

**Jeff Hyde**  
**Evergreen Federal Bank, CEO/President**  
**Contributor - Class of 1972**  
Inducted in 2018



Jeff Hyde was born in Murphy Oregon and grew up in Grants Pass, graduating from Grants Pass High School in 1972. Always a fan of Caveman sports, when in elementary and junior high school, Jeff could be found near his radio listening to football and basketball games. In high school, Jeff continued to be an enthusiastic fan of the Cavemen, supporting the teams and his brothers, who competed for the Cavemen.

Jeff started his career at Evergreen Federal Bank in 1978 as a Management Trainee while going to college to finish his degrees in math and political science. Today, Jeff is the CEO of Evergreen, serving over 40 years with the last nine as President.

Jeff has supported his community financially, both personally and corporately. As a volunteer, his focus has been in three general areas: supporting Grants Pass High School (GPHS), meeting needs in his community, and serving vocationally.

For over five years, on Friday afternoons, you could find Jeff at Mel Ingram Field helping Dan Kirkman paint the end zones and center field. “Dan did the painting, I just mixed the paint,” recalls Jeff. “It was always a race with the sun to finish in time for the paint to dry, and at one game against Mountain View it didn’t.” After that game Coach Tom Blanchard received complaints that there was blue paint on the backs of the players uniforms to which Tom replied, “If they had been a better team they wouldn’t have been knocked on their butts.”

Jeff continues to support the GPHS Booster Club, helping build it into what it is today. He served three years on the School District 7 Budget Committee. He has also served seven years as a City of Grants Pass Council Person and six years on the Elder Board of First Baptist (now River Valley Church).

Vocationally, Jeff has been a board member to State and National organizations and currently serves on the Synergy Board (a subsidiary of the Oregon Bankers Association), the American Bankers Mutual Institution Advisory Committee, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency Mutual Advisory Committee.

Personal and corporate financial support has been a big part of Jeff’s life. One of the first projects Jeff sponsored through Evergreen was the GPHS football and softball fields. In 2006, partnering with Home Valley Bank and the GPHS Athletic Club, Jeff helped raise the \$1 million needed for the fields. As donors and booster club members, he and his wife Debbie also personally donated to the project. Since then, Evergreen has been pleased to donate \$250,000 to install turf at Russ Werner Field and baseball infields within the Evergreen Federal Bank Sports Complex. And another \$60,000 towards new scoreboards. Currently Evergreen looks forward to partnering with Dutch Brothers and the GPHS Booster Club to install new turf at Mel Ingram Field and has donated over \$140,000 toward the project.

Perhaps the largest of Jeff’s contributions has been to the Gospel Rescue Mission. Jeff was able to fundraise \$1.5 million for the construction of the Gospel Rescue Mission. As a founding board member of the Sobering Center, Jeff through Evergreen sponsored the seed money to turn the idea of the center into a reality. If you ask Jeff about any of these contributions he will credit much of the success to others. He will likely tell you a story about the fun and jokes had while working on the project. When asked about being inducted in this Hall of Fame he replied,

*“I am humbled to be included in such a worthy group of Cavemen.”*