

Final Resting Place

Nobleton Jones, a Veterans of Foreign Wars volunteer, hands over the shells used in a three-volley salute at a funeral last week at the Houston National Cemetery. (Photo/Michael Stravato/New York Times)

Nov. 1

Secretary Jackson Retiring; Won't Be Replaced in Cabinet

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

The longtime Cabinet secretary of human resources and administrator of the Oklahoma Office of Personnel Management will soon retire, it was announced by the office of Gov. Mary Fallin.

Secretary Oscar B. Jackson Jr., who had served in both positions since 1991 (which means he held Cabinet rank during the administrations of several Democratic and Republican governors), will retire effective Nov. 1, the announcement said.

Secretary of Finance & Revenue Preston Doerflinger is expected before Nov. 1 to announce Mr. Jackson's replacement as director of the state Office



Oscar B. Jackson Jr.
Secretary of Human Resources
of Personnel Management.

The governor's office announced that Mr. Jackson will not

be replaced as a member of her Cabinet.

There had been some discussion about whether Secretary Jackson would continue to serve on the Cabinet after a consolidation of his department with another department was announced.

That consolidation took effect on Aug. 26, and, at about that time, Secretary Jackson confirmed with the *Black Chronicle* that he would, indeed, remain on the Cabinet.

The only other Black serving in the Fallin Cabinet is Secretary of Safety & Security Michael C. Thompson.

Apparently, after Nov. 1, Secretary Thompson would become the only Black in Gov. Fallin's Cabinet.

Gov. David Walters established a tradition of having two Blacks serving in the Cabinet, and that tradition was continued by Gov. Frank Keating.

Gov. Brad Henry broke that trend, and had only one Black in his Cabinet, and Gov. Fallin reestablished the tradition when she announced her Cabinet in January.

That will change on Nov. 1. Secretary Jackson was initially appointed to the positions by Gov. Walters (a Democrat), and was subsequently reappointed by Govs. Keating (a Republican) and Henry (a Democrat).

Gov. Fallin (a Republican) reappointed the veteran Cabinet member when she took office in January.

During Secretary Jackson's 40 years of working in state government, he served stints with the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

"No one has been a better representative for Oklahoma's public employees over the years than Oscar Jackson," Gov. Fallin

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Legislator To Serve On Committees Shumate Gets Nod From the Speaker

By ROBERT E. BARNES
Special to the Chronicle

TULSA—A Tulsa legislator has been appointed to serve on several committees of a national organization.

State Rep. Jabar Shumate (Dem., Tulsa) was appointed by the speaker of the State House of Representatives to serve on education, human services and welfare, and the law and criminal justice standing committees of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Speaker Kris Steele (Rep., Shawnee) made the appointment.

State Rep. Scott Inman (Dem., Del City), the minority leader of the State House, said the appointments are ones that will take advantage of State Rep.



State Rep. Jabar Shumate

Shumate's talents and interests.

"This recognizes him for his efforts in the realm of social justice issues," he said, "and in the area of education reform."

The national group is a bipartisan organization founded to improve the quality of state legislatures, and to promote policy innovation and communication among them.

NFL Hall of Famer Dead After Stroke

Lee Roy Selmon, His Brothers, Reigned Supreme as Sooners

By ROBERT E. BARNES
Special to the Chronicle

TAMPA, Fla.—Lee Roy Selmon, the hall of fame defensive end who teamed with his brothers at the University of Oklahoma to create a dominant defensive front that helped lead the Sooners to consecutive national championships, died Sunday, two days after being hospitalized for a stroke.

He was 56.

A statement released on behalf of his wife, Claybra Selmon, said the former Sooner star died at a Tampa hospital surrounded by family members.

"For all his accomplishments on and off the field, to us Lee Roy was the rock of our family," the statement said. "This has been a sudden and shocking event and we are devastated by this unexpected loss."

