



LEGISLATOR, MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEET **ROBERT "BOB" DETTMER**, FSHS CLASS OF 1969, TEACHER, COACH, VETERAN, AND LEGISLATOR.

Robert "Bob" Dettmer

Growing up on a dairy farm in rural Faribault, MN, and attending a two-room country school in Cannon City, Bob Dettmer probably never imagined he would someday transition from being Mr. Dettmer, the teacher; to Coach Dettmer; to Robert Dettmer, Chief Warrant Officer 4 in the United States Army Reserves; to the Honorable Robert Dettmer, Minnesota House of Representatives; all while experiencing expanding roles as husband, father, and grandfather.

Teacher: Following graduation from FSHS in 1969, Bob attended Bemidji State College, graduating in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education. He later received a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the College of St. Thomas. Bob's entire 34-year teaching career was spent in Forest Lake, MN.

Wrestling Coach: As head wrestling coach at Forest Lake from 1975-2007, Coach Dettmer accumulated a 399-144-2 record, ranking 25th out of 340 MN high school wrestling coaches. At the state level, Bob coached 15 individual champions, 64 individual winners, 115 individual participants, plus, one 4th, one 5th, and one team championship. Bob, a three-time All American standout who completed his collegiate career with a 90-10 record, was also a MN Greco-Roman Champion and an NAIA National Wrestling Champion. Bob was named both the FSHS and Bemidji State College Athlete of the Year. His name appears in the Faribault Sports Hall of Fame, as well as in six other halls. Coach Dettmer served as the MN AAU Cultural Exchange Wrestling Team Coach to Turkey, and coached the 1994 MN vs WI All-Star Team.

Veteran: With the philosophy that "...peace is best maintained through a strong national defense," Bob devoted 25 years to the United States Army Reserves. He received leadership and technical training which resulted in becoming both an Army Master Fitness

Trainer and a teacher of various military courses. In 2001, Bob was called into active duty to support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served at Fort Gordon, GA, and in Kuwait. Upon his retirement in 2011, Chief Warrant Officer (CW4) Dettmer received the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious service to the United States while serving as Senior Intelligence Technician within the Military Readiness Command. This medal was added to a dozen previously awarded laurels.

Minnesota State Legislator: Nominator and FSHS classmate, Nancy Homeier, described Bob as "a leader with a servant's heart" and "the only politician I would trust." Since January 1, 2007, MN District 39A has been served by Representative Dettmer. His current committee assignments include Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Division, Education Finance Division, and Labor. Bob chairs the Military Action Group (MAG) and the Childhood Obesity Working Group. Thus far, in the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, Rep. Dettmer has authored over 30 bills and co-authored nearly 200.

Family Man: Bob has been married to Colleen since 1972, and, together, they continue to seek purposeful ways to serve their Lord and Savior. Bob acknowledges, "The foundation for my life has been my faith." The Dettmers have three married children and eight grandchildren. Bob's twin sons followed him into the military, and his daughter graduated from Bethel University.

This Faribault graduate has impressively made his mark in multiple arenas as a teacher, coach, veteran, legislator, and family man. Bob is grateful for "support from family, friends, teachers, and coaches, along with the loving guidance from my parents."