Howdy!

November conjures up several images, heavy coats and hot chocolate at football games, deer season, and all things associated with fall and the pending winter. Retailers have begun their commercialization of Christmas weeks prior to the most common image associated with the month, Thanks giving. Thanksgiving, originally a celebration of the Pilgrim’s survival and peaceful accord with their new neighbors, is many things to many folks. For some it is a time to share with family in reflections of gratitude for the many blessings received, for others it is a day of gluttony and football with little thought of anything else, for all it is the beginning of the holiday season.

However, there are other reasons to celebrate in November. Armistice day was celebrated on November 11 to mark the cessation of slaughter on the Western Front in the war to end all wars, more commonly known as World War I. I can think of few events more worthy of celebration. It is still celebrated in America as Veteran’s Day, a day to honor all who have served in the US military to preserve the freedoms originally sought by the Pilgrims many years prior.

Another day in November that should be cause for great celebration, is unfortunately taken for granted by many, and dismissed outright by others. It is the Tuesday following the first Monday of the month. The day our founding fathers designated as Election Day. Nothing more exemplifies the freedoms we enjoy as Americans than the day we get to exercise our right to vote and select our leaders at all levels of government. This right, which has been and continues to be paid for with the blood and sacrifices of those honored on Veteran’s Day, is like all rights Americans enjoy. It comes with responsibilities that many simply fail to accept. Democratic elections represent the pinnacle of freedom. The architects of America understood this, they also knew that this system of government would survive only as long as educated, informed and morally just citizens accepted their civic responsibility and exercised their right to vote.

In an era where many fail to accept any responsibility, whether it is personal or civic, I know our country would be in much better shape if more Americans learned, accepted and upheld the core values that are taught and expected of all who attend a little College on the Brazos, a College named Texas A&M.

Gig ’em
J. Clay Deatherage ‘84
# 2015 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

**November, 2015**
- November 4 - Regular Club Meeting
- November 19 - Board of Directors Meeting
- November 19 - Aggie Happy Hour

**December, 2015**
- December 2 - Regular Club Meeting
- December 17 - Board of Directors Meeting
- December 17 - Aggie Happy Hour

**January, 2016**
- January 6 - Regular Club Meeting (Elections)
- January 21 - Board of Directors Meeting
- January 21 - Aggie Happy Hour

# 2015 Fightin’ Aggie Football Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
<td>38 - 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Ball State</td>
<td>56 - 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>44 - 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>28 - 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>Mississippi St.</td>
<td>30 - 17</td>
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<td>Oct 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>23 - 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>3 - 23</td>
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<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Western Carolina</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Vanderbilt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Aggie Football Watch Parties

**Longbranch Saloon**
3525 North 6th Street, Abilene TX 79603

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**FM 707 Self-Storage**
- Paul Graham '43
- 1 Mile West of US 83-84 on FM 707
- Rental Office
- 2041 S. Treadaway • (325) 676-5886
- www.fm707storage.com

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**ROBERT G. OGDEE, M.D. '84**

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY
BOARD CERTIFIED

1680 Antilley Road
Abilene, TX 79606
Tel: 325-428-4966
Fax: 325-428-4967

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**WEST COMPANY of Abilene**

Riley Griffith, RPLS
MANAGER

2401 S. Willis, Ste. 110
Abilene, Texas 79605
Email: rg@west-west.com
(325) 437-8110
Fax (325) 437-8110

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**BUG BLASTERS PEST CONTROL**

Termite Roaches Ants Crickets Fleas Pests Bugs

673-1717
TPCL 10547
ANDREW TURNBULL, '84
P.O. Box 7608
Cere, TPCL 32672-PT
Abilene, Texas 79608-7608
RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL
Introducing our November Speakers

Mr. Anthony Groves ‘68

Anthony W. “Tony” Groves is a retired former student of Texas A&M, class of ’68. He served 30 years in the United States Air Force prior taking positions for 14 years on the Texas A&M University staff as an Assistant Commandant of the Corps of Cadets and Special Projects Administer in the Office of Student Life. He is the current mayor of the city of Brady Texas.

