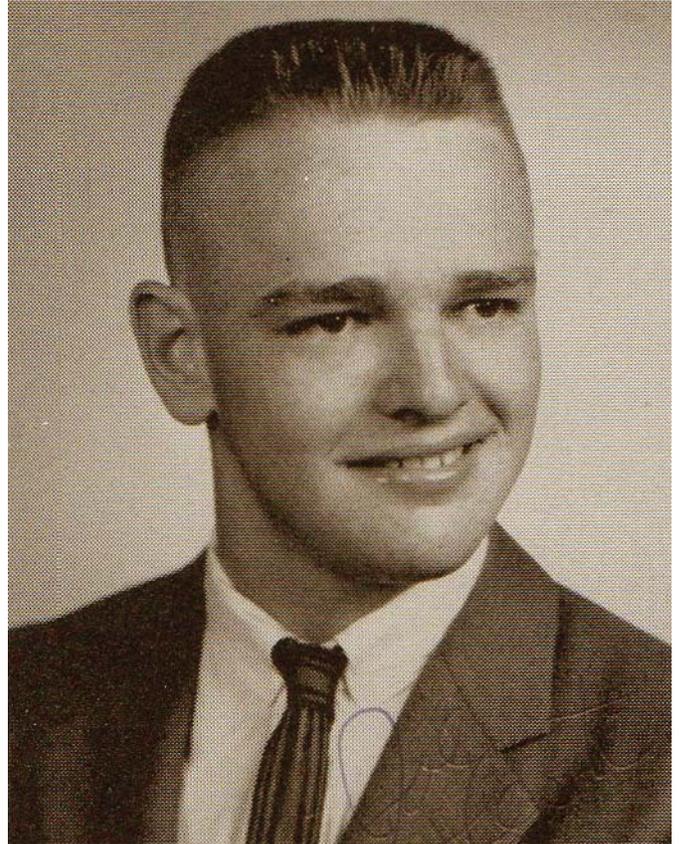


Joseph LESTER

Class of 1963



Just about everybody who has been around Broken Arrow for any length of time knows the Lester boys. Dr. Jeff Lester, Class of 1964, was a previous selectee as a Great Graduate for his work as a medical missionary in Africa and Asia. Joe has earned a reputation as one of the nation's top law enforcement professionals. This year he adds to his resume the distinction of being a Great Graduate from the Class of 1963.

Joseph K. Lester is Cleveland County Sheriff, a post he was elected to in 2009 after serving 12 years as Police Chief and Director of Public Safety for the University of Oklahoma. He began his career as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Military Police. After leaving the armed forces, he joined the Tulsa Police Department and served there from 1969 to 1991. Later, he expanded his duties to Vice President of Bridges International Development and began working in the Congo.

Returning to the U.S., he became part of the Homeland Security

operation until being elected to the Cleveland County post he currently holds.

Public and professional service is very much a part of Joe Lester's makeup. His credits include time on the board of directors of the Gatesway Foundation (where he remains active as a consultant), Cleveland County Red Cross, the United Way of Norman and as Vice Chairman of the Norman Crime Stoppers. He was Vice Chairman of the St. Luke's United Methodist Church Administrative Board, President of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission, President of the Oklahoma FBI National Academy Associates, and served on the Executive Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Lester earned a Bachelor's degree in 1973 from Northeastern State University and a Master's degree in 1975 from Oklahoma City University. A life-long learner, he has extensive continuing education and professional training credits, including being a graduate of the national Crime Prevention Institution, the FBI National Academy and the Secret Service Dignitary Protection School.

Despite the many awards he has received, Lester says he is proudest of his family - his wife of 47 years, Jeanne, their three children and six grandchildren.

As for the future, he says he intends to continue to give all he has to the people of Cleveland County, continue going above and beyond in community service, and being an out-spoken patriot for the country he loves so dearly.

It would be hard to imagine anything less from this Great Graduate.

