

The Starkville School District and the Starkville Foundation for Public Education honored two graduates of Starkville High School on Wednesday.

Dr. Harrell Josey, Class of 1942, and Dr. Allen Sills, Jr., Class of 1982, were inducted into the Hall of the Famous during a ceremony recognizing the achievements of current and former students at Starkville High School.

Dr. Josey enlisted with the United States Air Force while still a senior at Starkville High School, and soon after graduation he distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement as a B-24 bomber pilot during World War II, receiving the Air Force's highest honor, The Distinguished Flying Cross. After WW II, he began his college education at Mississippi State University, graduating in 1951 from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. He returned to Starkville and opened a large and small animal veterinary clinic, where he practiced for 50 years, retiring in 2001.

Dr. Harrell Josey accepts a plaque from recognizing his achievements as a young bomber pilot who defended his country during World War II, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and The Air Medal for his extraordinary efforts, and as a veterinarian, business owner and public servant who has invested his life in his country and his community.



Dr. Harrell Josey, seated, is surrounded by his family, including his children and grandchildren, during a celebration luncheon in his honor following the induction ceremony.



Dr. Sills received his undergraduate degree at Mississippi State University and graduated summa cum laude in biological engineering. He obtained his medical degree at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Sills continued his training by doing a surgical internship at Johns Hopkins followed by a neurosurgical residency. He also completed a two-year fellowship in brain tumors with both clinical and research responsibilities. This was under the director of an NIH funded research training fellowship for neurosurgeons and neuro-oncology.

In 1997 Dr. Sills joined the faculty as an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Tennessee Medical School in Memphis as an attending neurosurgeon. He has developed an extensive neurosurgical practice with emphasis on neuro-oncology, cerebral vascular disorders, and sports neurosurgery.