

James Parkhurst

James graduated from West Columbia High School in 1958. While in high school Jim earned 13 varsity letters in 5 different sports. A 4-year letterman in football, James was selected as –All-District and All-County halfback. James was a member of the 1957 Roughneck football team that made it to the UIL 2A state semifinals. A 4-year letterman in track, James advanced to the UIL 2A state finals and placed 2nd in the 100 yard dash and 3rd in the broad jump. In tennis, James advanced to the UIL 2A state finals in Doubles, with his partner Butch McMurrey, and placed 2nd. James also lettered in baseball and basketball.

After graduation, James attended the University of Houston on a track scholarship. While at U of H, James lettered all four years and the team won the Missouri Valley Conference all four years. James was very successful and won medals at numerous major NCAA track meets. While running at a meet hosted by the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Jim finished 2nd in the 100 yard dash. He finished 2nd to the LSU great Billy Cannon.

James graduated from U of H in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and began a successful business career.

James, and his wife of over 30 years, Phyllis, reside in Newport Beach, California. Together Jim and Phyllis have three daughters, seven grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

James would like to add – Almost never is sufficient credit given to our coaches, teachers, and school leadership during those formative years. They had a profound influence on me for which I will forever be grateful. The expression “it takes a village to raise a child” is right on based on the memorable experiences that occurred in the mid to late 1950’s in west Columbia, Dancinger, and Brazoria! We were the best!