



*ABILENE HIGH SCHOOL
CHAMPION ATHLETES
FROM YESTERYEAR.*

“A” Association 2026 for 1950’s - 1960’s Lettermen

Gerald Cumby, Speaker April 19, 2026

Thanks for coming out and enjoying the memories/stories of yesteryear from the champions of sports trivia and possibly the truth. It is a joy to hear the same stories over and over again. You all (including me) have made up some disproportionate and dastardly mind-blowing stories about the experiences we faced when we were lined up against the biggest, meanest lineman in high school football, the best pitchers from other high schools in the “Big Country” territory of Texas, and the highest and longest jumpers in America. We overcame (to hear tell it) giants, fastest and best athletes in the other schools as we were to “do our best” to make our coaches, parents, and friends proud of our showing. And...although most of the time we did that and won, we still exaggerate those stories so much that no one can believe us now (even though most of them were “BASICALLY” true). People hearing the stories from we “Champions of All the West” think “Those are the biggest liars in Texas.” We have fun. Our precious spouses roll their eyes a lot...but they love us in spite of ourselves. What would we do without them? Incidentally, did I ask the question, “What would we do without them?” Love is a many “splintered” thing!

I want to take the time to thank Gerald Galbraith again for his gracious hospitality. We are losing our teammates pretty regularly now; but, Gerald keeps honoring those teammates, their spouses, and we who have not succumbed to the end of our journey by letting us gather in this beautiful home that is one of the nicest, quietest, and the surroundings

being most picturesque in all the world. Abilene, Texas has some great sunsets, mountains...and honorable people in all the world.

Let's pray before I begin my devotion.

Prayer: Gerald Cumby

Devotion:

From the beginning of my memory on planet earth, words were important to me. I used "Ma-ma, Da-da, ea..ea.. dink..dink. Normally, with those words I got my way. So, since people responded with those words, I realized communication was and is important.

I remember mom saying, "Gerald Cumby, don't you dare say any ugly words to your mama or your daddy." I did find out what the words "don't dare say" meant. No standing in the corner for the next 30 minutes, no time outs...it would mean, say it and you would feel it.

Dad was a very good communicator. I quickly learned...say an ugly word, you did not like the outcome. So, I learned in my early stage of life, use words wisely. I still haven't learned to hold my tongue on some things. It has got me in trouble many times.

Yes, communication is important for making our lives a much easier way to live (literally). In other words, on VALENTINES DAY saying "I LOVE YOU" TO THE RIGHT WOMAN IS IMPORTANT!

God loved to communicate with man. HE communicated with HIS first human creation. Adam and Eve had the joy of laughing and enjoying the conversations with their CREATOR! Then they sinned (disobeyed/rebelled)...and the conversation became a little different. The joy of conversation with GOD turned to a conversation of disappointment and eternal judgment placed on man. The choices man (Adam and Eve) made caused a "great gulf" fixed between them and God.

Communication was understood as being a very important part of our eternal existence. How we communicate our heart's desires is vital to our final destination for eternity.

Words are important in anyone's vocabulary. We sometimes take words for granted. We hear them used; we use them not knowing really how they originated. We have found out over the centuries, people communicate with different words to make a point...not just with different languages, but different dialects and Colloquialisms

Here are some colloquialisms we use in Texas (and other Southern States).

SOUTHERN SAYIN'S

All Y'all	Cattywampus	Warperjawed
DooDad	Doohickey	
Chief Cook and Bottle Washer	Fit as a Fiddle	
Fixin' to	Fit to be Tied	
Hankering	Hunkey Dorey	Lickety Split
Madder than an Old Wet Hen	No Count	
Okie Dokey Pittlin'	I Reckon	
He was all Riled Up	Scarce as Hen's Teeth	
Skedaddle	Snug as a Bug	
Tarred and Feathered	What in the Tarnation	
That Dog Won't Hunt	Thingamajig.	
"Uppity" and "Highfalutin"		
Til' the Cows Come Home	Go over Yonder	
That Whatchamacallit	Hill of beans	
Hold Your Horses	Well, I declare	
Heavens to Betsy	Well, I Swan	
Livin' in High Cotton		
The Porch Light's On, But No One's Home		
Pretty is and Pretty Does	Three Sheets to the Wind	
Preachin' to the Choir	It'll All Come Out in the Wash	
This Ain't My First Rodeo		

