



David Bruce Class of 2015

Dave and his wife Bonnie came to Oroville in 1974 to live and raise their family after Dave was honorably discharged from the Seabee's a branch of the United States Navy. Soon after getting settled in town and having his young children enrolled in local schools, Dave decided to become an involved parent.

He attended Butte College, then worked for Paul-Goodhue Ford, and radio station KORV 1340, and over those years met many local business people. He then became self employed as a landscaper and following that owned and operated his own rental business for nearly 30 years.

In 1995, Dave decided to throw his hat into the ring for a seat on the Oroville Union High School District (OUHSD) Board of Trustees. He was successful in his initial try, elected to a 4 year term, and went on to serve for the next 20 years, over half of those acting as Board president. He was truly a dedicated trustee and had no personal agenda. He was there for the kids. Dave worked with 6 different superintendents and was highly involved in visitations and student activities on all 3 school campuses.

Dave's service to OUHSD for over 20 years is extensive and varied. He was a regular visitor to school campuses, and helped create the OUHSD logo and Mission Statement. He was instrumental in getting Bond Measure J passed, working tirelessly throughout the community, right up to Election Day. His fellow trustees called him "Dr. J" as he devoted so much time and energy to the measure. Measure J allowed OUHSD to spend \$55 million to modernize facilities as well as build much needed new buildings.

He also spent untold numbers of hours working for the passage of Bond Measure G which saw the building of a state of the art \$12 million dollar all-weather track, football, and soccer facility to replace aging Harrison Stadium, built in 1972. The modernized Harrison Stadium is now the finest high school athletic facility between Sacramento and the Oregon border.

Dave was truly a "down-in-the-trenches" type guy. Among tasks he could be seen doing over the years throughout the OUHSD on a regular basis, included sweeping floors at basketball games, cooking hot dogs, hamburgers and tri-tip at football games, donating time at dances, snack bars, graduations, and most any other student event that was happening in town. If there was a school event going on you could bet that Dave was somehow involved.

Being in the rental business made it very easy for Dave as he was able and willing to donate most anything any school needed for any type event, be it folding chairs, tables, table cloths, you name it. If he had it, the schools could use it.

One of the greatest gifts Dave gave to OUHSD was the Hall of Fame. One day while visiting on a district campus, he asked several students if they knew any successful alumni from their school or if they knew that any of their teachers were alumni of their school. He received negative answers from every student and thought this to be quite sad.

He then decided to do some research, discussed his idea with Joe High, an OHS alum, Las Plumas teacher/coach, and future OUHSD Hall of Famer while they were sitting in the bleachers at the Gary Nolan Baseball Complex named after OHS alum and future OUHSD Hall of Famer, Gary Nolan. Joe loved the concept as did members of the school board and superintendent when presented with the idea.

The OUHSD interim superintendent did a bit more research, drafted a set of bylaws, appointed a committee made up of employees and community members, and in 2008 the OUHSD Hall of Fame was born. 2015 will mark the 7th dinner/induction event and the attendance has nearly tripled since the first event in the LPHS cafeteria in 2009. Dave also envisioned there one day being a scholarship attached to the Hall of Fame and this year marks the inaugural Dave Bruce OUHSD Hall of Fame Scholarship Program. One student each from LPHS and OHS and 2 students from Prospect High school will receive a combined total of \$1,500.

The Distinguished Service category for a Hall of Fame application specifically states, "Please list the nominee's extraordinary contributions that resulted in a specific benefit or exceptional honor to a particular district school or to OUHSD as a whole." Dave Bruce certainly qualifies for this honor!

Dave and his wife of 43 years, Bonnie, make their home in Oroville where they raised five children, all of who went through the Oroville School System.