“Softly Call the Muster ...”— Aggie Muster 2018
Saturday, April 21st
5:00 pm—Social Hour
6:00 pm—BBQ Dinner

Washington County Fairgrounds
Events Center
1305 East Blue Bell Road
Brenham, Texas 77833

Speaker: Ryan Swope ‘13
Cost: $15 per person
RSVP by April 16th
washingtonaggieclub@gmail.com
James Kelly ‘52

James Burton Kelly was born in Ft. Worth, Texas, on July 1, 1931, to parents Franklin F. and Vera Burton Kelly. He died on March 7, 2018, at home on his ranch in Brenham, Texas, at the age of 86, after a brief illness. During his lifetime, Jim distinguished himself as a successful business leader and rancher, devoted father and husband, world traveler, critical thinker, and devoted Texas Aggie.

In 1948, Jim had completed high school in Sinton, Texas, with one thing on his mind: to become a Texas Aggie.

At A&M, Jim studied insurance, business, and military science, which prepared him well for success in his professional career. He embraced the disciplined life of the Corps of Cadets, and four years later he’d march one last time, for Final Review. The camaraderie of his Class of 1952 remained solid throughout his life. Earning his B.B.A. in 1952, Jim was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant and became a weapons instructor at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

After two years, Jim was released from active duty in 1954 as a 1st Lieutenant, and he then enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Jim then began his career in the insurance industry and married his first wife, Blanch Page Wilson. They raised their children, Rebecca and James B. Kelly, Jr., in Houston. Jim continued his education at Princeton University, completing their Leadership Program in 1967 and the Executive Program in 1968 at the College of Insurance of New York.

Professionally, Jim was an executive for Ranger Insurance Group, Aviation Office of America, Aviation Insurance Group, and James B. Kelly & Co., Inc. He was an underwriting member of Lloyd’s of London.

At home, Jim was at events anywhere his children were, always interested and active in their lives as a priority. As a family, they attended countless Aggie sporting events over the years. Both Rebecca and James, Jr. willingly followed Jim’s educational path, and both received their degrees from Texas A&M. Jim then proceeded to recruit countless more future Aggies to attend Aggieland with unparalleled enthusiasm and encouragement.

Jim found early career success in insurance, winning countless awards and distinctions for sales over the years. Ultimately, he’d start his own agency and expand his activities into the banking industry. Jim developed office buildings in Houston while growing ranching operations in Washington County, Texas. In Houston, he was a member of the Downtown Houston Rotary Club and the Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

In precious spare time, Jim was an accomplished, award-winning game hunter, which meant numerous adventures traveling across Africa, Australia, Europe, Mexico, and South America accompanied by his wife Linda. He was a member of Safari Club International. Jim’s philanthropy matched his passion for hunting, as he was Chairman of the Rotary Texas Steering Committee of the “Hunters for the Hungry” program.

Above all career accomplishments, Jim Kelly loved—and was always devoted to—Texas A&M. He readily credited the Corps of Cadets for the basis of success in his life.

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, the James B. Kelly ‘52 Reviewing Stand was dedicated on September 21, 2001. This historic reviewing stand was made possible by private donation from Aggies. Jim, who served for five years as Chair of the Corps of Cadets Development Council, provided the lead gift of $100,000 and then encouraged 12 of his classmates to join him.

Through Jim’s efforts, $300,000 was raised and the reviewing stand was completed in time for the 125th Anniversary of the Corps, on September 28, 2001. This reviewing stand provides room for an official reviewing party as well as seating for spectators. This one gift, of so many of Jim’s gifts to Texas A&M, is considered today one that helped shape the landscape and footprint of Texas A&M.

(continued next page)
James Kelly ‘52 (continued)

On this stand, the commemorative plaque reads: “From this drill field to the Battle of San Juan Hill, the Trenches of Europe, the Pacific Beaches and Normandy, The Mountains of Korea, The Jungles of Vietnam, the Arabian Desert and Beyond...Came the Foundation of America’s Officer Corps of Citizen Soldiers and Professionals in Time of Utmost Need. ... The Sons And Daughters of Texas A&M.”

The Gen. O. R. Simpson Main Drill Field is important to every Aggie, but it meant something extra special to Jim, who initiated the effort to have the Simpson Drill Field declared a Texas Historical Site. His case was strong and approved.