Tony grew up in a military family. They lived in Brady, Brownwood, Bryan, Victoria, Universal City and College Station, Texas. They also lived abroad in Bitburg, Germany; Montgomery, Alabama; and Decatur, Georgia.

He was commissioned through the A&M Corps of Cadets / AFROTC program and entered the Air Force in 1969. As a navigator and a pilot, he is a veteran of the conflicts in Viet Nam and Desert Storm. His non-flying assignments included tours as an analyst in the Pentagon, Vice Commander of the Warrior Preparation Center (computer war gaming center in Europe), and in senior positions at Headquarters USAF in Europe and the Air Force Operational Test & Evaluation Center. His final Air Force assignment was as Professor of Aerospace Studies at Texas A&M.

Tony is married to the former Janis Holder of Little Rock, Arkansas. They have lived in Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, and Germany. Their daughter, Holly, resides in Brady and their son, Adam, (a T-38 instructor pilot at Sheppard AFB, Tx) has provided three of the most fantastic grandchildren imaginable.

He earned Bachelor of Science Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Texas A&M in 1969 and a Master of Science Degree in Operation Research, Air Force Institute of Technology School of Engineering, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio in 1981.

Welcome to Abilene Tony
Introducing our November Speakers

Mr. James Stewart ‘92

James is a native of Virginia but graduated from Allen High School in Allen, Texas. He graduated from TAMU in 1992 with a BBA. He worked in hotel management in Houston and then as a wine distributor in the Bryan/ College Station area before moving to his wife's hometown of Brady in 1997.

He and his wife, Holly, ‘92, run her family business, The Brady Standard-Herald, a weekly newspaper which has been in her family since 1928. James is only the fourth editor in the 106-year history of the newspaper following in the footsteps of her father, the late Larry B. Smith, Class of ‘63 and grandfather, L.B. Smith.

James and Holly have two high school aged children, Brynn, a senior cheerleader and state distance runner at Brady H.S. and Sam, a freshman who is on the golf team and plays snare drum in the band.

James has served Brady as mayor, a position held by Rudder when he lived in Brady after the war, and a city councilman.

James has a unique connection with Earl Rudder through his wife's family. When Earl Rudder first moved to Brady, he lived with her grandparents, the late L.B. and Vivian Smith. At the time, L.B. was the sports editor for the newspaper and Rudder had been hired as a football coach for Brady High School so the two soon became close friends. They maintained that relationship for the rest of their lives. Rudder courted his wife, Margaret, while living with the Smiths. Vivian and Margaret Rudder ~ or "Chick" as Vivian called her, corresponded for many years via telephone and letters and maintained their close friendship until late in life for both ladies.

Welcome to Abilene James
To Honor A Hero

June 6, 1944. D-Day, the first day of what many consider to be the greatest military operation in history, the day that Allied forces stormed a beach in Normandy France, the day that marked the beginning of restored freedom in Western Europe.

No one involved had a good job that day, and an Aggie from Eden, Texas who dug ditches to help finance his College education had one of the worst. Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder ’32 epitomized the Aggie devotion to honor, duty and commitment when he lead a small force of Army Rangers against the most heavily defended section of the beach and scaled 50’ rock walls under withering enemy fire to take a critical position. Although wounded twice while leading a unit that suffered over a 50% casualty rate, Rudder and his Rangers persevered.

Rudder ended his military career with the Rank of Maj. Gen. and returned to private life. Like most members of “The Greatest Generation”, Rudder quietly transformed from soldier to community leader, plying his talents as a football coach, newspaper editor and small town mayor.

But in 1959, he and his leadership skills were recalled to the Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas as president, a job that would require the same dedication and tenacity he displayed in 1944. Rudder’s vision for the future and his ability to implement that vision may be the most significant factors in A&M’s ascension to its current position as a modern, world class university today.

Many of his changes were unpopular to say the least and, he did not endear himself to many former students. But, we must ask, “Where would A&M be today if it was still an all male college with mandatory participation in the Corps of Cadets”?

