

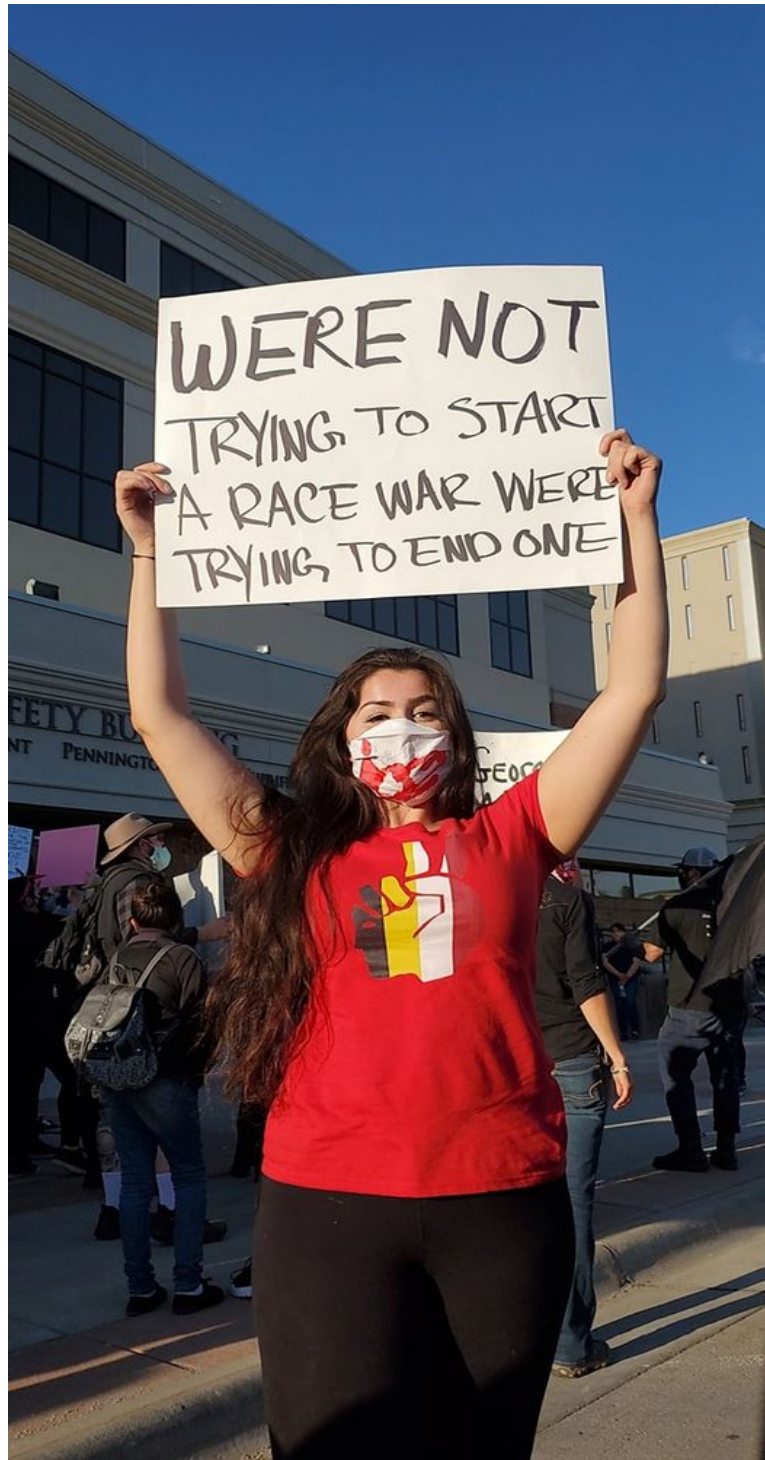
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Eleven Historic Places in America That Desperately Need Saving

Census and Voting Reminder

Indigenous Tribes Are Using Drones to Protect the Amazon

Joe Bliss, last surviving member of Pack's inaugural Hall of Fame class, dies at 87



Eleven Historic Places in America That Desperately Need Saving

The National Trust for Historic Preservation names these sites as the most endangered cultural treasures in our country

By [Elissaveta M. Brandon](#)

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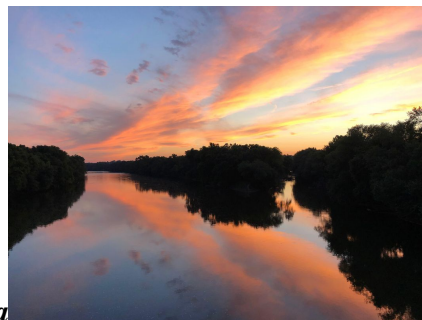
A civil rights landmark in Mississippi, a Native American site in California and a public housing complex in Texas may have little in common at first glance, but a recent list brings them all together in the name of preservation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has unveiled this year's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The nominations bring a sliver of hope to a diverse set of buildings, landscapes and historic neighborhoods, which would be destroyed or face irreparable damage without immediate advocacy.

