

Excerpts from Remarks at the All-Sports Picnic, April 27, 2009

Good evening and thank you for coming!

As you know, our student-athletes are among the finest in the nation, and I am honored to be a part of recognizing their accomplishments. I want to begin by thanking our coaches and the athletics staff for their commitment to developing successful student-athletes and citizens. Their leadership and guidance play an important role in the on-going achievements of our students.

Another group that helps our students achieve success is the Athletic Council chaired by Joe Gillespie. This committee serves as an advisory council to the president. They review Tarleton's athletic programs and goals, assist with fundraising and public relations, and help ensure the success of our athletic programs. Joe, would you and the members of the Athletic Council please stand?

Thank you for your leadership and service to Tarleton.

Tonight, it is my pleasure to present four All-Purple Awards. The All-Purple Award was established by Dr. Barry Thompson in 1989. It recognizes those who have demonstrated outstanding support of the Tarleton Athletics Program and the Texans and TexAnns. Through their hard work and volunteerism, and/or by their financial contributions, these recipients have demonstrated their unwavering loyalty to the Tarleton.

Before I announce our newest recipients, I would like to recognize the past recipients of the All-Purple Award. Would all of the past recipients of the All-Purple Award please come forward so we can thank you, and so you can help me welcome the newest recipients?

Tonight's recipients of the All Purple Award have shown exceptional support and dedication to Tarleton athletics. They join an elite group as our circle of loyal "purple" friends continues to grow. These passionate supporters of the Purple and White become our 39th, 40th, and 41st and 42nd honorees.

Our first honorees are **B.J. and Lois Alexander.** Please come forward. B.J. and Lois have been a part of the Tarleton athletics family for 30 years. They attend many, many athletic events and are always dressed in their purple and white. It doesn't matter what sport is in season, you will often find them cheering for the Texans and TexAnns. Also, as the former provost at Tarleton, Dr. Alexander was instrumental in helping many student-athletes attain their degrees.

Our second honorees are **Don and Patty Jones.** Please come forward. Don and Patty have supported the Purple and White for many years. If they are not in the stands cheering Tarleton on to victory, you will see them in the concession stands helping to raise money for student-athlete scholarships. They have served in every capacity during the high school football playoff games and have helped to make those functions successful. They are always on standby ready to pitch in and help the Athletic Department in any area that needs assistance.

Third. **Mark and Pam Littleton.** Come forward. Mark and Pam have been loyal supporters of the Athletic Department for over 20 years. They have both been instrumental in helping our

student-athletes achieve academic success through their leadership and guidance. Mark also served on the Athletic Council for many years, and was chairman of the Master Plan Facility Study for the Athletic Department.

And our last recipient tonight is **Joe Thompson**. Come forward. Joe Thompson is the President of Texas Bank and has served on the Texan Club Board since 2005. He has been involved in Tarleton Texan Club fundraising efforts, including corporate fundraising for student-athlete scholarships. Joe and Texas Bank have sponsored the Tarleton Head Football Coach's Radio Show since 2001. Joe has also helped in the high school football playoff games and the Plowboy golf tournament.



B.J. and Lois, Don and Patty, Mark and Pam, and Joe, we honor you as Tarleton's newest All-Purple Award Recipients. The "purple and white" spirit you exhibit is a tribute to your extraordinary service to Tarleton Athletics. Tarleton is proud to bestow upon you this special honor of loyalty!