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UA11/2 Ken Fleenor Day

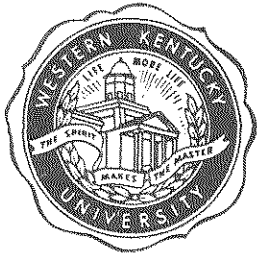
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News from Western WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2S0473/DA:bmg

KEN FLEENOR DAY PLANNED FOR EX-POW ON SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Government officials and community leaders of Bowling Green and Warren County are making plans to hold a special day of recognition Sunday, Apr. 15, for Col. Kenneth R. Fleenor, who spent more than five years as a prisoner of war.

Fleenor, 43, was shot down over North Vietnam Dec. 17, 1967, while flying a combat mission as a pilot of a F-4D Phantom jet.

He was subsequently captured and interned in North Vietnam as a POW until his release on Mar. 14. He was taken to an Air Force hospital at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to recuperate, and was released to go home to Hampton, Va., Mar. 30 where his wife, Anne, and their five children live.

Fleenor's father, Nelson, and two brothers, Francis and Robert, live in Bowling Green. The 21-year veteran of two combat tours in Southeast Asia is a graduate of College High and Western Kentucky University.

The ceremony will be held in the outdoor theater of the Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts at Western at 3 p.m. (CST), followed by a reception honoring Fleenor and his family.

Fleenor's wife is the former Anne Read of Scottsville, Ky., where her mother, Mrs. Jimmy Hollinger, still resides.

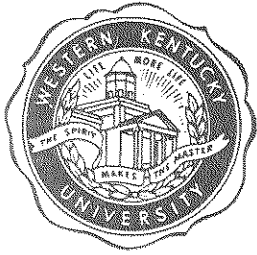
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Alumni/POW

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Office of Public Relations

Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101



News from Western

WESTERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY

April 5, 1973

NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY

Ken Fleenor Day, in honor of the Air Force Colonel from Bowling Green who has been a Prisoner of War of North Vietnam for the past five years, will be held Sunday, April 15 in the outdoor theater of the Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts at Western Kentucky University at 3 p.m. (CST).

Members of the news media are asked to submit the name of their representative who may be covering this event to Mr. Ed Given, Office of Public Relations as soon as possible so that floor passes may be issued only to authorized media personnel.

A reception honoring Fleenor and his family will be held immediately following the program.

Government officials and community leaders of Bowling Green and Warren County are making plans for this special day of recognition for the native of Bowling Green and his family. Fleenor's father, Nelson, and two brothers, Francis and Robert, live in Bowling Green. The 21-year veteran of two combat tours in Southeast Asia is a graduate of College High and Western Kentucky University.

Fleenor's wife is the former Anne Read of Scottsville, Ky.

Members of the Public Relations Office will be present Apr. 15 to assist members of the press covering this event.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Conway".

Sheila Conway
Staff Assistant, News

Alumni/POW

SC:bmj

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News from Western

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
05LSP0473/DA:bmg

KEN FLEENOR DAY COMMITTEES NAMED

Bowling Green, Ky. -- When Bowling Green and Warren County welcome former POW Col. Kenneth R. Fleenor home on Sunday, April 15, many people will have contributed their time, effort or money to make the project a success.

Bowling Green City Commissioner Jim Shanahan, a co-chairman with Commissioner Bernie Steen for Ken Fleenor Day, listed these committees for the project:

Steering committee -- Mayor Spiro Keriakes and County Judge Basil Griffin; Dr. Dero G. Downing, president of Western; Bob Proctor, president of the Western Kentucky University alumni association; Dr. Paul B. Cook, assistant to Western's president; Carroll Hildreth, president of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, plus Shanahan and Steen. Mrs. Karen Curtis is secretary and Vernon Holder is treasurer.

Program arrangements -- Lee Robertson, chairman; Mrs. Alice Reneau, Mrs. Beverly Wells, Mrs. Mary Jo Cook, and Proctor.

Publicity and printing -- Don Armstrong and members of the Western Office of Public Relations; scrapbook -- Mrs. Irene Love; special signs -- Ernie Garner; banners -- Owen Lawson Jr.

Music and ushers -- Dr. Cook and Maj. Billy Brooks; physical arrangements -- Owen Lawson; reception arrangements -- Dee Gibson Jr.; presentations -- Larry Graham, chairman, Marshall Love and Bernie Steen.

College High contacts -- Love, Holder, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Reneau, Mrs. Wells, Lazarus, David Cooksey and Eddie Diddle Jr.; Western contacts -- Proctor and Robertson; civic organizations -- David Wiseman and Charles Moore Jr.; religious organizations -- Bill Strickland.

Security and transportation -- Capt. Jerry Hills, Lawson, and Maj. Brooks.

"We know there will be many others who will give much to the overall success of Ken Fleenor Day," Shanahan said, "and while it would be impossible to thank everybody in advance, we do need the support of all who are interested."

