

HALL OF DISTINCTION

Inaugural Class of 2019 **INDUCTION CEREMONY**

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Louis “Lou” Mikunda

Lou graduated from Canton Township High School in 1943. After graduation, he left for Miami University, but soon returned to join the Marines, where his passion for serving others had the perfect platform to serve and protect. Upon his return from the military, Lou started working at the Timken Company where he met and married the love of his life, Maddie, and they started a family in Canton Local.

Lou had an incredible heart for Wildcat kids and the community. He showed his red and grey spirit through all of the ways he gave of his time, talents and resources to support the Canton South teams, community, his church and family.

Lou coached multiple sports, in both the school system and with summer baseball. He also drove the bus for many athletic events, especially for football and basketball games, never accepting payment for his time. He kept the books at the basketball games, was equipment manager for football and sold programs at the games. Lou was a leader of the CS Booster club and served as President for many years.

There are many amazing Lou Mikunda stories that revealed the ways he showed his care and support of the youth of our community. One of his former players shared that in 1978 during a very hot July two-a-day football practice, Lou drove his truck right onto the practice field, with a pick-up truck full of ice cold watermelons. Where he proceeded to cut those watermelons in half and distribute them to every player during that practice. We loved Lou for that and for all the ways he watched out for us and made sure all the players had what they needed to get to play.

Lou coached all levels of baseball from little league through Class A league. One of Coach Lou's little league teams won all the way to the state championship. Those who played for him say that Lou taught them far more than just baseball. Lou taught them the importance of hard work, practicing like it was a performance and the importance of respecting every person. Lou also taught everyone around him the importance of service, sacrifice and noticing when someone needed a hand up. He never left the field until every player was safely home, and he always made sure every athlete had the equipment they needed even if that meant he provided it out of his own pocket.

Lou was very active in service to his community and church. He and his family have been faithful attenders of Waco Epworth United Methodist Church his entire life. Lou lived his faith through service both inside and outside his church. At church he served for many years as a trustee ensuring the building and grounds were safe and well cared for. He gave many volunteer hours sharing his skills whenever needed.

Lou was also an active member of the Canton South Kiwanis Club for many years. He always gave generously of his time to support the wide variety of projects intended to positively impact the youth of the community. One key project was raising funds to put books in the hands of children in our kindergarten classes at Canton Local Schools.

One family member shared that he pushed all of them in the family to do the best they could in every aspect of their lives. He taught them to keep pushing even when life gets hard. Those were lessons that they say have helped them face difficult challenges in their lives.

When we drive by the LOU MIKUNDA field, those of us who have not had the pleasure and privilege of meeting him, realize that we missed out on knowing an incredible man with a heart of gold.

Lou and his wife, Maddy, had 2 children, the late Lou Mikunda, Jr and Melody Fuller, 4 grandchildren-Kelly, Heather, Jaclyn and Lynsey and 3 great grandchildren- Maddy, Timmy and Ally.