Aggies helping Aggies is a way of life for Texas A&M former students. Still, Jim Kelly shone even more brightly as a guiding light and signature spirit of philanthropy across campus. A multiple scholarship donor, Jim was an Endowed Diamond Century Club Member to the Association of Former Students. He honored his days as a Cadet as a Sul Ross Scholarship donor.

This group is comprised of former students whose volunteer mission is to strengthen and further the Corps as a vital part of Texas A&M’s history and future. Jim chaired the committee that raised funds for what is now the Corps Recruiting Endowment, ensuring that the Corps of Cadets will forever be a part of Texas A&M’s future. Jim was inducted into the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor on October 1, 2005.

Aggie athletics events of all varieties would find Jim Kelly and his wife, Linda Goodson Kelly, front and center at all football, basketball, softball, and baseball games, especially in the past 25 years. Jim made his presence known at every home game through 2016. One of the most loyal (and audible) Aggies you would find across multiple sports, Jim served on the Board of Directors for the 12th Man Foundation and was also a 12th Man Endowed Scholarship Donor.

As class agent for the Class of ’52, Jim kept tabs on all his classmates for many years while keeping them informed of current events at Aggieland. He also threw an annual barbeque on his ranch in Brenham for “100 of his closest friends,” mostly Aggies (or future Aggies).

Jim enjoyed studying genealogy and loved exploring Ireland in his frequent travels there, researching his roots. Jim never grew tired of learning; he was driven by passion for life, love of family, and permanent devotion to providing for the future of Texas A&M.

Ron Stork ‘91


A great father and family man, he loved hunting, fishing, riding the 4-wheeler with his grandchildren, watching Texas Aggies and Dallas Cowboys football games, woodworking, taking trips with his family and going to the lake on Good Friday.
Steven Haley ‘78

Steven Calens Haley – an accomplished attorney, avid Texas historian, and beloved actor – died unexpectedly on Friday, February 2. He was 62. Steve was known for his commanding personality, insatiable curiosity, and love for his family. He lived to explore life through his work, his art, and his passion for long journeys throughout Texas and the world.

Steve knew how to make an entrance. He was tall, boisterous and opinionated, and loved and respected by all who knew him. Whether on stage, in the courtroom, or simply seated around the dinner table, his command of a room made him magnetic. A natural-born storyteller, he drew in listeners with his expansive knowledge, quick wit, and distinctive Texas drawl.

Steve was born in Houston to William H. Haley Jr. and Cherilyn Smith Haley, on September 22, 1955. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School, and continued on to Texas A&M University, where he graduated with honors in the of class of 1978. He was a proud member of the Fighting Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets, Squadron 1, and a member of the prestigious Ross Volunteers. His son, Marshall, was also a member of the Corps of Cadets.

After graduating from A&M, Steve returned to Houston for law school, where he graduated with honors from the University of Houston School of Law in 1981. He was an editor of the University of Houston Law Review, and a member of the Phi Delta Phi Honors Society, as well as the Order of the Barons. While working at the Department of Agriculture, where he began his career as General Counsel, he met Celia Baker, the love of his life, and the mother of his two children, Marshall and Callie Haley. Steve and Celia were married for 34 years.

Celia and Steve moved to Brenham, Texas where Steve continued his career at Moorman, Tate, Haley, Upchurch & Yates L.L.P. As Haley grew in his career, he received peer awards and state-wide recognition for his writing, leadership, and contributions to the law. He was a recognized legal authority on Texas Homestead Law. He was also recognized in 2004, 2007-2016 on the Texas Super Lawyers list for general litigation and real estate law, and selected by his peers to be included in The Best Lawyers in America from 2008-2016. In addition, he received the award for best speaker at the Texas State Bar’s Advanced Real Estate Law Course in 2010. In July 2017, he received the Weatherbie Workhorse Award, which is given annually by the State Bar Advanced Real Estate Law Course. He was most proud of his children’s decisions to follow his footsteps into the study and practice of law.

Steve also pursued another passion: the theater. In describing his love of the law and the stage, he always said there is a fine line between acting and advocacy. Both are public-facing, performative, and require an incredible amount of preparation and self-awareness. Steve was equally at ease in the courtroom and on the stage. Whether dressed for a role in a production of Birth of the Republic at Washington-on-the-Brazos or suited for the courtroom in a dark navy suit, he never shied away from the spotlight.

