



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### REL Auditorium Dedicated to Henry Nelson Armstrong

Friends, former students and former co-workers of Henry Nelson Armstrong, former teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal of Robert E. Lee High School, gathered in the lobby of the Lee High School Auditorium recently to dedicate the building to the memory of Armstrong.

Armstrong retired in 1988 after serving at Lee since 1956, the last 25 years as principal of the school. When he died in 2005, the Auditorium was named in his honor. Since the Auditorium was torn down to expand the athletic facilities, the Auditorium will now bear his name.

Randal O'Brien, acting superintendent for Goose Creek CISD, welcomed guests and recognized special guests, such as Baytown Mayor Stephen DonCarlos; Al Richard, former GCCISD teacher and administrator, who had asked the Board of Trustees to allow the district to name another building for Armstrong; Barry Nettles, former assistant superintendent and John Adams, former Lee assistant principal. Scott Armstrong, son of Henry Armstrong and former Lee student, and wife Laura were in Baytown from Alabama to attend the ceremony.

Tara Bevers, Lee Student Council president and Catherine Young, vice president, led the pledges to the flags. Mary Hartman Brown, former Lee teacher, delighted the audience with her animated stories about Armstrong, her friend and former supervisor. Gary Herrington, former Lee head baseball coach, spoke about his friendship with Armstrong. Rosemary Calico-Hopson, theatre teacher at Lee, told the audience about the experience of being hired for her first job by Armstrong. Their reflections all had a common thread—that Henry Nelson Armstrong was well-respected and a friend to everyone.

"I never knew anyone who could not work with Henry Armstrong," said Brown.

DonCarlos read a Proclamation from the Mayor's Office, declaring December 12, 2014, Henry Nelson Armstrong Day in Baytown, Texas. Greg Lynd, Lee principal, officially dedicated the Auditorium and presented a replica of the plaque installed on the front of the building to Armstrong.

Armstrong thanked everyone for dedicating the Lee Auditorium to his father. He reflected on how it was to be a student in a school where his father was the principal.



(l to r) Randal O'Brien, GCCISD acting superintendent; Stephen DonCarlos, Baytown's mayor; Laura Armstrong, wife of Scott Armstrong; Scott Armstrong, son of Henry Armstrong; Greg Lynd, Robert E. Lee High School principal; Jenice Coffey, member of the GCCISD Board of Trustees; and Jimmy Smith, president of the GCCISD Board of Trustees, pose in front of the plaque in honor of Henry Nelson Armstrong in front of the Lee Auditorium. View photo gallery [here](#).

"To the students – I'm going to tell you that Henry Armstrong, my father, was my principal when I was here . . . when people would find out that my father was my principal in high school, they'd say, "That must have just been horrible," said Armstrong. "But it wasn't. They didn't understand my father. It was a wonderful experience. It was always good."

Armstrong also pointed out two newsworthy highlights of his father's career. One was the burning of the main building at Lee in 1987, the year before the principal retired. He said he had never seen his father work harder than during that time. The second was in 1976 when President Gerald Ford came to Lee. Scott Armstrong later saw Chevy Chase on the "Weekend News Report" on Saturday Night Live making fun of Gerald Ford, and he saw his father's picture on the wall behind him.

"He was very proud to be principal of Robert E. Lee High School. That was his dream job," said Armstrong. "But most of all, he loved working with the students. The students fed his soul and made him younger."

After the unveiling, guests were invited to attend the play, "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus," performed by Rosemary Calico-Hopson's students in the Henry Nelson Armstrong Auditorium.

Share This!



© Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District

Physical Address:  
Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
4544 Interstate 10 East  
Baytown, Texas 77521  
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:  
Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
P.O. Box 30  
Baytown, Texas 77522  
281.420.4800

[Statement of Non-Discrimination](#)

[Contact the Webmaster](#)

[Required Internet Postings](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Google Translate](#)