- **Most of you guys in here feel that the quarterback on a football field is an important position. Do you know why they call it “The Quarterback?”**
- **Quarterback=**The term "quarterback" originates from the early development of American football, where the player was positioned behind the center and halfway between the halfback and fullback, hence the name "quarterback."
 - **Halfback=**The term "halfback" is derived from the player's position in the backfield, which is halfway between the line of scrimmage and the fullback. This designation was used to specify the player's physical placement on the field relative to the line of scrimmage.
 - **Fullback=**The term "fullback" originated from the positional verticality in early football formations, such as the single wing and T. The fullback position was typically the furthest back in the backfield, and the name "fullback" reflects this position's role in blocking and receiving the ball.
 - **Scrimmage – origin,** skirmish or “Battle Line”; a term for a game between two people (fencing) or teams.
 - **Touchdown =** The term "touchdown" originated from 19th century rugby, where scoring required physically touching the ball to the ground beyond the goal line, a practice carried over into early American football.
The term combines "touch", referring to physically contacting the ground, and "down", indicating downward placement of the ball
 - **Tackle -** In the early days, football employed a “one-platoon” system, where players would play on both offense, defense, and special teams. They haven’t changed the offensive term “tackle” when we know that if the offensive tackle “tackles” the defensive man, this is not allowed (unless they can get by with it).
 - **Hut =** the *hut* of the quarterback's cadence ("hut 1, hut 2, hut 3...") almost certainly comes from military cadences for marching,
 - **Fan =** originally of baseball enthusiasts, probably a shortening of fanatic, fans (fanatics) of an amusement or sport, collectively
 - **Shortstop =** early days of baseball, the short stop was in between the outfield and infield. The balls were lighter and when the outfielder needed to throw to the catcher, the shortstop would be the “throw to” guy. Thus, the term “shortstop” was first used to describe his position. Now, the “shortstop” has moved to the infield, but the name has not changed.
 - **Steeple Chase =** Horse racing; **Track.** The term originated in England in the late 18th century when wealthy landowners would arrange races that required riders to chase each other around churches and over obstacles such as steeples and walls.

- **Puck = The first hockey pucks were made from frozen cow dung and wooden pucks.**

Other Origins of Sports Words that I have left for you to find (I can't do all the work for you)...smile.

- **Foul line and out of bounds (Why isn't it one or the other?)**
 - **Birdie, Eagle and Albatross...Bogie in golf. All words dealing with birds...why?**
 - **Dugout and Bull pen in baseball.**
 - **Umpire**
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Since words are so important...We certainly can find out if words are important in Scripture.

Proverbs 16:24 , Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Proverbs 15:1 , A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 21:23 , Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

Proverbs 15:4 , A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

James 1:26 , If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

Psalms 19:14, Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Proverbs 13:3 , Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Matthew 12:37, For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Psalms 119:105, Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Colossians 4:6 , Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Matthew 4:4 , But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

James 1:22 , But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Isn't it important that the Lord God knew how important words are as we communicate to our family, our friends, our work and businesses...and as we communicate with the Lord.

- **We sometimes need to speak outloud as we pray. You need to hear yourself. God hears you; but God loves to hear your voice...and heart. God knows what is on your heart before you say it.**
- **For our salvation, it is important to speak out...Romans 10:9, “If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”**
- **Isaiah 55:11, “So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”**

Four (4) things to remember about our words. Think of them as:

1. Practical and Proactive

(Actively working towards achieving goals). This is important for us to understand.

- **Ephesians 4:29**, Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- **Proverbs 12:18** , There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** , All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work

2. Positive

- Hebrews 13:6, “So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”
- **2 Corinthians 2:17**, “For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.”

3. Powerful

- **Proverbs 18:21**, “Death and life are in the **power** of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”
- **Hebrews 4:12** , “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

4. Precious and Eternal

- **Isaiah 40:8**, “**The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.**”
- **Matthew 12:36** , I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.

As men of our Abilene High School Athletics of Yesteryear...

INVEST IN YOUR SPEECH.

No matter how long we have left on planet earth, whether it be a few months or years...

INVEST IN SPEAKING WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE WORD OF GOD. Communicate with Words and Actions.

- **Use your words to enable and encourage. Enabling you and your family to speak truthfully and with grace. Encouraging your family and others to be Grateful, Thankful, and Faithful.**
- **Read your Bible daily, you don't have to give up your manhood to read your Bible and invest in the goodness of a God who loves you.**
- **LEAVE A LEGACY FOR YOUR FAMILY. DON'T LET YOUR STUBBORNNESS KEEP YOU FROM BEING A GOOD MEMORY FOR YOUR FAMILY.**
- **DON'T LET PRIDE DIMINISH YOUR LEGACY WITH YOURSELF AND OTHERS.**

- *“Life with Christ is an endless hope; without Him, it is a hopeless end.”*
- C. B. McCarty

**PRAYER! Oh, God...Teach us to be grateful, thankful, and faithful in fulfilling God’s plan for our lives and the lives of others who look to us for guidance. Help us to live out our years on planet earth with our morals and actions lining up with our commitment to Christ.
In Jesus name. Amen!**