Along with acting and the law, Haley’s particular passion for Texas history inspired his many hobbies and seemed fitting for a man of such bold independence and wildness of spirit. Committed to uncovering the mysteries of his homeland, writing and researching its lore, he adopted the manners not only of Sam Houston but of the fictional Sherlock Holmes, two outspoken characters whose spirits he truly admired.

Steve always woke before dawn. His morning routines set the pace of the life he lived: with strong conviction and fully prepared to handle what came his way. He took seriously the words of Sam Houston: “Do right, and risk the consequences.” (continued next page)
Steven Haley ‘78 (continued)

New days were taken as opportunities for new projects, new journeys, lunches with old friends at Santa Fe Cafe, drives out to West Texas for hunting trips with family, fishing on the Coast with his Corps brothers, pre-breakfasts and horseshoes at Grayton Beach, and singing the Twelve Days of Christmas at the annual Wackman Christmas Party. He took pleasure in creating a spontaneous experience. If you were lucky to be along for the ride, he’d take you places you’d never expect to go.

A memorial bench will be placed on the Quad at Texas A&M University where Steve loved watching the Fighting Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets march in behind the band at every home game.

Allison Moherek ‘14

Allison "Ali" Faith Moherek graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelors in Business Administration in 2014. She had a spirit so bright, so full of color, she had the spirit of an Aggie. Her colorful soul couldn’t be complete without her sisters at Zeta Tau Alpha. Being a socialite and having that unique laugh that could be heard across the room, her heart and soul touched the lives all around her.

From her childhood friends in Corpus Christi, to her Aggie family in College Station, to her career in Houston and Dallas, she was loved everywhere in every city. She shined a light so bright on everyone that people always wanted to be by her side, laughing and enjoying life with her kind heart.

If you knew Ali, you would know her companion Jack, an Aussie mix dog, was always by her side. From every social event to every road trip, you could always spot Jack with Ali. Her career path and passion led her to real estate in Dallas.

Ali’s light will always be apart of her family, friends, and loved ones. Her spirit in Aggieland will continue to burn a bright light and shine upon others.
Elwood Kettler ‘55
By David Barron, Houston Chronicle

On the day Texas A&M’s football team arrived for Paul Bryant’s first training camp at Junction in the hot, dry summer of 1954, senior quarterback Elwood Kettler and the seven players with whom he shared a room began a card game, with the winner to be decided at the end of camp.

By the third day of workouts, Kettler was the only one left.

For being one of the handful who endured 10 days in the Texas Hill Country more than 60 years ago, and for accomplishments since then as a longtime high school and college football coach, Kettler was remembered this week, upon his death at age 85, as a leader among the team that became known as the “Junction Boys” and as a respected figure in Texas football history.

“He was as tough as a boot,” said Mickey Herskowitz, the longtime Houston sportswriter who covered the 1954 A&M training camp. “There was no question he wouldn’t quit. He ended up being a good coach, and there was a lot of coach Bryant in him.”

Born in Brenham, Kettler was a four-sport letterman at Brenham High School and played two seasons at A&M before Bryant was hired for the 1954 season. Bryant took the team to an A&M adjunct campus in Junction at the height of a Hill Country drought, and two-thirds of the players quit and left camp after days of Bryant’s daylong workouts.

“Elwood said he hated going to bed because he knew he would have to get up before dawn and put on his football pads, and they would still be wet with sweat from the day before,” Herskowitz said.

The Aggies were 1-9 in 1954, Kettler’s senior season, with the only win coming 6-0 as Kettler threw a touchdown pass to beat Georgia, but teammate Dennis Goehring said he helped set the tone for A&M’s Southwest Conference championship team in 1956.

“Elwood endured that first year, but coach Bryant set the base for a winning team, and Elwood was part of that,” Goehring said. “He was a top-notch person.”

Kettler coached high school teams in Nederland, Texas City and Angleton and college teams at Alabama, where he was an assistant to Bryant, Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Mississippi State and Sam Houston State.

He was among more than a dozen Junction Boys who gathered at Junction in 2014 for a 60-year reunion and continued to marvel at the attention paid to him and his teammates.

"I went to Oklahoma State as a coach, and we had real tough, hard practices there, too," he said. "One of the players asked me, 'How come they didn't make a movie about us?' and I said, 'You didn't have Paul Bryant as your coach.'"

