

HALL OF DISTINCTION

Inaugural Class of 2019 **INDUCTION CEREMONY**

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Dr. Harold R. Walker

Our next esteemed inaugural inductee for the Canton South Hall of Distinction is Dr. Harold R. Walker aka "Pete". He has been devoted to education in Stark County for over 55 years. A life resident of Stark County, he was born on a farm near Louisville, Ohio, February 5, 1927. Upon graduation from Louisville High School in 1945, he served in the United States Army for eighteen months attached to the office of the Adjutant General.

After serving his country, he attended Mount Union College where he received his bachelor's degree in psychology in 1950. In 1953 he received a Masters of Education Degree in psychology from Kent State University.

He began his teaching career in 1953 at Canton South High School in the field of History and Economics. After two years he was appointed principal of Amos McDannel Elementary School. He left Canton Local to begin his work on his Doctorate in Education at the Ohio State University where he was appointed research assistant in the Bureau of Educational Research.

At the age of 30, Dr. H.R. Walker accepted the request of the Canton Local Board of Education to serve as the Superintendent of the District. Through his insight, determination and untiring efforts, he brought community-centered and child centered education to the district.

Dr. Walker's passion to teach took him to Malone College where he served in a number of positions, always developing the teachers and leaders of the future. Many times school districts tapped his great skills and pulled him back into districts to lead them through many challenges. He served as Superintendent of Louisville City Schools, Canton City Schools, and returned to Canton Local to lead all of them with integrity and insight.

A few years ago, Dr. Walker was interviewed by a middle school student who asked about his favorite experiences in education to which he responded, "The great pleasure of my life is working with people during a formative time of their lives. I just love teaching and watching the students I worked with become teachers and leaders in the community. When you get to life's end, you need to look back and see how you've

helped the community. You have to remember, what you put in your heart is way better than what you put in your wallet!"

This devoted family man, father of two very successful sons, was always very active in our schools, the community and his church. He has served as a volunteer reading tutor for over 18 years. He has worked with the Stark Scholarship Board, Church Youth Groups, the Boy Scouts of America, served on numerous boards including Y.M.C.A., Samaritan's Table, Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, Rotary, and many church leadership and service positions.

There is a building in Canton Local Schools bearing his name- H.R. Walker Elementary School. After construction of a new Junior High School, a survey was sent to community members asking for their suggestions for the name of the new building. The community and Board of Education selected H.R. Walker as the name for the building and the dedication program gave this reason:

"This edifice symbolized this community's gratitude to Mr. Walker both as a person and as an educator. In reality it is a living monument to the principles and ideals represented by this man. Let this building stand before the youth of this generation and later generations as a tribute and challenge to uphold Mr. Walker's ideals, standards, devotion and dedication of service to God and to his fellow man."

Sadly, Dr. Walker passed away in early 2021. But just a few months before his passing Dr. Walker called me for an update about how our children and schools were doing during this pandemic. His love and passion for students and educators never waned.

Dr. Walker's family includes: wife Carolyn, son and daughters-in-law- the late Jim Walker and wife Marlene and Tim and Dianne Walker, grandsons and spouses are Christopher and Jamey, Chad and Cassie, Shawn and Missy. The grandchildren are Reese, Brooklyn, Ava, Emery, Audrey, Marley, Grant, and Nevin. And two special nephews Don Walker and Ted Petty.

Dr. Walker was always a man of incredible integrity..... a true SERVANT LEADER..... a humble man of God with a heart of gold AND we already miss him dearly.