



William D. Brereton  
Class of 2017

William (Bill) Brereton graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1959. He lettered in football and track all four years, playing on the undefeated 1957 and 1958 Sierra Foothill League championship teams, boxed as a freshman, and was a Block O member all four years. He was a member of student council each year, starting in his freshman year as a representative, then as a sophomore class officer, junior class president and then elected Student Body president as a senior. Outside of school, Bill was president of the local teen center and led a highly successful campaign to raise money for the March of Dimes.

Following his OHS graduation, Bill attended Yuba College, then married Jane Sidenstricker, also a 1959 OHS graduate (passed in 1994 of cancer). He went on to attend Sacramento City College, and finished his education by earning his certificate in data processing from the Sacramento Automation Institute, where he was number one in his class.

In 1962, Bill's first job was at Systems Data Processing Company in Sacramento (SDPC), as a computer operator and 18 years later, he was Vice President and General Manager. SDPC was the city's oldest and largest data processing service center. In 1972, he became the Founder-Owner of Executive Computer Technologies in San Jose, providing data processing services to business in Silicon Valley as well as selling personal computers (PC's) worldwide through military bases and served there until 1989. He then founded and owned Eagle Business Products. He managed that company until 1995, when management was taken over by his youngest son Brock. When Brock passed away from cancer in 2014, it was turned over to his daughter-in-law Anna. In 1995 he and his oldest son Brandt co-founded Brereton & Company, now Brereton, Hanley & Company - an Investment Banking firm headquartered in San Jose that conducts business nationally and provides advisory services to middle market companies seeking liquidity. Bill still holds a seat on the board even though he formally retired in 2012.

Bill and son Brandt were business partners for 20 years and Brandt notes that two of his dad's most admirable attributes are his integrity and humility. *"As a man who left Oroville to make his way in the world and to have come so far from his humble beginnings in Oroville, he yet possesses such humility."* Of all the things, a man like my father could take pride, he once told me: *"The thing I am the proudest of in my life is that all of my children and all of my grandchildren know and have a personal relationship with Christ – I think I am the wealthiest man in the world because of this."* "That is humility and success in my book."

In addition to his own companies, Bill served on corporate boards of several companies including Centura Software, Inc., Cygnet Laboratories, and was personally affiliated with Service Bureau Users Group, where he was Chairman for two years, also International Mergers & Acquisition Professionals

Establishing residence in both Sacramento and San Jose, Bill was very active in both communities. He served the San Jose YMCA for 32 years and headed numerous committees including Chairman of the Board. He received the 'Triangle Award' for his leadership as Campaign Steering Committee Chair and was a Rotarian and Paul Harris Fellow in San Jose for 34 years. He served the Crippled Children Society of the Santa Clara Valley for 31 years, becoming chairman of the Board in 1980, and also playing Santa Claus at the Christmas parties. He served on the board of the American Cancer Society for many years and in 2011 was named "Honorary Lifetime Board Member".

As parents, Bill and his wife Sheryl were elected Co- Presidents of the Valley Christian Schools PTA at both the Junior and Senior High schools and served Santa Clara County as Foster Parents, where they

picked up newborn drug exposed infants from the hospital and cared for them until a more permanent placement was found. Over a 10-year period, they fostered 24 infants.

His long time close friend, classmate, teammate, and OUHSD Hall of Fame member David Frank wrote, *“Bill is not only a successful businessman, but one of the most caring people I have ever met.”*

Bill has four children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. He is retired and he and his wife, Sheryl, reside in Sun City Lincoln Hills, Lincoln CA.