Alumni/POW

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News from Western Western KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
6/17/73/RM:bm

CLASSMATES RECALL COLLEGE HIGH DAYS WITH COL. KEN FLEENOR

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Former POW Col. Kenneth Fleenor may be surprised to find his high school alma mater no longer in existence, but with the help of numerous College High classmates in the area, the Training School will live again when friends gather to honor Col. Fleenor Sunday, April 15.

Col. Fleenor will be making his first visit to Bowling Green and the Western campus since June, 1967 -- three years before the phasing out of College High -- says his brother Francis of Bowling Green.

A 1947 graduate of College High, Col. Fleenor is remembered by classmates and teachers as "an easy-going person" . . . "a good student" . . . "a hearty milk-drinker" . . . "an avid poker player" . . . and "a keen competitor."

Perhaps Col. Fleenor is best remembered for his athletic talents as a member of his high school basketball and baseball teams where he was a forward and a left-handed first baseman.

Oddly enough, his basketball coach during his senior year, Dero G. Downing, is now president of Western.

Joining the faculty at College High just after the basketball season in 1946, Downing recalls that Col. Fleenor was a member of Coach Ed Diddle's and Coach Ted Hornback's team that won 15 consecutive games with only one loss during the season until the quarterfinals of the state tournament.

Downing says it was mid-season of Col. Fleenor's senior year that "Ken broke his nose during a game."

"Where many would have been reluctant to play ball with an injury," Downing adds, "he was so determined to play, he wore a leather face mask for protection, much like a goalie in hockey wears today. He didn't miss a game the whole season," Downing says.

"He's the type that would take something like that in stride," agrees his brother Francis.

Looking back, his brother remembers that math was probably the favorite subject of Ken the student.

According to Bowling Green photographer Marshall Love, Col. Fleenor "always rated high in conduct" and avoided taking part in pranks that fellow classmates were often pulling off. "In those days," says Love, "we weren't really bad -- we just had a good time."

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News from Western

**WESTERN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
06L0473/DA:bmg

KEN FLEENOR COMMITTEE MEETS SUNDAY NIGHT

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Members of the planning and steering committees working on Ken Fleenor Day will meet at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the commission chambers of the Bowling Green City Hall.

Co-chairmen Bernie Steen and Jim Shanahan have requested that members of the committees make sure that they attend or are represented.

"We need to finalize a good many items of business Sunday night," Steen said. "We will need up-to-date reports from all of the committees, including a list of questions or problems our people are encountering."

The project will pay honor to U.S. Air Force Col. Kenneth R. Fleenor, a native of Bowling Green, who will return home Sunday, Apr. 15. The welcoming program is scheduled at 3 p.m. (CST) in the outdoor theater of the Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts.

Persons attending the program Apr. 15 are asked to park in the lot near the E. A. Diddle Arena or in the Parking Structure at Western, corner of Dogwood Drive and Russellville Road.

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WKU ... "CLASSMATES RECALL ... COL. KEN FLEENOR"/2

Former College High cheerleader Mrs. Alice Smith Reneau says although Col. Fleenor was on the quiet side, he was "always ready to have fun."

However, on one occasion, Love remembers Col. Fleenor was to be the victim of his friends' joke.

Two classmates, famous for wiring objects to an electrical current, had rigged a couch being used by Col. Fleenor and the former Jeanne Broadus in the senior play.

Discovering the specially-equipped sofa, Dr. Willson Wood, who then taught senior English, threatened to fail the practical jokers if power were supplied to the couch during the performance.

During lunch hour and after school, favorite hang-outs for the College High Cardinals were the Goal Post on campus, CDS #4 Drug Store and Holland's Drug Store downtown, says Love. Oftentimes, he says the weekends included hayrides and parties at Barren River near Richardsville.

But high school wasn't all fun and games for Col. Fleenor who frequently worked after school and Saturdays for his father who owns a Bowling Green plumbing firm. Other times he sold programs at Western's ball games for the late Robert Cochran, his brother says.

One summer Col. Fleenor and several friends set out by jeep for Kansas, planning to work in wheat fields during harvest time. Before returning to Bowling Green, the group had earned enough money to tour the western national parks, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Tijuana, Mexico. On that trip, recalls a friend, "there wasn't a Sunday that Ken missed going to church."

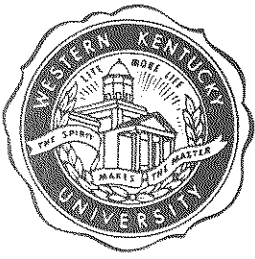
Jogging the memory of still other classmates, such incidents come to mind as:

"I remember cheering for him on the basketball floor."

"On the first date I had in Bowling Green, Ken was driving the car."

Or "We remained close -- even in college -- and always tried to stay in touch."

On April 15, reunion of sorts for College High alumni, the second in three years, will be held -- only this time, Ken Fleenor will be able to come and Bowling Green will be on hand to greet him.



News from Western

WESTERN
KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10SP0473/DG:bmg

WESTERNERS REMEMBER KEN FLEENOR AS A STUDENT

Bowling Green, Ky. -- "Jet training" seemed to be on the minds of a lot of young men during the decade of the fifties, and so it was for former POW Ken Fleenor, a 1951 graduate of Western, who is now an Air Force Colonel.

