

HALL OF DISTINCTION

Class of 2021

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Barbara (Ferren) Cush

Mrs. Cush is a lifetime resident of Canton Local graduating from Canton South High School in 1953.

Mrs. Cush has been both a lead from behind and lead in the front contributor to our school and community. Her heart for the Wildcats started young!

Barb was very active as a student leader at Canton South High School. The 1953 yearbook is full of her pictures... which I happen to have since she and my dear mother were classmates.

Barb was in the band and choir...first chair flute in the concert band, was the lead in the senior class play, was elected by her class to serve as class President for 3 years. She was a cheerleader all through high school and was chosen homecoming queen her senior year. At graduation, the staff selected her as the Most Outstanding Senior Girl. After graduation she married her high school sweetheart, Fred Cush, who was the quarterback and captain of the Wildcat football team coached by Coach Red Ash. Barb and Fred have been happily married for 65 years, they have 4 children, Joe, Chris, Terri and Tony, 6 grandchildren- Joe, Michael, Ashlee, twins Katie, Kristen, and Charlie. AND 8 Great grandchildren Tyler, Leo, Olivia, Avery, Reagan, Reece, Emma Sue and Jeffrey.

Mrs. Cush started her work career early in middle and high school at the Cloverleaf Dairy (the former site of Jack's Quick Shake) then for the Timken Company after high school. But In 1970. Mrs. Cush was hired by Superintendent, Bill Hayden, to serve as secretary at Walker Jr. High School and she found her favorite environment...in the center of students, staff and parents. Her next step was working with Bill Balogh in attendance and athletics at Canton South High School before becoming high school secretary.

Barb was the heart of Canton South for so many years. Her bright smile and genuine love and care for everyone made students, parents and staff feel welcomed and in great hands. Everyone knew that Barb would take care of things! Barb served and supported thousands of youth and adults. She could calm a storm with her kind words and

gentle approach. AND she could interject humor at just the appropriate time to shift a perspective and lighten a situation.

Perhaps her most challenging job of all was serving as the Treasurer of the Athletic Booster Club from 1990- 2014. Barb bleeds red and gray...she and her husband Fred have been lifelong season ticket holders for football and basketball, so of course, Barb, supported her WILDCATS through her service in the Booster Club. She organized fundraisers, served dinners and encouraged the teams, coaches and parents. Her faithful service to the Wildcats sports teams modeled for all of us the way to live into your love for others. In 2015, Mrs. Cush was inducted into the Canton South Athletic Hall of Fame, a tribute to her dedication, Wildcat spirit and years of service as a member and treasurer of the Canton South Athletic Booster Club.

It is so telling that Barb's email address is "Mommacats." She truly has been the MOMMA CAT here at Canton South especially at CSHS and for the Class of 1953. She was recently honored at their 68th class reunion with a special award for her lifelong efforts of organizing their class reunions, keeping her classmates in touch with one another...and the WILDCAT SPIRIT alive in their hearts.

Mrs. Cush is very connected to our other honorees. Amos McDannel was her principal in grade school. Bill Hayden hired her as secretary at Walker Elementary. Dr. Rosemary Johnson was her superintendent and as was shared "Red" Ash was her husband's football coach.

Barb...there is a poem that expresses the deep impact you have had in our school and community.....it's called One Hundred Years from Now....

One Hundred Years from Now
It won't matter what kind of car you drove,
What kind of house you lived in,
How much money you had in the bank,
But the world may be a little better
Because you made a difference in the life of a child.