In the 33-year history of this list, over 300 places have been declared under imminent threat, and 95 percent of them have been saved. "One of our priorities in all of our work at the National Trust is to utilize historic places of all kinds to tell the full history of our country," says Katherine Malone-France, the Trust's chief preservation officer. "Because a truer national narrative is a firmer foundation for our shared values and identity."

To build the list, the Trust combs through hundreds of applications, looking for sites that are threatened but have strong local support fighting for their survival. "We're looking for sites that have a solution or vision for their future that allows them to be preserved, but also carries their legacies forward," says Malone-France. "The purpose of the list is to elevate these places, then also to elevate ways in which people can take action—signing a petition, contacting a particular entity, learning more about the place through different digital resources."

For many of these sites, a lack of funding has been the biggest obstacle. "But preservation is also about standing up for a place and then sharing why that place is important and being joined by someone else, and someone else," says the chief preservation officer, "until there's an army of people." By building this list, the goal of the National Trust for Historic Preservation is to build up these armies and preserve the nation's architectural and cultural heritage before many of these sites reach the point of no return.



Rassawek, Columbia, Virginia

Rassawek (Greg Werkheiser)

In 1607, Captain John Smith set out to explore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. On the map he created, published in 1612, Smith recorded five towns of the Monacan Indian Nation, including its historic capital Rassawek. Located at the confluence of the Rivanna and James rivers, now known as Point of Fork, Rassawek is the final resting place of Monacan ancestors—and a potential site for the construction of a water pump station.

Despite concerns that it could damage archaeological evidence of the historic Monacan Indian settlement of Rassewek, the James River Water Authority claims that the currently proposed location is logistically, and economically, the best option.

At a meeting in February this year, multiple alternative locations ranging from Bremono Bluff to Goochland County were put forward, but project consultants agreed that Point of Fork remained ideal. "There's always time to consider alternatives," says Malone-France. "These places that are deeply sacred to Native Americans, they are a part of our shared narrative, and they deserve protection and preservation."

West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site, *Berkeley, California*



West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site (Brooke Anderson)

The West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site was the first Ohlone village on the shores of San Francisco Bay. Founded 5,700 years ago, the Ohlone settlement served as a burial and ceremonial ground, as well as a repository of shells, ritual objects and artifacts forming a massive mound.

After Spanish missions forced villagers to flee, and Gold Rush settlers later removed shell material to fertilize farms and line streets, the shellmound was leveled in the 1950s. The last remaining portion of the village, at 1900 Fourth Street, was landmarked by the City of Berkeley 20 years ago, but it is now threatened by the prospective construction of a five-story retail and apartment complex that would excavate 10-feet into the earth. Currently a paved parking lot, the site remains an active place of Ohlone prayer and ceremony, with burials likely remaining under the surface.

Advocates like the Coalition to Save the West Berkeley Shellmound would like the site to return to a more natural state, with native flora. Local Lisjan Ohlone leader, Corrina Gould, has even led a four-year effort to create a park by daylighting Strawberry Creek, which was historically used for bathing, and as a food and water source. Obstructions covering parts of Strawberry Creek, particularly around the UC Berkeley campus, have already been removed. The Trust's

decision to include the West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site is set to bring national recognition to the Coalition's cause.



