I’m proud to be a Texan! As I’ve watched the devastation caused by Harvey, trying to empathize with the victims, I realized that there is no way I can truly understand what they are enduring. Yet, I can feel an enormous sense of pride in the character and resilience they display. Unlike some of the victims of other massive, natural disasters in recent history, those who have been devastated by Harvey’s destruction are not sitting around having a pity party and feeling sorry for themselves. They are not seeking television cameras to make political statements by whining about the government obviously not caring about them because it hasn’t waved its magic wand and made everything instantly okay. Nor, are they featured on national news broadcasts rioting, looting and further victimizing their neighbors. Instead, they are facing reality, working together to help each other and expressing gratitude for the assistance they have received. In short, they are being Texans and displaying true Texas character, and that Ags, should be a great source of pride for all of us.

Some are under the false impression that Texans are arrogant. We all know this is incorrect, Texans are confident and independent. They honor their heritage and strive to uphold the legacy of those that settled a harsh and unforgiving wilderness, won their independence by defeating one of the most powerful armies in the world and established a new, sovereign nation. As a result, Texans have developed certain characteristics that many simply cannot understand, such as; self reliance, the natural tendency to face adversity head on and win and the subconscious instinct to help their neighbors. Normally, they’re a friendly lot to boot.

Regrettably, time has a way of slowly eroding the cultural elements that define us and form the foundation of who we are. Luckily, as Texas was evolving, the Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas was established and its first students fully understood what made Texas unique. Large portions of the State were still unsettled, their parents and grandparents were the ones that faced the hardships to win independence and tame the frontier. The early faculty and students knew what made Texas uniquely special and ensured those traits were incorporated into the culture of their newly founded college. Aggies have diligently followed the example set by those who preceded them and ensured the culture remained the core of their values. So you see Ags, I’m not arrogant, I’m just proud to be a Texan and proud to have attended that little college on the Brazos, the one named Texas A&M.

Gig ‘em,
J. Clay Deatherage ‘84
2017 Abilene A&M Club Calendar

SEPTEMBER

3rd - Beat the Hell Outta UCLA
5th - Admissions Workshop
6th - Monthly Club Meeting
7th-16th - Aggie Fry Booth
14th - Happy HOUR @ the Fry Booth
21st - Board of Directors Meeting

OCTOBER

4th - Monthly Club Meeting
12th - Happy HOUR @ the Fry Booth
19th - Board of Directors Meeting

Aggie Football Ads Are Still Available

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RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL
Counselors’ Meeting with College Admissions Reps
September 5, 2017

Joe Allen’s Corral Room
301 S 11th St, Abilene, TX 79602

9:30 - 10:00 am  Check in and welcome
10:00 - 11:30 am  University of Texas presentation
11:30-12:30 pm  Lunch provided by Abilene A&M Club
12:30 – 2:00 pm  Texas A&M University presentation
3:00 - 3:30 pm  Discussion for anyone wishing to remain

Texas A&M
will be doing a separate meeting for interested parents and students.

5:30 to 6:00 pm  Registration – order food
6:00 to 9:00 pm  Presentation (8th grade and older)
Robert Gates

Former Secretary of Defense and President of Texas A&M University Robert Gates will speak in Abilene Tuesday September 26, benefiting Global Samaritan Resources. A theme lecture, “A Passion for Leadership and Global Good,” will be held in the Abilene Convention Center main auditorium at 7:30 PM. Sponsors will share dinner and enjoy a meet/greet and photo with Dr. Gates at 6:00 PM, prior to the theme lecture.

Robert Gates served as the 22nd secretary of defense (2006-2011) and is the only secretary of defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in that office by a newly elected President. President Barack Obama is the eighth president Gates has served. He previously served under President George W. Bush. On Gates’ last day in office, President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America’s highest civilian honor.

Before becoming secretary of defense in 2006, Gates was the president of Texas A&M University, the nation’s seventh largest university. Prior to assuming the Texas A&M presidency on August 1, 2002, he served as interim dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M from 1999 to 2001.

Gates joined the Central Intelligence Agency in 1966 and spent nearly 27 years as an intelligence professional. During that period, he spent nearly nine years at the National Security Council, the White House, serving four presidents of both political parties. Gates served as director of Central Intelligence from 1991 until 1993. He is the only career officer in CIA’s history to rise from entry-level employee to director. He served as deputy director of Central Intelligence from 1986 until 1989 and as assistant to the President and deputy national security adviser at the White House from January 20, 1989 until November 6, 1991, for President George H.W. Bush.

Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, has three times received the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, and has three times received CIA’s highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal. In April, 2016, he became the inaugural recipient of the Zbigniew Brzezinski Annual Prize, in recognition of his distinguished record of promoting the importance of geostrategic thinking with a transcending moral purpose.
COLLEGE STATION—Dave South, the legendary voice of Texas A&M athletics since 1985, has decided to make the 2017 Aggie football season and the 2017-18 men’s basketball season his final year behind the microphone calling the radio play-by-play for Learfield’s Texas A&M Ventures. The following is a statement from Dave South:

“After discussions that started last August with Texas A&M Ventures and my wife Leanne, I have decided that the 2017 Texas A&M football season and the 2017-18 men’s basketball season will be my last with both teams. I will continue doing play-by-play for the Aggie baseball team on a year-by-year basis.

“I read recently ‘God assigns certain jobs for certain times. While it’s important to respond obediently, it’s also vital we understand when an assignment is finished. Diligence and job completion honor the Lord, but refusal to change and refusal to let go can hinder His plan.’ (Journey, June 15, 2017, page 23)

“The 2017-18 season will mark my 47th year in collegiate broadcasting, and I just celebrated my 72nd birthday. There will be many people to thank as we make our way through this coming year. I will start with coach Jackie Sherrill and the late Ralph Carpenter, who extended the offer to be the voice of the Aggies prior to the 1985 season. My association with Texas A&M University and its athletics department has truly been a blessing. The friendships made and the joy of broadcasting Aggie games have made my years here unforgettable.

“I’m also honored to have worked with every entity that has held the broadcast rights to Texas A&M athletics. For those of you who have been around for a long time, you will understand this statement: I am the last of the Southwest Conference Exxon announcers still active in sports broadcasting. To the coaches, athletes, staff and athletic directors, our experiences together over these many years have created a lifetime of wonderful memories. If memories were memorabilia, there wouldn’t be enough room to hold my collection. To the Aggies and radio listeners who have been so gracious and kind for these many years, thank you for your words, texts, emails, and letters. I am humbled by your thoughtful generosity. Knowing God has a plan for every day of our lives, Leanne and I look forward to the future.”

“For most Aggie fans, Dave South is simply the Voice of Aggie Athletics,” Texas A&M Director of Athletics Scott Woodward said. “To us in the athletics department, he is much more than the radio play-by-play man. He is a part of our Aggie team and an outstanding Aggie ambassador. We appreciate all that he has done for Aggie athletics and wish he and Leanne all the best.”

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Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW--- the Aggie Fry Booth at the West Texas Fair started in 1952? The Abilene A&M club was looking for a way to make some money for scholarships. The suggestion was made that they get some propane fryers (we know them as fish fryers) and sell fried potatoes. The first "booth" was a wooden structure that was erected each year on the dirt where the Ag Extension office now stands. The process was pretty simple. The potatoes were washed by dunking them in a pan of water, cut and then dropped in one of the fryers. They were served piled high in paper boats with no toppings or seasonings. The first few years made enough money to offer scholarships to 1 or 2 students.

When the fair built the permanent food booths the A&M Club occupied only the south half of the booth we have today. With the entire booth and better equipment we are now able to cook several hundred pounds of potatoes in just a few hours. This also requires more help, unlike those first fairs that could be done with 3 or 4 people each day. Today, 10 to 15 are needed all day, every day to make things run smoothly.

The time, hard work, and "secret recipe" has paid off for the students of the Big Country. Over the last 65 years the Abilene A&M club has raised in excess of $500,000 in scholarship money. The fall of 2017 will see 10 freshmen, 10 sophomores and 4 White Belt scholarship recipients from the Abilene area at Texas A&M. Come join the fun, you’ll leave hot, tired, greasy and feeling great because you helped a young person realize their dream of becoming an Aggie, WHOOP!!

Roxanne Schoen ‘74
**Prayers and Concerns**

Please pray for our fellow Texans that have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey and those who are involved in the response and recovery. Whether one is a victim or a responder, each needs to feel the assurance of God’s presence.

**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.

**Ags We Need Your Help!**

Abilene radio station KLGD FM has broadcast the Fightin’ Aggie Football games for several years. The owner of the station is extremely civic minded and strives to give back to the community. Each year, he donates 25% of the sponsor fee for radio ads back to our Club’s scholarship program. This year, the station is finding it difficult to sell Aggie Football ad packages. If you don’t have an ad and are in a position to help, it would be greatly appreciated.
Coach's Night

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Golden Reveille Donations:

[ ] $250  [ ] $500

I wish to be acknowledged:

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[ ] on Aggie Football Radio $400.00/yr
[ ] at Coach's Night

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!