



## Marcella Smith Class of 2009

Marcella Smith was a great working man. He toiled daily to make the place at which he labored a more beautiful place. But while he was working, “Marcy” was busy doing something even more special. He was making friends.

His ability to look a person clearly in the eyes and communicate genuine compassion and understanding made Mr. Marcella Smith a much-loved person.

For a job, he cleaned the Oroville High School campus of dirt and unorganized clutter. But a chat with Marcy was also upkeep for students, coworkers and friends. It helped clear the soul and give direction on how to keep it that way. He did it by keeping it simple and close to home.

He would ask, “How’s the family? How’s that daughter of yours? How we gonna get these lots cleaned up?” He approached with a smile and a handshake and a heart of gold. Marcy was all about maintenance—of the person and the building. He accomplished both with precision.

He attended Oroville High School from ’45-’49. He was popular there, and was elected sophomore class president. He ran track, played football and was a member of the Block O.

After a time at Yuba College, he went into the U.S. Army. Times became real tough back home and he was released on a family hardship. He returned to work in Oroville where he made many friends.

In ’65, it was Marcy’s turn to shine up OHS. He spiffed up the campus classrooms and gymnasium until August of ’92. It was Marcy’s way to clean and neat to a point where it was nearly reconstruction. Charlotte Ross in the attendance office noticed this cleaning style and nicknamed her friend Marcy, “Squeak”.

From his annual flower planting along the side of Oro Dam Boulevard to the manicured lovely home he and his wife, Alfredia, shared on El Noble, Marcy’s touch was apparent and appreciated around the town.

He handled the negatives life handed him with great strength and assertiveness. Once former coach Ken Arnold overheard a man razzing Marcy by asking how a slender little man could have four big strong sons. Marcy responded quickly, “Man, if you don’t know that by now, you had better take a biology class!”

Former Mayor, Gordon Andoe, said, “Marcy’s example of community pride and spirit is the epitome of what makes Oroville a great place to live...”

OHS Principal Dennis Doris said with sincerity at a retirement gathering for Marcy, “I wish I could be a little more like Marcy every day.” An article written about that day at OHS said, ‘Marcella is an extremely well liked man on campus. He is equally respected and loved around the community. If he were a local politician, he would be elected on the first ballot to any office he desired.’

Welcome Marcella Smith to the OUHSD Hall of Fame—on the first ballot!