

Mustang Memorial Plaza



Friends and family of E. Gary Van Horn attended dedication ceremony for Mustang Memorial Plaza.



Relatives of halfback John Bell gather in front of memorial plaque.

Photos by Chris Leschinsky

Mustang Memorial Plaza at Alex G. Spanos Stadium was formally dedicated September 29, 2006, with over 400 people in attendance, including survivors, friends and family members of those who lost their lives.

Cal Poly's 1960 football team was honorably inducted into the Cal Poly Athletics Hall of Fame later that evening at Chumash Auditorium.

Richard Equinoa, retired director of career services at Cal Poly, read the names of the 53 members of the team who were inducted. As many as 46 of the inductees were represented at the induction dinner.

Gil Stork, a survivor of the Oct. 29, 1960, plane crash at Toledo, Ohio, that took the lives of 18 team members, served as Master of Ceremonies. Representing the 1960 football team at the podium were survivors Carl Bowser and Ted Tollner.

The unity and depth of brotherhood shared by the 1960 players made the group an ideal selection for Cal Poly's unprecedented selection of an entire team for Hall of Fame honors, according to Alison Cone, Cal Poly's director of athletics.

Eighteen of the original 25 survivors of the tragic plane crash are still alive, and most were present for the remembrance ceremonies, as well as a number of family members.

"This dedication is one of the most significant moments in Cal Poly's

history, as well as for me personally," said Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker. "The new Mustang Memorial Plaza is Cal Poly's tribute to the 1960 team. With this plaza we will preserve forever the memory of the 18 who perished in the tragic crash, so that their hopes and dreams live on."

A flock of doves was released during the dedication ceremony and PolyPhonics performed two songs. President Baker presided over the unveiling of the granite plaques placed on 18 copper pillars representing each of the 18 team members -- 16 players, a Mustang booster and the team manager -- who lost their lives in the crash.

The 15,000-square-foot Mustang Memorial Plaza is rich in symbolism. It is anchored by a striking bronze sculpture of a mustang created by Roy Harris -- aptly titled "Unbridled Spirit" -- which stands at the center of a 'team huddle' created by a circle of 18 pillars faced in copper, a metal that grows more beautiful with time. Each of the 18 pillars stands at the same height as that of its honoree. Soft beams of light glow from the tops of the pillars, permanent beacons that serve to guide those who wish to honor the memory of the team.

Each pillar displays a granite plaque engraved with the 1961 yearbook photo of the honored individual, statistics for that player, and personal information. As one family member wrote in tribute to its lost loved one, "Always loved. Never forgotten."



Survivors of the 1960 Cal Poly plane crash include Ted Tollner (left), who spoke at the Hall of Fame dinner; Al Marinai (center), who helped initiate the plaza project; and Gil Stork (right), Master of Ceremonies for both the plaza dedication and Hall of Fame dinner.



2009 Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 12	^SACRAMENTO STATE	4:05 p.m.
Sept. 19	at Ohio	4 p.m.
Sept. 26	at San Jose State	5 p.m.
Oct. 3	SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	6:05 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Montana	12:05 p.m.
Oct. 17	*#SOUTHERN UTAH	6:05 p.m.
Oct. 24	DIXIE STATE	6:05 p.m.
Oct. 31	*at North Dakota	2 p.m.
Nov. 7	*at UC Davis	1 p.m.
Nov. 14	*SOUTH DAKOTA	6:05 p.m.
Nov. 21	at Weber State	11:05 a.m.

^Hall of Fame Game

#Homecoming Game

*Great West Conference Game

All Times Pacific

All games broadcast on ESPN Radio 1280

**Great
West**

Photograph by: Tim Olson