



Charlotte Post Ross Class of 2018

Charlotte Post Ross graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1961 and was active in the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) all 4 years and president as a senior.

She was also a member of the Future Teachers Club and president as a senior along with serving as Student Body Historian during her senior year. After graduation from OHS, Charlotte briefly attended Yuba College, moved to the San Francisco Bay Area for several months to learn medical transcription, then returned to Oroville and continued her education at Yuba College for one year. In 1963 she went to work for Dr. Reiswig in Chico for a few years and married Carl Ross in 1965. She then worked in medical records at Oroville Hospital until 1976, when she embarked on a long and memorable 32-year career as attendance secretary at her beloved OHS. There, she left a lasting imprint on not only thousands of students, but the community of Oroville.

It was as if this position was designed for Charlotte as she gave her all to school staff, parents, and students in her own personal way. She never worried about advancing in her career, wanting more money, or asking, *"What's in it for me?"* She simply did what she felt was best for students at the time, and to always be firm, fair, do what was right and let them know she truly cared. The license plate on her van read GOTOCLAS and class was where she knew all students belonged. Without her caring attitude, sometimes nagging and riding them, many would not have walked across the graduation stage to receive a diploma.

When it came to volunteering for, and/or attending student activities, Charlotte had no equal. If there was a school play, music concert, dance, fundraiser, graduation, awards presentation, athletic event, or most any student event, Charlotte was there. As for sports, she was an official at all home basketball, games, sitting at her midcourt bleacher table keeping the official score book, and at track and field meets at Harrison Stadium, manning the finish line as head timer as automatic timing did come into being until after she retired. And yes, this was all volunteer work, with no extra duty pay!

As for fundraising, football coaches came to Charlotte and asked her to start a bingo game. Her immediate response was, *"No way."* Long story short, she helped the Tiger Athletic Boosters every Sunday afternoon and they raised over \$120,000 in four years.

Charlotte's life was truly one of giving. As an Oroville native growing up in Bangor, working at OHS where she met untold numbers of students and parents, she knew countless numbers of people of all ages. She cooked for weddings, funerals, student dinners, and many other private and community events. When son Steven was married, Charlotte was not only the mother of the groom, she did all the cooking for the reception. When asked her response was, *"Serving others."*

Following her official retirement from OHS in 2009, Charlotte devoted her time to her grandchildren and serving on the OUHSD Hall of Fame Committee. While active on the committee, her cancer returned, and it limited her ability to be active, but her forte was getting donations from local businesses, and as she became more physically limited, did her work by telephone. It was not easy to say "NO" to Charlotte!

In 2010, the Harmon Educator of the Year Award originated and Charlotte was the first recipient. After the passing of local education supporter Bruce Harmon, the award became the Ross-Harmon Educator of the Year Award and to this day is annually given to one certificated and one classified staff member of the Oroville High and Elementary School Districts and the Thermalito and Palermo School Districts.

Family members could not remember the exact year, but Charlotte was also honored as the Grand Marshall of the Feather Fiesta Days Parade and christened a lifetime member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF) at OHS.

OHS students over the years have been heard saying, *“Your mom loved everyone”, “I would have been homeless, were it not for Charlotte”, “Your mom fed the entire team”, “Your mom bought me cleats, clothes, and food.”*

Charlotte passed away on December 6, 2017 with a celebration of her life held on her birthday, January 3. Where else, but in one of her favorite hangouts, the OHS gymnasium! The bleachers were filled as were all the chairs on the court. A fitting and memorable tribute for one who devoted her life to her beloved OHS!

Charlotte is survived by her son Steve, his wife Lisa and their children, Samantha and Reid.