



Wes Martin
Class of 2009

Wes Martin served. His steady career exemplifies what it means to step up, lend a helping hand, and be able to look back at a job well done. He was prepared and took on roles both as a teacher and as a school administrator. Wes' accomplishments displayed his trademark quiet manner. His work was performed with a unique sense of student awareness. His gift allowed him to weave a seamless relationship between student and faculty.

Most teachers have a common goal. They want to help their pupils. Wes, too, was there for his students. He cared for them and students knew that he loved them. In that, he possessed an ability that was admired by the campus populations wherever he worked.

Wes was a graduate of Oroville High School in '48. He participated in football, basketball and track during his four years at OHS. As a junior, he was on the undefeated varsity football team. His activities in the student body included the block society and class officer.

Following high school graduation, Wes attended Yuba Junior College for two years where he continued to play football. He enrolled at Chico State for one semester before the Army called. Private First Class Martin was shipped to serve in the Korean War. Two years later he returned home and once more became a college student.

While attending CSUC, Wes studied history. He also returned to the gridiron but added one more sporting adventure: he was a fighter on the Wildcat boxing team.

In '55, Wes graduated from Chico. His studies earned him a History Degree as well as a Teaching Credential. He embarked on a career in education that would last for 35 years. His first stop was at Gridley High School where he was a teacher of social studies as well as a football coach. He moved back to Oroville High as a teacher/coach. He also served there as Activities Director, a responsibility that required no small amount of effort. According to Norm MacKenzie, long-time a colleague of Martin's, Wes organized the concessions for the '72 State Track Meet that was attended by an estimated 10,000 people in just two days.

Wes became the Vice-Principal at OHS but took time off in '70 to continue his formal education at Notre Dame University. He received a master's degree in history that year.

Upon returning to Oroville, Wes was assigned the job of Principal at Las Plumas High School. This was to become a Wes Martin pattern. He became Principal at OHS and Prospect in following years.

Wes was active in the local community all the while. He coached in the midget football program. He served on the Oroville Planning Commission and was a member of the Host Lions Club, where he was voted the '74-'75 President Elect. He donated blood 24 times to the Sacramento Medical Blood Center.

Just before Wes retired in '93, he had one more go on campus as a teacher in the Oroville Adult School Program.