

HALL OF DISTINCTION

Class of 2023

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Commissioner Bill Smith

Bill Smith has lived in and been an active supporter of Canton Local Schools and community for most of his life. In 1976, Bill and his wife, Diana, purchased their first business at Smith's Waco Market and lived above the store for several years as the business grew. Bill acquired several other commercial properties and manages those through Smith Properties. At the same time, Bill became involved in the school and community, building strong relationships, serving in organizations, donating funds, and becoming an integral part of the Wildcat community.

Bill made another commitment to serving his community when he agreed to become a candidate for Canton Township Trustee. Bill served for 14 years, from 2002 to 2016, helping to make important decisions to expand community services, create a community center, and expand the fire department's service capacity. In 2016 Bill was encouraged to run and was elected as a Stark County Commissioner and reelected in 2020 to serve an additional 4-year term. One letter of support for Commissioner Smith expressed, "He has a history of looking at issues and analyzing options. He finds opportunities to make the community a better place to live while making sure the taxpayers' money is spent efficiently. Bill does not shy away from tough issues or decisions."

Bill is deeply committed to serving his community and church. Bill has been a member of numerous community organizations, including the Canton South Jaycees, Canton South Athletic & Band Booster Clubs, and a past Board Member of the Canton South YMCA. He has served on the Canton Local Long Range Planning Committee and

as a Levy Chairman, as well as on a variety of other levy committees. When the school district needed windows replaced, Bill led efforts as well as donated time and money to make it happen. Bill is an Honorary Board Member of the East Central Ohio Food Dealers Association, where he served as Chairman of the Board and on several other association committees. Bill is a member of the Canton South Rotary and is on the St. Mary / St. Benedict Church Finance Committee.

One of his favorite pastimes is piloting in a hot air balloon. Bill has been a Hot Air Balloon pilot since 1988 and holds a Commercial/Instructor rating in Lighter-than-Air Hot Air Balloons. He shares his skills and love of ballooning as he volunteers at the Hall of Fame Balloon Classic Committee, serving as the field announcer for the event for many, many years.

With his selfless dedication and diverse contributions, he remains a beacon of positive change for our schools, township, and the greater community.

Bill and his wife, Diana, live in Canton Local. They have two married children who live in Stark County: Bill and his wife Amy and Jennifer and her husband Jerry. Together they enjoy nine beautiful grandchildren.