

**Our Fourth Meritorious Inductee in the Class of 2012 is:  
Joseph Lopasky**

Joe Lopasky was born on September 16, 1941 in Cleveland, Ohio to John and Anna Lopasky. His father was a professional boxer and worked in the mines. His mother was a housewife and worked in a dress factory. Joe was an athletic standout at Lake-Lehman High School, lettering four years in three sports, football, basketball and baseball. He also achieved the All-Scholastic award in several sports at Lake-Lehman. After an incredible high school career in which he scored 45 touchdowns in 16 games under Coach Edward Edwards, Joe continued his athletic success at the University of Houston, where he was recruited as a halfback by the legendary and Hall of Fame college coach, Bill Yeoman. Joe played both football and baseball in college. Joe's sophomore year was phenomenal. He scored three touchdowns in his first game against Baylor and had nine touchdowns during the regular season, in which the team earned a trip to the 1962 Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Florida. In that game Joe scored four touchdowns and was named MVP of the game. Coach Yeoman, originator of the Houston Veer offense from which the Wishbone attack evolved, told Sports Illustrated that Joe was one of the best runners he had seen inside the 20-yard line. Joe scored two more touchdowns in Houston's season opener the following year against Auburn, which gave him a total of 15 touchdowns in his first 13 varsity games. He also ranked among the top punt and kickoff returners in the country before being slowed by knee problems, which would eventually shorten his playing career. Joe went on to play semi-pro ball for the Scranton Miners in 1964 and was recruited by several NFL teams before his career ended with a knee injury.

After graduating from the University of Houston, he taught Physical Education and coached football, baseball and golf for the Alief Hastings High School. He met and married Shirley while working at the school district in 1975. He decided to take a position in the transportation department so that he could devote time to his newborn son Casey, who was born in 1979. His son Cody was born in 1988. Joe was proud of his boys who were on their high school state championship team and both went on to college. Joe eventually became Administrator of the Transportation Department until his retirement in 2007.

In 2008, Joe and Shirley moved to Willis, Texas where they built a new home . %The Lazy L Ranch+. Joe had a zest for life and enjoyed singing and playing his guitar and banjo. After retiring, his favorite past time was tending to his ranch and his cattle.

It was stated eloquently in his obituary that Joe Lopasky, of Willis, Texas, lost his courageous battle with cancer on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. He crossed the goal line for the last time as God recruited him for Heaven's football team.

We are joined today by his wife: Shirley, his son: Casey Joseph Lopasky and his son Cody Lawrence Lopasky and wife Jaime, (all from Texas)

Also in attendance today are his brother Richard and wife Bonny of Spring Hill Florida, and his sister Patricia Brooks and husband Ronald of Lehman.

Accepting on behalf of Joe, is his wife Shirley.