Native Vote Vegas · ...make sure you guys are registered to vote! Voting was never given to us so our people fought for the right to vote! please take this time to make sure you are registered & ready to vote!! This is our time to take control of your government and influence the country we dream of! Amaia Marcos Instagram- Amaia.Marcos #nativevote #nativesvote2020 #nativevotevegas #landback #native



Ryan Reynolds is looking to hire BIPOC individuals (Black, Indigenous, Persons of Colour) for his next Netflix movie, being filmed in Canada. Only requirements are you need to be 18 +, able to work in Canada, and available from November to March. Know anyone who fits the bill? Apply HERE by October 2nd: <https://www.sparkhire.com/.../1a8dc9fb-09ee-40cd-9dc0...>

Indigenous Tribes Are Using Drones to Protect the Amazon

[Tiffany Duong](#)

Sep. 13, 2020 09:00AM EST [Climate](#)



An aerial view captures the Amazon Rainforest in Brazil. [ubasi](#) / [Wikimedia Commons](#) / [CC by 2.0](#)

The Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau are a tribe of less than 300 people in the Brazilian [Amazon Rainforest](#) who first came into contact with people outside their community in the early 1980s, according to the [Povos Indigenas No Brasil](#). While they still maintain many of their tribal ways, they and other tribes have recently begun using modern drones to detect and fight illegal deforestation in their territory.

"Nature is everything to us," Awapy Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau told [CNN](#). "It is our life, our lungs, our hearts. We don't want to see the jungle chopped down. If you chop it all down, it will definitely be hotter, and there won't be a river, or hunting, or pure air for us."

Awapy is a member of the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau tribe. Last December, he and other young leaders from six Indigenous communities learned how to operate drones to track deforestation, [Interesting Engineering](#) reported. The training was held by [World Wildlife Federation](#) (WWF) and the [Kanindé Ethno-Environmental Defense Association](#), a local NGO dedicated since 1992 to protecting the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau and the environment in their home state of Rondônia, Brazil.

"They really accepted the technology with open arms, and really started to use it," WWF Brazil Senior Conservation Analyst Felipe Spina Avino told CNN.

Avino added that the Indigenous trainees became hooked when they realized they could see the forest from above and [keep patrol over much greater areas than ever before](#).

According to CNN, the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau tribal lands lie within a roughly 7,000-square-mile protected area of dense jungle that can be difficult to traverse and monitor on foot. Drones allow them to cover more territory faster and avoid potentially dangerous confrontations with loggers, miners and land-grabbers.

Within the first month of drone surveillance, the tribe discovered an area of about 494 acres being illegally deforested within their reserve, [Reuters](#) reported. Days later, a helicopter spread grass seed on the plot, indicating that the land would be used for cattle pasture; Awapy's team caught it all on drone video, reported CNN.

"The technology today, for territorial monitoring, is very worthwhile," said Bitate, a 19 year old from Awapy's tribe who was also trained in drone operation, reported Reuters. "Without a drone, that deforestation — which was already advanced — would still be unknown to us."

They called FUNAI, the Brazilian governmental agency in charge of Indigenous affairs, to stop the illegal land-grab, supplying video evidence and GPS coordinates, but the latter did not respond before the destruction was done, reported Reuters. Awapy hopes technology will help tribes stop deforestation sooner, as it is already too late once trees have been felled and burned, Reuters reported.

So far, the WWF-Kaninde project has donated 19 drones costing around \$2,000 each to 18 organizations focused on the Amazon, Interesting Engineering reported.

Aerial drones have been used by Indigenous peoples in Ecuador, Peru and other places for about three years after becoming more affordable, reported Reuters. The images illustrate the damage of deforestation.

"Seeing the extent of deforestation from above is much more impactful than standing in the middle of it," Jessica Webb, senior manager for global engagement with Global Forest Watch told Reuters.

The high-resolution images, video and GPS mapping data from drones can also be submitted in court as evidence of illegal activities, CNN reported. Drones are likely to become more widespread as technology advances allow for longer range and stronger batteries.

