

John E Robinson



Memorial Scholarship Fund September 2007

John Robinson was great at baseball, not so great at school. It is said that he “accidentally” finished high school - something he would not have accepted from his students years later. He went with a friend to Murray State Normal School “just for the ride” and stumbled into a baseball scholarship and four years of college.¹

He wanted to go to law school, and entered teaching to earn the money. He soon found that teaching was where he belonged, but as many of us can attest - he could certainly lay down the law.¹

John Robinson devoted 38 years to education. For 21 of those years, 1946-1967 - during the single largest expansion of McCracken County schools - as principal he charted the course of Lone Oak High School to gain national accreditation and recognition as one of the best high schools in the state. In doing so, he helped shape the lives of thousands of students.



John Robinson expected excellence and accepted nothing less; the many achievements of Lone Oak High School during his tenure exemplify that. He knew who his top students were and tasked them to their best. He also saw those who needed help and gave assistance and encouragement.

Recognizing the tremendous affect this one man had on their lives, in 2001 a few Lone Oak High School alumni sought a way to honor and remember his contribution. A campaign was begun to raise funds for a commemorative bronze bust and to rededicate the Lone Oak High School Gymnasium as John E Robinson Arena and the street in front of the school to John E Robinson Avenue.

In addition to this recognition, a larger memorial was sought; one that would continue his legacy of helping students; a \$100,000 endowment fund to provide scholarships for LOHS seniors.

What began in 2001 as an idea of a few Lone Oak High School alumni to honor a man who led a high school and its students to dream big has itself become a dream realized in 2007.

At the end of July 2007, the John E Robinson Scholarship Endowment Fund achieved a balance in excess of \$105,000.00 *after* all scholarships for 2007 were paid.

This balance does **not** include proceeds from the 4th annual John E Robinson Memorial Golf Tournament or the 5th annual Community Homecoming Breakfast, participation in which is expected to be better than last year.

Having already granted 19 scholarships in five years, the accomplishment of this dream is founded

upon dedication of the alumni, faculty and friends of Lone Oak High School.

Many thanks to all who have made this a great success. And Thank You; John Robinson.

Mr. Robinson would also expect us not to quit once the dream is realized. So it is, that as donations continue to arrive, and with the proceeds from the Golf Tournament and Community Breakfast, we plan to provide additional scholarships to deserving LOHS students while working to maintain the invested principle.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please mail to:

**John E Robinson Scholarship Fund
830 Lakeview Drive
Paducah, Ky 42003**

You may also e-mail the Scholarship Committee at JERS@LoneOakAlumni.Org



With the success of the John Robinson Scholarship Fund, many of these same alumni envisioned a wider effort that would span more than just the Robinson years, and expand efforts to support the school, staff, students and all alumni. In early 2006 the **Lone Oak High School Alumni Association** was formed.

Beginning with a few dozen members, the organization has expanded and is continually seeking ways to achieve our vision.

Join us at “LoneOakAlumni.Org” as we seek to build an alumni community and a source of communication for all alumni. Everyone is welcome at our monthly meetings to discuss plans, organization and opportunities to serve the school and connect with the pride we all have in Lone Oak.

We invite you to join the LOHS Alumni Association for a small lifetime membership fee of \$25. Please complete the membership application found on our website or simply come to one of our monthly meetings.

¹; Excerpts from Paducah Sun Democrat May 28, 1967.
Article by Bill Powell “Two of a Kind”

Six Lone Oak grads awarded scholarships

Six graduating seniors at Lone Oak High School were recently awarded \$1000 scholarships through the John E. Robinson Scholarship Endowment Fund.

The endowment fund, which was established in 2002 in memory of the former principal and coach at Lone Oak High School, reached \$108,614 in April of this year through donations from LOHS alumni and proceeds from annual golf tournaments and community breakfasts.

Since 2003, 19 scholarships have been awarded.

This year's recipients, their choice of college and field of study:

Chris Baker, University of Kentucky, secondary education; Kimberly Nicole Bradford, University of Louisville, medicine/dentistry; Tim Burnett, University of Ken-



Lone Oak: Six 2007 Lone Oak High School graduates were presented \$1,000 John E. Robinson Scholarships by committee members Buddy Rushing and Jim Mitchell.

tucky, medicine/nursing; Jesse Byrd, West Kentucky Community & Technical College, physical education; Alexia Beth Davis,

Murray State University, secondary education; and Hannah Walker, Murray State University, psychology/education.

Donations may be sent to 830 Lakeview Drive, Paducah, Ky 42003.

Transcribed from Paducah Sun, June 6, 2007 Home Front Section with permission.

Class of 2007, Welcome to the Alumni...

Principal Donna Wear and Staff presented diplomas to 173 graduating seniors at commencement ceremonies on May 19th. The Class of 2007 has quite a list of accomplishments with 21 AP Commonwealth Diplomas, 11 Valedictorians, 4 Salutatorians and 31 Honor Students, 2 National Merit Finalists, 1 National Merit Semi-Finalist and 1 perfect ACT score. **Good Job!!**



Seventy-Three Percent of the class of 2007 plans to continue their education attending Colleges, Universities and Technical Schools from Arizona to the East Coast and has earned over \$1.25 Million in scholarships to assist them.

Lone Oak High School Guidance Counselor Edd Roe sums it up; "*The Class of 2007 is a diverse and multi-talented group that will continue to make a positive contribution to society.*" We totally agree.

Welcome, Class of 2007, to the ranks of alumni; as your dreams lead you into new and greater places, don't forget the friends of the past years or the teachers that have worked hard for you or the pride you felt in past weeks. And we hope you will also make a positive contribution to the Alumni Association someday.