

Kastner Unveils New Mascots



“Thelma” and “Tink”

During the 25th Anniversary Celebration Activities Director, Cassondra Capshew unveiled Kastner’s Mascots for the Twenty-first Century. After a slideshow showcasing Kastner’s Mascots for the past 25 years, Mrs. Capshew introduced to the audience, “Thelma” and “Tink,” Kastner’s newest Thunderbird Mascots. Dressed in Cheerleading and Basketball Uniforms the mascots were introduced to their namesakes; Thelma and George W. “Tink” Kastner.

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds were chosen as the mascot of Kastner Intermediate School, in 1979, in honor of George W. Kastner’s years of service in the U.S. Army Air Corps and U.S. Airforce. Kastner Intermediate School has the unique distinction of being the only school in the United States with the permission to use the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds as their mascot.

George W. “Tink” Kastner



Mr. Kastner is a native son of Clovis, attended elementary schools in the Clovis area, graduated from the Clovis Union High School and received B.A. and M.A. degrees from CSU Fresno.

While a student at Clovis High School, he was active in student government and other student affairs serving as

Freshman Class President, Student Body President, Assistant Editor of the first high school Cavalcade Yearbook, President of Block “C.”

In addition, during his high school and college years, Mr. Kastner was a very successful athlete. While in high school, he earned varsity letters in track and football, was the Clovis High School 880 track record holder and was the Fresno County Half-Mile Champion in 1936 and 1937. At CSU Fresno he earned three varsity letters in track and was the Far Western Conference Champion Miler in 1939.

After graduation from college, Mr. Kastner entered the U.S. Army Air Force in 1941, graduated from pilot training in 1942 and flew 83 missions during World War II in the Mediterranean Theatre (a record at the time) in the P-51 Mustang. Before his discharge from active duty in 1945, he served as Base Commander of the first helicopter unit in the United States. Upon returning to Clovis, he became a history teacher and coached football and track at Clovis High School.

Mr. Kastner was recalled to active duty in 1951 during the Korean Conflict and, during this second term of service to his country, was graduated from the Command and General Staff Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, served at Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska in the Air Inspector’s Office and served as Security Education Officer for Strategic Air Command.

After his discharge from active duty in 1953, he became Group Commander 93, 72nd Reserve Wing for Central California and Southern Nevada, 1958-63. He retired from U.S.A.F. as a full Colonel in 1963. He also returned to Clovis High School where he served as Vice Principal, and in 1956, Principal. In 1961, Mr. Kastner became the first Assistant Superintendent of the Clovis Unified School District, and in 1976, until his retirement in June, 1979, served as Associate Superintendent. During these years, he also served as Clovis Alumni President, President of the North Sequoia League and of the North Yosemite League, Chairman of the Central Section C.I.F. Track Committee and Track Commissioner for 10 years.

He was inducted into the Clovis Hall of Fame and was proclaimed by the Clovis City Council as “The Ideal Man of Clovis”. Mr. George W. Kastner retired at the end of the 1978-1979 school term.