Family members said Kettler suffered a stroke last year and had been in ill health since then. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Trinity, where he and his wife, Katy, lived for many years and founded the annual Harvest Dinner community event. He was honored by the Texas Bowl as a Gridiron Legend in 2015.
Carol Zwahr ‘90

Carol Jean Kleiber Zwahr died on Wednesday, July 5, 2017, at Brenham Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Carol was born on January 5, 1951, in Houston, Texas, to Edward “Doc” and Ruby Rauch Kleiber and was baptized into the Catholic faith which she so loved that same year on January 21 at Annunciation Catholic Church in Houston. After moving to LaGrange, she attended Sacred Heart Catholic School and Church where she received the sacraments of First Holy Communion in 1958 and Confirmation in 1960. She graduated from LaGrange High School in 1969, Blinn College in 1971, and years later as a proud Aggie from Texas A&M University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in elementary education. She then taught in the Brenham Independent School District until her retirement due to health concerns.

On June 24, 1972, Carol married the love of her life, Larry Zwahr, and they made their home in Brenham where they raised their three children. Their love was truly ordained by God, and they were an inspiration to all who knew them. She loved her family with all her might. She enjoyed teaching, reading, singing, and most importantly, the Lord God, as evidenced by the faith and grace she exuded, especially as she stayed faithfully by Larry’s side as they both struggled with cancer and as he died from this world to be with our heavenly Father in 2002. Her love of God, strength of character, and humility of heart proved time and again a blessing to all who knew her.

Sally Rost ‘04

Sally Rost, 56, of Brenham, passed away on March 13, 2018, surrounded by her family.

Sally was born on May 24, 1961, to parents Chuck and Betty (DeBerg) Rost of Brenham. She attended school in Brenham, and later received a Bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M. Sally was employed as a fourth grade teacher in Somerville. She loved her work and was very dedicated to her students. The only thing more important to Sally than her students were her sons, Todd and Chase, and their families. Sally loved being “MeMe” to grandchildren Hayden and Cade. Sally was unbeatable at games of “Words with Friends”, and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and teaching them her skills. Sally was the Houston Astros #1 fan; she wore a Houston Astros shirt nearly every chance she could. Sally faithfully watched Astros games and was overjoyed to see them win the World Series. Sally was a member of Brenham’s First Baptist Church. Sally’s laughter was contagious, and everyone remembered her smile.

Do you have a departed Aggie to add to this year’s Roll Call? Please e-mail us or speak to the registration desk on April 21st.

washingtonaggieclub@gmail.com
 Originally from Austin, Ryan came to Texas A&M University in 2009 where he received an athletic scholarship to play football for the Aggies. Ryan earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture Sciences with a minor in Sports Management. During his time at A&M, Ryan had many memorable moments including being a part of history by moving into the Southeastern Conference and beating number-one-ranked Alabama, as well as defeating Oklahoma in the 2012 Cotton Bowl.

In addition to his team’s accomplishments, Ryan etched his name in the history books, where he holds career and season records for both receiving yards and receptions at Texas A&M. Ryan was named to the Big XII Academic Honor Roll three different years, and once to the SEC Academic Honor Roll. In 2012, during his senior year, Ryan was voted by his teammates to serve as team captain. After completing his collegiate career, Ryan was drafted in the 6th round of the 2013 NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals.

In 2016, three years after graduating from Texas A&M University, Ryan moved back to College Station and joined Walsh & Mangan Real Estate Group. He is focused on serving clients through all aspects of buying and selling land, residential properties, small and large ranches, hunting properties and recreational tracts.

Ryan’s wife Melissa, who graduated in 2012 with an agricultural communications and journalism degree, operates the local branch of Austin-based business Card My Yard. The company decorates yards with signs celebrating birthdays and graduations or advertising open houses.

Ryan has an unsurpassed passion for the great outdoors. You can usually find him hunting, fishing, golfing or merely just being outdoors. He also enjoys being a member of the Bryan Rotary Club and serving on a committee for the Texas Wildlife Association.
The Brenham Children’s Chorus will host and perform with the A&M Century Singers on

Sunday, April 8th at 7 pm
W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center
600 Blinn Blvd, Brenham, Texas 77833
Tickets: $25 each

For Tickets: 979-277-3897 or TinyURL.com/ConcertApril8 and at the door