Terry Stembridge, Sr., who grew up in Kilgore, was the “voice” of the Kilgore College Rangers for many years during the 1950s and 1960s and went on to announce for the Dallas Chaparrals who later became the San Antonio Spurs.

Terry attended Kilgore College from 1957-58 and broadcast KC's basketball games. That season, the Rangers went 27-2, defeating Weber (Utah) to win the national championship under head coach Joe Turner.

He graduated from The University of Texas in 1961 with a major in history. After graduation he spent time teaching and working in radio in the 1960s.

He later broadcast KC's 1964-65 basketball team’s perfect 30-0 regular season.

From 1961-67 he was the “voice” of all KC athletics which included football, basketball and baseball. He was also the voice of Kilgore High School sports.

Highlights during that time were broadcasting the national championship season for the 1966 KC football team. He also taught at Pine Tree High School from 1961-63 and at Kilgore High School from 1963-65.

In 1967, he became the radio broadcasting “voice” of the Dallas Chaparrals of the American Basketball Association, who later moved to San Antonio in 1976 and became the Spurs.

Terry was the voice of the Dallas Chaparrals on KRLD 1080 AM from 1967-73, and was the voice of the San Antonio Spurs on WOAI 1200 AM from 1973-79.

Terry broadcast 1,252 consecutive professional games and was often cited for his excellence in basketball announcing. He was considered one of the premier basketball broadcasters in the nation. His unique broadcasts often included many interesting essays on varied subjects—not always related to basketball.

Highlights during his professional radio career included broadcasting the first ABA game on Oct. 3, 1967, in Kilgore’s Masters Gymnasium which pitted Dallas versus New Orleans. He also broadcast the first ABA-NBA Interleague All-Star Game in Moody Coliseum in Dallas.

He was also the TV announcer for the San Antonio Spurs for one season.

Terry was only one of three people who was employed in the ABA all nine years of its existence with the other two being Larry Brown and Doug Moe.

He was offered—but declined—the Dallas Mavericks radio job in the team’s expansion year and also declined broadcast opportunities with the Texas Rangers in 1973 and with the Dallas Cowboys in the late 1990s.

He did some more broadcasting for KC in the 1990s during the Shawn Scanlan coaching era, including the 1994 men’s basketball team that played in the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

He retired from announcing in 1979 and entered the oil business, founding SW Operating, Inc. in 1984, which is an exploration company that has explored successfully in Texas for the last three decades.

Terry’s interest in Texas and local history found an outlet through the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation, working on such projects as saving the archives and photographs of Kilgore’s “Boomtown USA” and writing extensively on the history of Kilgore’s country club in the book, “Golf beyond the Derricks.” The book included a lengthy well-researched story about the little-known pro golfer, Tilly Wilcox, who built Kilgore’s boom time golf course.

Terry was also an avid golfer and won the 1997 Meadowbrook Club Golf Championship.
Along with Caleb Pirtle, Terry has co-authored two books: “Echoes from Forgotten Streets” and “Visions from Forgotten Streets,” which were projects for the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation related to the remarkable photographic history of Kilgore in the 1930s and 1940s. The two volumes are informal histories of the oil boom years of Kilgore and East Texas.

Terry is someone that KC is proud of, not only because of his outstanding professional career, but because of his service to KC athletics and Kilgore College.