According to one of his former agriculture instructors at Western, Charles Keown, now the Dean of Student Affairs, Fleenor was one of six young men who wanted to take flying training in jet aircraft.

During his college days, the man who spent two tours in Vietnam and was a Prisoner of War of Hanoi for the past five years, was an agriculture major who dabbled in industrial education and was very active in the Air Force ROTC program which Western offered then to nearly 200 students, but which was discontinued shortly after the Korean War.

Preparing for his future, unknown to him then, Fleenor learned air navigation, aerodynamics, and leadership techniques as a Western ROTC cadet.

The zenith of his participation came in his senior year when he was selected as executive officer of Squadron A of "The Air Group."

Other Western faculty remember Fleenor best as the young cadet, "a conscientious student, who wore the uniform with military bearing and pride," says Fred Lane, a retired USAF Colonel who taught Fleenor his last two years at Western.

Along with his military interests he exhibited so well as an undergraduate at Western, Fleenor also worked actively in the Cherry Country Life Club, a campus group still in existence for agriculture majors.

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There was still another side of Fleenor the student some of his classmates may remember well. An example is one particular agriculture class he attended which was taught by the late Charles Taylor at Western.

As told by Millard Gipson of Western, another ag teacher of Fleenor, it seems he came early to class one day wearing a pair of horned rimmed glasses with a fake "Jimmy Durante nose" attached to them. Prompted by his fellow classmates, Fleenor said that he would keep them on during the entire lecture. Professor Taylor, as the story goes, was not an advocate of "foolishness," but began his lecture in spite of the stranger in the classroom. After several pauses in his lecture, Professor Taylor stopped to tell the class laughingly that he had finally recognized the masked student.

This was Fleenor at Western as just a few of those he worked with remember him:

"An excellent student," says his former ROTC instructor Lane who proved to be right.

The student who wanted to learn jet training went on to become a part of the Air Force team, was shot down over Hanoi in his F-4 Phantom jet Dec. 17, 1967, but not in spirit. Western welcomes him home Sunday, Apr. 15 at "Ken Fleenor Day" ceremonies in the outdoor amphitheater of the Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts at 3 p.m. (CST).



News from Western Kentucky University

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10PS0473/SC:bmg

WESTERN AND BOWLING GREEN WELCOME KEN FLEENOR HOME

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The city of Bowling Green salutes a leader this Sunday, April 15 when "Ken Fleenor Day" ceremonies on the Western campus welcome home the native Warren countian who has been a Prisoner of War in Hanoi for the past five years. The people of Bowling Green and surrounding counties are invited to the day of recognition ceremonies Sunday at 3 p.m. in the outdoor amphitheater of Western's new Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts. The 43-year old Air Force Colonel and his family will be honored during a brief program followed by a reception where friends may greet him. Fleenor was captured by the North Vietnamese December 17, 1967 while flying a combat mission as a pilot of an F-4D Phantom Jet. He is a 1951 graduate of Western Kentucky University. Bowling Green and Western take this opportunity to salute Colonel Ken Fleenor, and say with pride, "Welcome Home, Sir."

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News from Western

WESTERN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10/24/73/DA:bmg

KEN FLEENOR DAY PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Bowling Green, Ky. -- The program honoring Col. Kenneth R. Fleenor's return to Bowling Green will include patriotic and sacred music, as well as welcoming remarks by Mayor Spero Kereiakes, County Judge Basil Griffin and Western President Dero G. Downing.

It will take place Sunday, Apr. 15, at 3 p.m. in the outdoor theater of Western's Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts if weather permits. Co-chairmen Jim Shanahan and Bernie Steen, Bowling Green city commissioners, announced that the alternate site, in case of bad weather, will be the E. A. Diddle Arena.

A reception will follow the ceremony in either case, they said. Visitors are asked to park in the Diddle Arena lot or in the Western parking structure on the corner of Dogwood Drive and Russellville Road.

The program will open with musical selections immediately prior to the starting time, presented by the Western pep band and directed by Dr. Kent Campbell. Bob Proctor, president of the Western alumni association, will be master of ceremonies.

Western's concert choir, directed by Ohm Pauli, will present the invocation in the form of a choral interpretation of "The Lord's Prayer." The Western R.O.T.C. color guard will present the colors, the band will play the national anthem and Mrs. Beverly Wells, Girl Scout adult leader, will lead the pledge to the flag.

Dr. Kereiakes and Judge Griffin will extend welcoming remarks on behalf of the city and county. Proctor will introduce special guests, and Dr. Downing, who coached Fleenor at College High, will present his welcome on behalf of Western.

Special presentations will be made by a group of former classmates, Larry Graham, Marshall Love, Mrs. Alice Reneau, and Mrs. Mary Jo Cook. Mrs. Irene Love will also give Col. Fleenor a scrapbook being compiled by her for the Ken Fleenor Day committee.

Colonel Fleenor will then be given an opportunity to respond to the occasion. The Rev. Charles R. Bowling, retired pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church, will give the benediction and the program will be concluded by the band. The reception follows immediately.

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Ken Fleenor Day

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