Unfortunately, Rudder did not live to see the end result of his “radical policies” that were certain to destroy A&M. Hopefully though, we can emulate Gen. Rudder’s commitment to the future as we honor our Aggie heritage along with a visionary and a sterling example of A Good Aggie.
Did You Know

The Dixie Chicken opened June 15, 1974. Founded by local businessmen Don Anz and Don Ganter. Anz had rented a pool hall, the Aggie Den, directly across the street from the Texas A&M University campus. The two businessmen invested about $7,000 to convert the pool hall into a bar. The two renamed the facility the Dixie Chicken, taken from the album of the same name by band Little Feat. The decor was inspired by the cover of a Jerry Jeff Walker album, and featured swinging doors at the entrance, sturdy wooden tables - over time covered in patron's carvings - pool tables, dominoes, and signs on the walls.

It soon became a favored hangout of Texas A&M students and aspiring singers Robert Earl Keen and Lyle Lovett. The two often brought their guitars to the bar and played impromptu concerts on the back porch. In the beginning, they were often kicked out of the bar, but as their playing improved, the owners allowed them to stay and play.

The bar was also the inspiration for the unofficial Texas A&M Tradition of "ring dunking". In the late 1970s a student dropped his brand-new Aggie Ring in a pitcher of beer. He was challenged by a friend to drink the pitcher to retrieve the ring. This spread to become a widespread practice among Texas A&M seniors. Due to changes in Texas laws, by 2005 instead of pitchers, students are only allowed to buy 32 ounce mugs of beer on Ring Day at the Dixie Chicken. Ring Dunking elsewhere, however, remains unregulated.

Roxanne Schoen

GOOD BULL

It Rained!!!!!!!!!!!

Got any Good Bull? Send it to us!
Abilene A&M Club Silver Taps

Holly Nash Spencer ‘82
Mr. Raymond A McDaniel, Jr. ‘55
Mr. Robert Adams ‘75
Mr. James Harold Hughes ‘52

Prayers and Concerns

Steffi Overton, widow of Wallar Overton ‘61 is currently battling breast cancer.

Please keep these Aggies and their families in your prayers.

Memorial Contributions

There are many ways to honor departed family members and friends. Should you select a memorial contribution that embodies the Aggie Spirit as a method to celebrate the life of a loved one, the Abilene A&M Club will consider it an honor to help ensure your wishes are met.

Local Club options include the Senior Ring & Boot Fund, the Freshman Scholarship Fund and the Class of ’43 White Belt Scholarship Fund. If your preference is one of the numerous organizations on campus or an affiliate of the Aggie network, please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.
MAIL NEWSLETTER TO
- Home
- Work

NAME (Please print)

Spouse's Full Name (if Aggie)

Spouse's Class

HOME Address

City & State

ZIP

Home Phone

Home Fax

Co

Home E-mail

WORK Address

City & State

ZIP

Work Phone

Cell

Work E-mail

Annual Dues:

- $35/yr Individual
- $35/yr Aggie couple

I want to help with:

- Scholarship Selections
- Muster
- French Fry Booth
- Golf Tournament
- Board of Directors

Optional Reveille Donations:

(above & beyond dues)

- $25
- $50
- $100

Golden Reveille Donations:

- $250
- $500

I wish to be acknowledged:

- in the Newsletter $75.00/yr
- on Aggie Football Radio $400.00/yr
- at the Golf Tournament

Total Paid: $________

Statement of Purpose: Primary functions of the Abilene A&M Club are serving as the focus of all organized alumni activity in the Abilene area, and providing scholarship funds for deserving area students who are attending Texas A&M. The Club currently offers scholarships funded by your Membership Dues, Reveille Donations, Newsletter Sponsorships, the Aggie French Fry Booth at the West Texas Fair, A&M Football on radio and the annual Golf Tournament. Donations may also be made directly to the Abilene Community Foundation Texas A&M University Scholarship Fund (tax-deductible) which is a perpetual fund using only the income generated for scholarships.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!