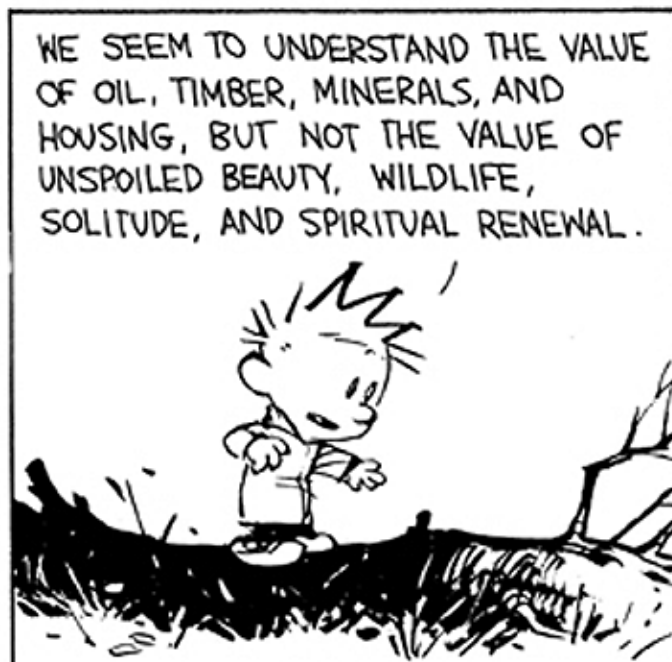
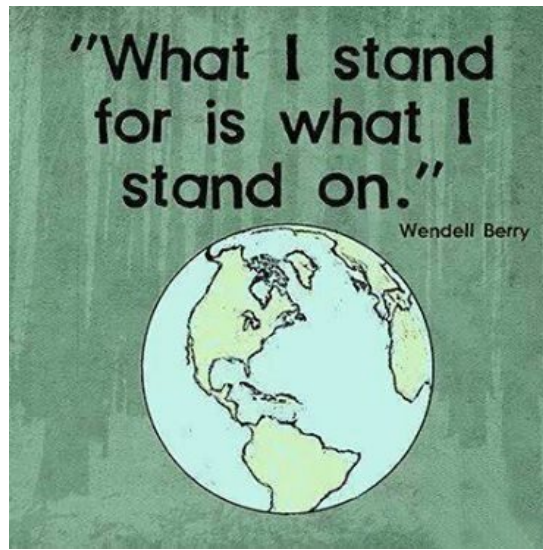
"The key is not to think of the technology as a silver bullet," Webb told CNN, advocating to pair the new technology with Indigenous knowledge to create more powerful protections for the forest.

Keeping remaining rainforest intact is crucial to slow global warming since trees act as a carbon sink. Conservation also protects the Amazon's rich biodiversity, and is critical to food security, water services and the preservation of Indigenous cultures, noted WWF.

Despite this, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro [consistently pushes to develop Indigenous lands](#) and allow mining and commercial farming to deforest the Amazon. Last year, the [Brazilian Amazon suffered its highest level of deforestation since 2008](#), with this year poised to become worse, WWF reported.

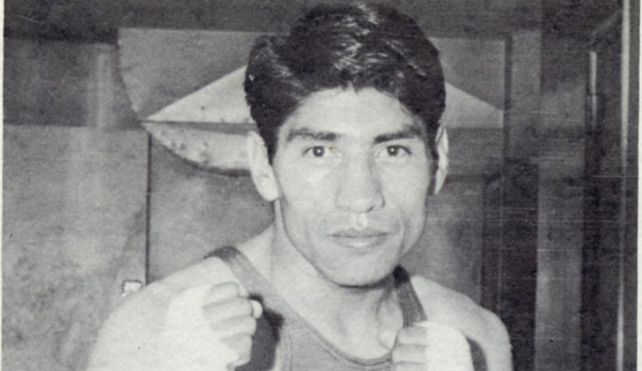
Awapy and his team have faced death threats from illegal loggers and land-grabbers for their work protecting the forest, CNN reported, but they remain determined to use this new technology to protect their home for future generations.

"My hope is that while I am alive, I want to see the jungle standing, the jungle intact. That is my hope," Awapy told CNN.



Joe Bliss, last surviving member of Pack's inaugural Hall of Fame class, dies at 87 **By Chris Murray Tuesday, September 29th 2020**

Columnist Chris Murray provides insight on Northern Nevada sports. Contact him at crmurray@sbgvtv.com or follow him on Twitter @ByChrisMurray.



Joe Bliss won Nevada boxing's first national



title. (Nevada athletics)

Joe Bliss, the last surviving member of Nevada's inaugural Hall of Fame class, died Friday in Reno at 87, according to the Wolf Pack.

Bliss was a native of Lovelock and starred in five sports at Pershing County High before being drafted into the Army and serving two years in Korean War. After returning home, Bliss enrolled at Nevada and was a star boxer for the school. He reached the 139-pound weight class' NCAA championship round three straight years and won the program's first national title in 1959, which was the second individual crown in Wolf Pack history.

