**HOMER RICE**

**HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

Inaugural Class of 2015

Homer Rice was born in 1926 and graduated from Highlands in 1944. He served in the US Navy in WW II and obtained a Bachelor degree from Centre College in 1951. He graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Masters degree and from Columbia Pacific University with a Doctor of Philosophy degree. He worked as a football coach and college athletic administrator. Phyllis, his wife for 64 years and he have three daughters, Nancy, Phyllis, and Angela; seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. His wife Karen has seven children and thirteen grandchildren.

Coach Rice played football at Highlands from 1940 to 1943 as a quarterback and was named to the Courier Journal Allstate Football Team. He played basketball as a point guard and was named to the Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference All-Star team. He was on the track team as a sprinter.

Coach Rice played football at Centre College for four years as a quarterback and was named to the Colliers All American Team.

Coach Rice began his football coaching Career as head coach at three high schools in Tennessee and he became head coach at Highlands in 1954. His 1957 team was undefeated and was ranked number one in state. His 1960 and 1961 teams were undefeated State Champion. His record as a high school football coach is 101-9-7 and he was named Coach of the Year nine years.

He was an assistant football coach at Kentucky in 1962 and thereafter at Oklahoma and in 1967 he became the head coach at Cincinnati. In 1969, he became Athletic Director at North Carolina. In 1976, he became Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Rice and he then became Head Coach of the Cincinnati Bengals. He then returned to college athletics as Athletic Director at Georgia Tech for 17 years. There his teams won 14 ACC championships and a National Championships in Football in 1990. He developed the “Total Person Program” which is the model used by NCAA schools throughout the nation. The NCAA awards its “Homer Rice Award” in his honor. He is credited with creating football’s “Triple Option Play” and is author of the book “Leadership Fitness” six other books and over 125 articles on sports, leadership and fitness. The American Football Coaches Association Foundation awarded its 2014 “Spirit of Giving” award to Coach Rice for dedicating his life to college football. Coach Rice has been inducted into 15 Halls of Fame nationwide.