

Williamson known for service, named 'Citizen of the Year'

By **KAREN LA PIERRE**

Teddy Williamson's entire life has revolved around service, and for her contributions to Hoisington, she was named "Citizen of the Year."

"My nursing career was very important to me. Ever since I was a tiny girl, I knew I was going to help people," Williamson said.

She was surprised and pleased to be nominated for this award. "It feels pretty good," she said "I help people. That is why we are put on this earth. It makes me feel better when I do something for others." Williamson believes she could do more. "I never feel I do as much as I should do," she said.

The community feels differently and Williamson was nominated because of her outstanding history of volunteering for community, the nomination reads.

"Whether it was mentoring a young nurse she was supervising, volunteering or bringing a stranger home to share a holiday meal, she continues to serve by visiting people who are confined to their homes, hospital or a nursing facility.

"Teddy Williamson is also very active in her church and started the Hoisington Community Garden."

She has served on many boards including the Kansas State Nurses Association, Barton County Health Department, Golden Belt Chapter of the American Red Cross and GPS after-school program. She served as a nurse at the Red Cross shelter during the Hoisington flood, the nomination reads.

She was director of nursing at Clara Barton Hospital during the Hoisington tornado. She made sure that all of the patients were cared for, in spite of losing her own home.

Williamson grew up in Antler, Okla. and the surrounding area. Her father was a farmer until he had a stroke when Teddy was nine years old. He died when she was 12 years old, and her mother worked odd jobs to support Williamson and her younger sisters.

She was working in Oklahoma City at a drug store when one



TEDDY WILLIAMSON

day she took a walk and happened by an Army recruiter's office.

"Before I knew it, he recruited me," Williamson said.

She spent three years in the Women's Army Corp, as the women's branch of the Army was known at that time. From 1958-61, she worked as a nurse in the service. Among other places, she was stationed in Frankfurt, West Germany during the building of the Berlin Wall.

She never went to Berlin, and the one regret she

has about that time was not doing more traveling.

It was during her Army years that she met her husband, Clayton. They married in 1960.

After they were each discharged from the service, they lived in Scott City for a short time, but settled in Hoisington in 1965. Clayton grew up in Hoisington, and the couple celebrates 50 years here.

Williamson enjoys her family and that her children turned out as well as they have. She has four daughters: Jettie Zoller of Hoisington who stays busy volunteering, Laura Barnard of Hoisington who is the youth director at her church, has a business with her husband, and works at Essex, Karla Weeks of California who is a director of surgery, and Rita Secrest of Oklahoma who is a retired IRS state attorney.

One of the volunteer activities Williamson is most proud of is after Hurricane Katrina. She went twice for a week or two at a time and was amazed at the cooperation, the walls between people that came down, and tenacity of the human spirit.

"It's really remarkable how well they came through, Williamson said. "It's because everyone

was helping everyone.

"I kind of felt that after the Hoisington tornado, it was my way of giving back to all the people who helped us here," Williamson said. She went to the south with church groups and said it was church groups who helped them rebuild.

Her faith in God remains an important part of her life. What Williamson once saw

as obstacles were really opportunities, she said.

"I look back and see how God has guided my path," she said. "God has put opportunities in my life." Although Williamson has been facing health struggles recently, she sees the blessing of growing older.

"Overall, I've become more content with life and happier," she said. "I appreciate what we have."

Good Habits Start Early



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USD 431 to hold annual foundation golf tourney

By **KAREN LA PIERRE**

The Hoisington USD 431 Education Foundation will hold its 7th annual come and go golf tournament at Lake Barton golf course from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 3.

There is no preregistration, and the cost is \$20 per golfer. Green fees and golf carts are not included in the four person scramble.

There are four divisions: alumni class, which is the same as the Hoisington High School graduating class; alumni; alumni women; and open. Shirts will be awarded to the winners of each division.

There will also be raffles available.

"We're hoping to have our largest turnout this year," said Bill Lowry, USD 431 superintendent.

There have been more teams expressing interest this, he said. Plus, there are some class rivalries going on that have made for a good tournament.



"The class of '85 and '61 has battled pretty hard back and forth," Lowry said. "We're hoping to get a few more classes involved in the class competition and have a couple of more

open teams in there too."

The money goes to the foundation for scholarships for HHS seniors. All students who have a 3.5 GPA automatically qualify.

In addition, HHS will have its kickoff football game of the season at 7 p.m. Sept 2 against Kinsley. All HHS alumni class reunions are invited, free of charge. They will be recognized at half-time during the game.

Class reunions organized so far are 1956, 1961, 1963, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2001 and 2006.

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