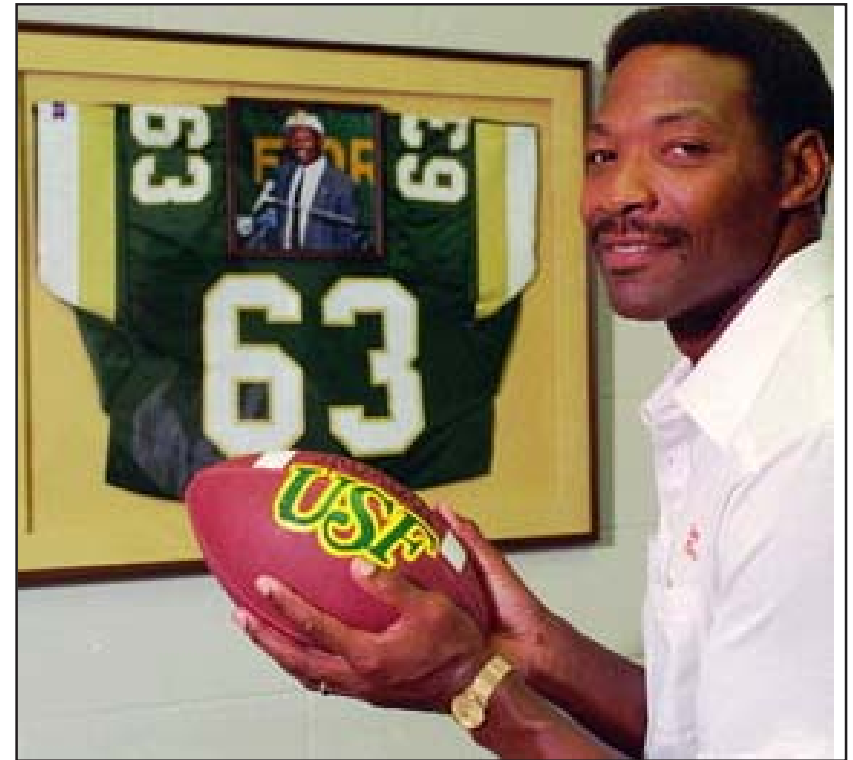
Mr. Selmon was hospitalized Friday, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers confirmed later that he had a stroke.

"No Sooner player cast a longer shadow over its rich tradition than Lee Roy," former University of Oklahoma Coach Barry Switzer said in a statement.

"Beyond his many and great accomplishments, I believe the true legacy of Lee Roy Selmon lies within the kind of man he was," the famed football coach continued.

"Lee Roy possessed a combination of grace, humility and dignity that is rare. His engaging smile and gentleness left you feeling blessed to be in his presence," Coach Switzer went on.

"Best of all, he was all genuine," Coach Switzer said. "One



Lee Roy Selmon, the National Football League Hall of Famer, who, with his brothers, dominated the sport while attending the University of Oklahoma, died on Sunday.

would be blessed to have a father, son, uncle, brother or friend like Lee Roy Selmon."

In nine seasons with the Buccaneers, Mr. Selmon had 78½ sacks and earned six consecutive Pro Bowl selections.

He retired after the 1984 season.

"The guy just worked as hard as you could ever work and was just a great guy," said former Tampa Bay teammate Bill Kollar, now the Houston Texans' assistant head coach and defensive line coach.

"Never got mad, was just always great to everybody and it's hard to imagine that you could end up being a better person than Lee Roy was," Mr. Kollar stated.

"Really, the guy was just a phenomenal person. It's obviously really a sad day. The guy was a great player and even a better

person.

"It's just a shame that this happened to him."

The Glazer family, which owns the team, released a statement mourning him.

"Tampa Bay has lost another giant," the statement said. "This is an incredibly somber day for Buccaneer fans, Sooner fans and all football fans."

"Lee Roy's standing as the first Buc in the hall of fame surely distinguished him, but his stature off the field as the consummate gentleman put him in another stratosphere," the statement said.

Lee Roy Selmon and his brother, Dewey Selmon, were both chosen as All-Americans in 1975 when the Sooners won their second straight championship un-

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Pilot Program Aims To Reduce Disease

73111 Zip Code Residents Sought as Participants

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

A pilot program launched recently by the Oklahoma County Department of Health seeks to reduce cardiovascular disease.

The My Heart, My Health, My Family Program will offer services for those at high risk of heart disease who live in the 73111 Zip Code area (northeast Oklahoma City).

About 200 is the number of persons the department anticipates providing clinical care and other services.

"Oklahoma's rate of cardiovascular disease stands well above the national average," a statement released by the department said.

In some parts of the county, heart disease is taking an extraordinary toll, the statement continued.

"In the 73111 Zip Code area," the statement added, "deaths from heart disease amount to an annual mortality rate



A heart disease prevention program has been launched by the Oklahoma County Department of Health and targets participants living in the 73111 Zip Code area.

of 437 per 100,000." "This project could make a real difference in the lives of those who become involved," Robert Jamison, deputy director of the health department, said.

Weight, blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar screen-

ings for participants will be of-

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