Bliss was a two-time All-American before the NCAA stopped sanctioning boxing in 1960. Bliss was the 1960 NCAA Tournament's "Outstanding Sportsman." He reached the semifinals of the 1960 Olympic qualifier before having to withdraw after being head-butted in the first minute of that bout.

Bliss was one of 13 athletes inducted into the Wolf Pack's inaugural Hall of Fame class in 1973 and was joined by Jim Bailey, James Bradshaw, Max Dodge, Dodie Post Gann, Stan Heath, Tom Kalmanir, Jake Lawlor, Marion Motley, Bob O'Shaughnessy, Ed Reed, Silas Ross and Noble Waite. He was one of only two inductees in the first class that didn't play football or basketball. Bliss won the President's Award at the second annual Nevada Boxing Hall of Fame induction in 2014.

Bliss is one of 11 Wolf Pack athletes to win an individual NCAA championship. After graduating, Bliss made his home in Reno and worked for 40 years at the CalNeva. I visited Bliss' home in 2014 for a column on his life. Here is that column.

Wolf Pack's Joe Bliss last link to legendary class

Joe Bliss stands a lean 5-foot-6 with a thicket of white hair and bronzed skin sheening under the sun.

A case of shingles a decade ago sapped some of his strength and he wears hearing aids, his ears the victims of too many close-proximity 85-pound shell howitzer blasts when he served in the Korean War. The 81-year-old isn't as quick as he used to be — certainly not as quick as when he won Nevada's first national championship in boxing in 1959 — but boxing remains in his blood.

Bliss, a gentle soul with a quick right-handed jab and powerful left hook, is explaining the importance of footwork for a boxer. He's dancing on the grass outside his home in old southwest Reno, his feet nearly as nimble as they used to be when he boxed, his mind flickering back to those championship bouts he waged as a Wolf Pack star in the 1950s.

"You watch boxing on TV and you never see any body punches anymore," Bliss says. "Ever. And that was my favorite punch. You set them up with a body punch, and if you hit them in the solar plexus that's the end of them. I'd fight with my defense. Bob and weave and make them miss and then start in on them. You set them up with different body combinations and you have them. Those were the good ol' days."

Bliss wasn't only the last man standing after most of his fights. He's also the last man standing from the Wolf Pack's inaugural Hall of Fame class in 1973. Of the 13 legends inducted into Nevada's Hall of Fame more than four decades ago, Bliss is the only one still living. After ex-Reno High and Wolf Pack star skier Dodie Post Gann died last Christmas Eve, Bliss is the last link to Nevada's first great Hall of Fame class.

"Every time I pick up the paper I see friends in the obituary section," Bliss said sadly.

That first Hall of Fame class included seven football players, two basketball players, two coaches, one skier and Bliss, the first of nine Wolf Pack boxers who have been inducted into Nevada's Hall of Fame. Local boxing legends like Mills Lane, Sam Macias or Jimmy Olivas could have been in that first class, but the Wolf Pack opted for Bliss, who remains a perfect representation of the state of Nevada and its flagship school.

"I started the Hall of Fame and he was in that first class because he was in a class by himself as far as boxing went and was in a class by himself as a person," athletic director emeritus Dick Trachock said.

Humble roots

A Lovelock native, Bliss grew up humbly before starring in five sports for Pershing County High. He began boxing in the third grade at the now-closed Stewart Indian School in Carson. After high school, he was drafted into the Army and served two years in Germany during the Korean War. He dabbled in boxing, but it wasn't until he returned home and enrolled at Nevada that he fully fell into the sport.

Under Olivas, the Wolf Pack's legendary boxing coach who Bliss called "one of the best men I've ever known," Bliss became Nevada's first great boxer. As a sophomore, he reached the 1958

national championship round, losing to San Jose State's Welvin Stroud by split decision in a fight called the "most wild and dramatic bout" of the tournament in the book "The Six-Minute Fraternity," the Holy Grail of college boxing.

Bliss returned to the championship round one year later with the national tournament being held in Reno at Nevada's Old Gym, a rarely-used facility on the west part of campus. The 139-pound class was dubbed the "hottest division in the tournament" and Bliss didn't disappoint the hometown crowd.

Sports Illustrated was on the scene and wrote this about Bliss' title win over Darrel Whitmore.

