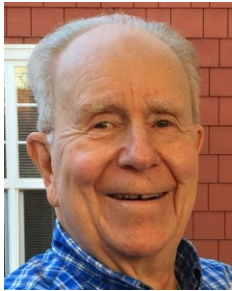


Bill Spalding Class of 2024



Before coming to Oroville, Bill was drafted, into the United States Army, and assigned to Leadership School for non-commissioned officers. He graduated #1 in his class and was promoted to Corporal earning the rank of Private First Class. He was then assigned to Officer Candidate School and in a class of 106 students, ranked #32 and was commissioned a First Lieutenant. He served in the Korean War and taught numerous classes including weapons and armored division tactics. He was awarded bronze and silver stars.

Bill's teaching career started while he was in the Army, serving at Fort Hood, Texas. He taught Adaptation to the Army Way of Life, Rules of Land Warfare, History of the Army, The Caliber .45 pistol, the M-1 rifle, and the .30 Caliber air-cooled machine gun.

Bill earned his BA and MA degrees at Chico State, also taking classes at the University of California, Davis, the University of Arizona, and Cal State University, Sacramento. Before embarking on his public school career, he taught drafting at Chico State.

He was hired to teach in the Oroville Union High School District (OUHSD) in 1961. He taught math, physical geography, government, general science, electricity, electronics, general metals, welding, auto mechanics, drafting, arts and crafts, English, and general science at both Las Plumas (LPHS) and Oroville High School (OHS) for 13 years. He served as Industrial Arts Department chairman at LPHS for 10 of these years.

In 1974, he was appointed assistant principal of Las Plumas High School (LPHS) and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1991. As assistant principal, he oversaw student discipline and over the years, worked closely with several principals. Bill had a way with students, understood the teenage mind better than most, and knew how to guide and motivate them in a positive direction.

His impact on students was profound as he especially loved the challenge of guiding those who needed a little extra support. He was affectionally called Yogi with his large affable presence. With his quick smile and ability to diffuse even the toughest of situations, he grew to be beloved by those he worked with and taught.

In addition to overseeing discipline, Bill performed untold numbers of jobs on campuses of OHS and LPHS. Highly gifted in building skills, he remodeled classrooms at OHS so that they met earthquake standards. He did the same with LPHS classrooms, to accommodate new teaching processes and earthquake-proofed the girls' gymnasium at OHS. He installed two Dust Collector Systems for the Woodshops at OHS and LPJHS and earthquake-proofed the girls' gym at OHS. He operated a backhoe and built access to the upper level of the OHS campus.

Bill was also always available to assist fellow staff members when they had personal needs at their homes. Projects included installing roofs, remodeling bathrooms, painting, and electrical work. His work even extended to Chico where he renovated the barns and remodeled the Gem Display at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds.

With endless energy, Bill also found time to be active in his community. He was active in the YMCA, leading the Indian Guides Program, and in the Boy Scouts of America serving as Pack Leader. He coached Little League Baseball for seven years.

When Bill was not actively involved in work or community projects, he was an active member of numerous organizations including the US Army Reserves, the Association of California School Administrators, and the California Industrial Arts Education Association, to name but a few.

Son, Kent, wrote in his letter of support for his dad, *“Dad was always a tremendous giver. He gave to his family, his community, and most importantly, to Las Plumas High School and the District. His application exemplifies his commitment to the school community. He worked to enrich the lives of so many students along the way. Especially those that needed a nudge to find their potential. “*

Surviving Bill are his sons Michael and Kent Spalding, their wives, and five grandchildren.

