



Al Hottinger
Class of 2021

Al graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1956. He played basketball and baseball all four years, was a member of Block O each year and served as secretary his senior year. He was very active in the community while in school, playing CYO basketball for St. Thomas Church, Little League, and in the Elks Club Drum and Bugle Corps. He also found time to work part-time at the Log Cabin Bakery, which his parents owned.

Upon graduation, Al attended Yuba College for two years and then worked the next eight years for Laurentide Finance Company in Oroville, Redding and finally in Ely, Nevada as manager. The next two years saw him employed in the Controller Department at Kennecott Copper Corporation and member of The Ely Lions Club. In 1968, he returned to Oroville as office Manager for Oroville Truck and Tractor/Northstate Equipment until 1985. From 1985 until his retirement in 2002, he was Field Clerk for PG&E in Yuba City and Chico.

Upon returning to his beloved Oroville in 1968, Al's entire adult life has been one of love and dedication to his community and Oroville's High Schools. From 1970-1982, he coached Bobby Sox Softball when his daughters were playing and volunteered in the snack bar at those and Oroville Rhino Youth football games when his daughters were cheerleaders. If Al's daughters were involved, their dad was there to support them. He also helped with the renovation of the girls' softball fields and built a new snack bar there.

For the next 37 years, Al gave his all to OHS, working in the snack bar at football, basketball and baseball games and helping at track and field meets. It is said that for OHS events, when Charlotte Ross "asked", Al jumped. He operated the clock for home basketball games for both boys' and girls' games, swept the floor at half time and was always there for the OHS athletes. When not working games, he helped install new tile in the OHS office and gymnasium. His pride for his alma mater was unrivaled!

Al is also an avid reader and over many years, has donated hundreds of books to the OHS Library. As a golf fan, at least twice yearly, Al travels to the Monterey/ Pebble Beach area to volunteer his marshaling services at major golf tournaments. He has worked every US Open held there since 2010 as well as the AT&T and Pebble Beach Tournaments.

According to Al's daughter Brenda Watts, when his youngest granddaughter was attending OHS, she asked him to raise some money with recyclables to cover the costs of the Block O letters and certificates. The idea snowballed into his passion as he decided to begin collecting plastic water bottles, glass beer bottles, beer and soda cans from OHS athletic events, graduations, and along the streets and in parking lots of select Oroville businesses. He removes tabs, lids, dries containers, crushes cans and delivers to local Recycle Centers. Pull tabs are donated to Ronald McDonald Charities. Several local residents also save recyclables for Al. From 2012 to 2018, Al donated over \$8,000 to OHS Block O Society, OHS athletics and the OHS Library.

According to his wife of 61 years, Shirley, one day Al decided he wanted to help all three local high schools so in 2018, began donating his recycling dollars to the OUHSD Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund which benefits students from Las Plumas, Oroville, and Prospect High Schools. Donations to the Scholarship Fund continue to this day and have exceeded \$2,500. Recycling and donating to scholarships have become Al's passion. Countless numbers of local students have benefited from and continue to benefit from Al's efforts and generosity.

Lani Fridrich writes in her nomination letter, *"I've known Al for over 60 years. I can honestly say without a doubt, he's one of the kindest persons who was ever placed on this earth. Al is the epitome of a family man. His loyalty and love of OHS and OUHSD shows his goals and unselfish manner."*

A quote from support letter from daughter Brenda Watts, *"The daughters of Albert Hottinger III are all in agreement that NO ONE deserves this honor more than our dad. He gives to his family. He gives to his alma mater. He gives to his community. He is the perfect example of how a person is supposed to act and what a person is supposed to do. We are so blessed that he is "ours."*

Al and Shirley make their home in Oroville. They have four daughters, Tori, Brenda, Dawn and Jill, and thanks to a blended family, are grandparents to 11 and great grandparents to 19.