"The crowd — mostly Nevada partisans, naturally — had other wild moments on the three nights of the tournament but none wilder than when it shook the gym, filled to its 4,500 capacity, with hysterical roars as another Indian lad, this time a Paiute, brought Nevada its first NCAA championship in history," the story read. "Joe Bliss, a 139-pounder, outpressed and outslugged clever Darrel Whitmore of Washington State and so became immortal in the annals of his college."

Bliss' victory was the first NCAA title in boxing for Nevada, the second in school history (skier Pat Myers won the downhill in 1954) and makes Bliss one of just 10 individuals to win an NCAA title for the Pack.

The national title was celebrated up and down Virginia Street. Back then, boxing was one of America's most popular sports, especially in Nevada. Boxing also was an NCAA-sanctioned sport, unlike today, with schools from coast to coast vying for national titles. Bliss was the first to deliver one to Nevada.

"We've had really good boxers who were technically skilled, but for somebody like Joe to capture an NCAA title was extremely difficult back then," said Mike Martino, the ex-Nevada boxing coach and interim head of USA Boxing. "College boxing back then was highly competitive, much more than today. We still get some pretty good college boxers, but back then it was just so much more competitive."

As a senior, Bliss returned to the national title bout in 1960, where he lost to Wisconsin's Brown McGhee before a crowd of nearly 14,000 at Camp Randall in Madison, Wisc. (One of Bliss' best friends, Mills Lane, won an NCAA title for Nevada that year.) Bliss didn't cap his career with an NCAA title, but he was named the tournament's "Outstanding Sportsman," a testament to the kind of person he is.

"That's Joe," Martino said. "Hard worker. Technically sound. Great man. As a coach, those are athletes you want in your gym. He led by example. He was no-nonsense, all business. He was there to do his job, to be a great student-athlete. Jimmy Olivas would tell us about kids he coached and he loved Joe."

A living legend

The 1960 title bout was the last in Bliss' college career (and the last sanctioned by the NCAA

after Wisconsin's Charlie Mohr died after sustaining a head injury in the tournament, which caused the Badgers and the NCAA to drop the sport before the start of the 1961 season).

Bliss advanced to the 1960 Olympic qualifier in San Francisco, where he met a then-unknown Cassius Clay, who would win a gold medal in Rome. The then-27-year-old Bliss reached the semifinals of the Olympic qualifier before being accidentally head-butted in the first minute of the bout, forcing him to withdraw.

Bliss wouldn't get to the Olympics and his boxing career was over, but his legacy at Nevada was clear. Olivas, Bliss, Lane and Macias laid the groundwork of Nevada boxing, which dates back nearly 90 years.

"Really, they were the foundation of Nevada boxing," Martino said.

After retiring from boxing, Olivas helped get Bliss a job at the Palace Club, where he earned \$14 for each eight-hour shift. Bliss went on to work 40 years at the CalNeva, never getting the itch to leave Reno.

"I love it here because you're close to everything," Bliss said. "We're close to San Francisco. If you're married and have a family, you can take the kids in the summer time to Tahoe. You can go swimming and fishing at Pyramid Lake. The mountains are beautiful. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

Despite giving up boxing rather than pursuing a professional career, Bliss continues to love the sport. He watches bouts as often as possible, although he's not a fan of MMA. In the 1980s, Bliss and Lane would return to the gym. Nevada's current boxing coach, Dan Holmes, remembers watching the two fight.

"When I first started boxing at Nevada in the early 1980s, we'd have alumni fights and Joe would spar with Mills and it was a good show," Holmes said. "He could put it on Mills pretty good. What a legend."

Said Wolf Pack Hall of Fame boxer Mike Schellin: "You just cannot talk about this sport at Nevada without saying the names of Joe Bliss and Mills Lane. They were that good. Years and years after people graduated, they'd come back to the alumni match just so they could watch Joe spar against Mills."

Bliss' life has slowed down. He had four children and so many grandchildren he's lost count ("I know there's a birthday every month," he joked). Bliss used to swim, fish and hunt, but the case of the shingles means he can't do those things anymore. He runs along the Truckee River when feeling well.

Bliss was a survivor inside the ring and a survivor outside of it. As a life-long Nevadan and the last link to the Wolf Pack's first Hall of Fame class, he has a unique perspective on the history of the university, the city and our state. He begins to shuffle his feet, bob and weave and hold up his hands in a boxing pose. It's been decades since Bliss last stepped in the ring. But the memories haven't faded too far away yet.

"Yep," Bliss said. "Those were the good ol' days."