



## Joe High Class of 2012

Joe High graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1949. He played football, basketball, and baseball, was a member of Block "O", the Latin Club, and served as senior class president. He worked after school and on weekends at Southern Cross Grocery.

Following his graduation from OHS, Joe enrolled at Yuba Junior College where he played baseball and earned his Associate of Arts degree in accounting. He played on the Oroville American Legion baseball league championship team in 1949 and for the semi-pro Oroville Nuggets during the summers of 1950 and 1951. The Nuggets were the Oroville Olives 'B' team for one year.

Prior to beginning his military service in 1951, Joe was employed at various area businesses including Stokeley's Cannery, Walsh and Ricketts Grocery, High Sierra Pine Mill, Feather Falls Lumber and Foster Freeze.

From 1951-1955, Joe served his country during the Korean Conflict as a member of the United States Navy aboard the USS Chourre and on the island of Guam. While in the Navy he played baseball leading the team in home runs and earning all-league honors.

Upon receiving his honorable discharge in 1955, he enrolled at Chico State College, where he played baseball and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in business education in 1958. He went on to earn his secondary teaching credential a year later, and completed his Master's Degree in business in 1964. In 1976, he was awarded a Future Business Leaders of America Federal Grant to Oregon State University where he earned a second Master's Degree in vocational education and made the Dean's List.

Joe's thirty-four year OUHSD teaching career began in 1959 when he was hired to teach vocational business classes at OHS. He was at his alma mater until 1961 when he was transferred to the new Las Plumas High School (LPHS) to set up the first business department and teach. He served as the department chairman from 1961 until his retirement in 1993.

Joe was an extremely active employee during his years at OUHSD, coaching thirty-seven sport seasons including basketball and tennis while at OHS and boys basketball, baseball and boys and girls' tennis at LPHS. Along with winning several league championships in boys' tennis, he also found time to teach accounting at adult night school, business law and small business management at Butte College night school, while serving as cheerleader advisor, and counselor at LPHS for three years. He worked with Jerry Simmons exclusively in a special program to keep at risk students in school. He continued to coach girls' tennis at LPHS for one year following his retirement in 1993.

Throughout his teaching career, Joe felt it important to give back to his community, and did so by serving in the Oroville Host Lions Club for many years, during which he was president and secretary. In 1990, he was granted life membership in the club. He currently maintains life membership in professional educational organizations.

Over the years Joe received numerous honors and awards including being named teacher of the year in Oroville in 1993, Lion of the Year in 1971, and the Coaches Award for dedicated service to athletics in 2004. His coaching colleagues honored him in 1996 when he was inducted into the Northern California Sports Hall of Fame.

Joe was a charter committee member of the OUHSD Hall of Fame committee when the hall was established in 2008. He served until his first term expired in 2010.

Joe's brightest highlight as a baseball coach was when his LPHS team beat OHS and its ace pitcher and future major leaguer Gary Nolan at Mitchell Field in the mid 1960's.

Longtime friend Will Mattly stated in a letter, "Joe High's accomplishments manifest themselves by the sterling reputation he has among former students." "Just visit a class reunion and you'll soon realize that Joe High is synonymous with "Mr. Las Plumas!"