



JOE LESTER
Sheriff

DATE: Monday, September 29, 2014

SUBJ: **PRESS RELEASE by Sheriff Joe Lester**

Sheriff Lester honored by high school association

Sheriff Joe Lester has been recognized as a "Great Graduate" by his alma mater.

The Broken Arrow High School Alumni Association honored Lester at a ceremony Sept. 26 in Broken Arrow. Lester graduated from Broken Arrow High School in 1963.

He was one of five graduates inducted in the high school hall of fame.

"The recipients are individuals who exhibit through a variety of activities a purposeful drive that helps them remain dedicated to service with their community and compassionate towards others," according to the association.

Lester's law enforcement career began in 1965 as a commissioned officer in the United States Army military police. In 1969, he completed his tour of duty and joined the Tulsa Police Department.

He served as a Tulsa police officer for 22 years, retiring in 1991 at the rank of lieutenant. Lester arrived in Cleveland County that year to serve as police chief/director of public safety for the University of Oklahoma. He retired from OUPD in 2003.

Lester earned a bachelor's degree from Northeastern State University in 1973. He received a master's degree from Oklahoma City University in 1975.

Through the years, Lester has continued extensive education and professional training in law enforcement. He graduated from the National Crime Prevention Institution in 1981, FBI National Academy in 1994 and the Secret Service Dignitary Protection School in 1995.

Lester was elected Cleveland County sheriff in 2008, and re-elected to a second term in 2012.

He said he was honored with last week's recognition.

"Anytime that you're recognized for your achievement past and present, it's an honor," Lester said.

Any questions regarding this press release and/or information can be addressed to Meghan McCormick, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, community liaison/public information officer. McCormick can be reached at (405) 701-8847.