

Sue Webber-Brown Class of 2013



Sue Webber-Brown graduated from Las Plumas High School (LPHS) in 1974 and while there played softball, field hockey, tennis, powder-puff football, and was on the track team. She also kept score for the JV baseball team and was a member of the pep band, concert band and marching band. Her ASB activities included being a class officer for two years, as well as being on the yearbook staff. She also was founder/president of the Las Plumas Kiwanis Key Cub.

During her spare time as a student at LPHS, Sue found time to represent the school for the March of Dimes charity, volunteer at the Oroville Chamber of Commerce, and work on fundraising to pave the school parking lot.

Following her graduation from LPHS, Sue enrolled at Butte College earning sixty units towards a Criminal Justice Degree. She then attended Sacramento City College and in 1984, earned her certificate of Completion at the Police Academy.

Sue's distinguished career in law enforcement began in 1975 as a clerk at the Oroville Justice Court. Next was a promotion to Welfare Fraud Investigator in 1984, and then to District Attorney Investigator in 1988. In 1991 she was assigned to the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force (BINTF) where she served tirelessly and passionately until her retirement in 2009. As a member of BINTF, Sue participated in more than 2,000 investigations and interviewed well over 1,000 suspects.

While assigned to BINTF, Sue studied and collected data that concluded that 70% of arrested drug offenders were also committing welfare fraud in Butte County. As a result of the report she filed, Sue played a prominent role in stopping 1.1 million dollars of welfare fraud.

Quoting Butte County District Attorney and OUHSD Hall of Fame member Mike Ramsey, "*Sue's concern for the children she encountered in the course of her narcotics investigations became the spark which ignited the Drug Endangered Children program (DEC) in Butte County in the early 90's. While the first such program in the entire nation, DEC programs have been established throughout California and throughout the nation, largely due to Sue's dedication and caring.*" The DEC concept has also reached the international level.

Sue has rescued over 2,500 children from hazardous living environments where drugs were used, sold, or manufactured. She is a recognized nationwide expert and has testified before the United States Congress in Washington DC, in the field of child endangerment due to drugs.

The DEC program has been featured in multiple publications throughout the USA and Sue has provided training to more than 50,000 first responders from 37 states and 5 foreign countries. Tens of thousands of children have been rescued because DEC is now a national program.

As a result of the meaningful work Sue has done during her career, recognition and awards have been in abundance. In 2008, she received a special presentation by then United States President George W. Bush at the White House for her founding the DEC movement. That year also saw her named the Outstanding Alumni of the Year at Butte College. Other awards bestowed on Sue include California District Attorney's Investigator of the Year, Attorney General Victim Services Award, Illinois Governor's Office, and the Open Arms Award, University of Kentucky. In 2001 she and the DEC program were the featured story in People Magazine. Sue is also widely published.

While working in a demanding career, Sue managed to find time to serve her community in a wide variety of ways. She has given numerous presentations to groups, coached Bobby Sox softball, been a team mom for youth soccer and worked on various fundraising projects for several organizations. She volunteers time at the Oroville Rescue Mission, the Fathers House Church Christmas program and Ident-A-Child Program. She is a member of the Greater Oroville Family Resource Center, and spent ten years volunteering at Safe Grad Nights at both LPHS and OHS.

Currently, Sue is a private consultant working as the Executive Director of the Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center in Oroville. This center was established under a state grant to train all multi-jurisdictional drug task forces within the state.

Sue lives in Oroville with her husband and OUHSD Hall of Fame member Mitch Brown.