

HALL OF DISTINCTION

Class of 2022

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Thursday, October 6, 2022

Clyde Brechbuhler

Mr. Clyde Brechbuhler was born in 1921 and graduated from Canton Township (South) High School in 1939. After graduation, Mr. Brechbuhler was drafted and proudly served during World War II in the Army Air Corps as a radio operator, navigator, gunner and piloted B27s. After his military service Mr. Brechbuhler joined his father at Brechbuhler Scales, Inc.

Clyde was always a visionary and innovator at the company. Since the company was growing, he felt that the purchase of a forklift would significantly help with efficiency. His father, however, felt that Clyde was crazy and stated that "they'd never use a forklift." Against his Dad's judgment, Clyde purchased the company's first forklift in 1954, and that was only the beginning of the ideas and growth that Brechbuhler Scales would see over the years under Clyde's leadership.

While it almost seems like common sense today, Clyde was instrumental in establishing a culture of relationship building. He had a recipe box on the front seat of his car full of cards. After making a call or visit, he would write down customer's information, including personal details, so on the next visit he could take up where they left off. Clyde loved working with customers and was the pioneer of their customer-first attitude they continue today.

If building strong, trusted relationships was Mr. Brechbuhler's #1 strength both inside the company and in the community, then quality and customer service were a close second. During the 1960s, Mr. Brechbuhler took the first steps towards "keeping the work in-house." Mr. Brechbuhler invested in equipment to begin producing coal/coke pivots and bearings. He quickly learned that by controlling the quality and delivery of some of the key scale components, they could better serve their customers.

Mr. Brechbuhler was not only committed to his business, but also to Canton Local Schools and community. He was elected and served as a member of the Canton Local Board of Education from 1958-1965 during which time the long-

term vision for the district was established. Even after his tenure on the Canton Local Board, Mr. Brechbuhler continued to be a key contributor to the school and community through his time, talents and resources. In 2002 through the generous donations of the Brechbuhler family, the CSHS stadium was renovated and the stadium was named in his honor. In 2017, Canton Local Schools named its new stadium in his honor, as well.

Many community members who hold him in highest regard nominated Mr. Brechbuhler for the Hall of Distinction award. Some comments about him include: "He was an intelligent, caring, Christian man who worked hard to provide positive leadership." "Many of his good deeds and philanthropic ways were done silently as he wanted NO recognition." "He made sure my family had an income during hard times." "He was a man of integrity, committed to his family, faith and strong work-ethic."

Mr. Brechbuhler was very philanthropic to many organizations and institutions of higher education. He was a member of North Industry Christian Church, the Masonic Temple, the Scottish Rite Valley of Canton and served on many boards including the Canton Christian Home.

Mr. Brechbuhler and his dear wife, Wanda, had three children: Kittie Brechbuhler Clarke, Kim Brechbuhler, Kraig and Wendy Brechbuhler; eight grandchildren: Alex, Abbe, Emily, Andy, Seth, Kelli, Kristin and Madison; six great-grandchildren: Anna, Grace, Josie, Henry, Lewis and Max;

Unfortunately, Mr. Clyde Brechbuhler passed away in 2015, but we are thankful that members of his family are here to accept this award on his behalf.