



Barbara Little Class of 2016

Barbara Little grew up in San Francisco, CA earning her diploma from Lowell High School. She graduated magna cum laude from California State University, Chico, where she earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees and counseling and teaching credentials.

Her distinguished 40-year career in education began in December 1970, when she was hired by the Oroville Union High School District (OUHSD), her first assignment being a group counselor at both Oroville and Las Plumas High Schools. After two years, she was moved to OHS as a full time counselor and also team taught a psychology class for eight years. In the 1982-83 school year, she was a full-time Title I teacher and the following year assumed head counseling duties from her mentor, OUHSD Hall of Famer, Frank O'Neill. Barbara continued in that position until her retirement in 2011.

As head counselor, Barbara assisted students in achieving their academic goals, monitored their progress towards graduation, provided college and career guidance to them, as well as scholarship and financial aid information. Barbara was at her best, and most comfortable, when she was working one-on-one with students.

Coordinating the annual end of the year Scholarship Convocation was Barbara's pet project. During her tenure as coordinator, the convocation honored higher numbers of students each year. The event was first held in the quad area on the OHS campus, then moved to the OHS Gym, then to the Municipal Auditorium, and finally to its current location at the State Theatre in Historic Downtown Oroville. Each year the event honored higher numbers of students and became more prestigious.

Barbara's goal was to make as many scholarships as possible available to OHS students and did her best to see that every student who applied was a successful applicant. During her 28 year tenure as head counselor, the amount of scholarship money available to students increased each year. A grand total of \$4,937,129 was awarded to OHS students on her watch!

From 2007 to 2014, seven OHS students were awarded the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, averaging \$97,000 each. The year 2009 saw four Gates Scholarship winners from OHS.

In 2006, Barbara became faculty advisor to the OHS Interact Club, founded and sponsored by the Oroville Sunrise Rotary. She was advisor to the club until her retirement in 2011, and then continued in that capacity until June 2016. Club members have been, and continue to be, involved in numerous community projects namely, Socks-That Rock, Shoes-That-Fit, and donating to the Northwest SPCA. From 2006-2016, during an annual two week period, Interact Club students raised \$19,563 for POLIO PLUS, sponsored by Sunrise Rotary. In 2008, the Club received the National Presidential citation from the International Rotary Club.

Barbara's connection to Oroville and OUHSD did not end with her retirement. She continues her membership in the Sunrise Rotary Club, the Oroville section of the California Retired Teachers Association (CaRRTA), and since 1971, has never missed a Fellows Club Top Ten Scholastic Achievement Awards event. The OHS scholarship convocation also continues to be on her attendance list of local events.

Over the years, Barbara has earned numerous honors and awards, among them, being named a Paul Harris Fellow. Other awards received were the Sunrise Rotary Vocational Service Award, the Ross/Harmon Oroville Educator of the Year Award, the Oroville Secondary Teachers Association Friend of Education Award, and the CalRTA Division 32 Retired Teacher of the Year Award.

Quotes from letters of support from two retired secretaries at OHS: (1) "If ever I would be asked to write ONE letter for ONE person, of all the people I know, this would be THE letter" and (2) "There is no doubt in my mind, or anyone else's, that Barbara Little IS "Oroville High School" to the thousands of students who walked through its halls during her time there."

Barbara is in Oroville at least one day each week, and makes her home in Chico with her beloved dog, Boo.