

# Gary Kindseth

**BUSINESSMAN, PUBLIC SERVANT**

*FHS CLASS OF 1965*



Meticulous, loyal, creative, detailed, insightful, observant, perceptive, credible, and diligent; these are the words that one of Gary Kindseth's nominators used to describe him. After seeing all that he accomplished both professionally and as a community leader, these descriptors fit perfectly.

Gary attended Faribault Public Schools and was given his first job while in Mrs. Balken's class. She had him collect the lunch money. He did so well that he kept the job for three years. In high school, he was involved in sports and select choir, and considered himself an average student. After graduation, Gary worked a number of jobs to pay for college: a laborer at the Turkey plant, dishwasher at Wimpy's, and a bookkeeper at Foss Electric. He attended college and graduated from Mankato State with a degree in Business Administration.

Gary began a lengthy career with Faribault Foods in 1972 as traffic and warehouse manager, steadily moving up the ladder as production manager, operations coordinator, vice president of production, and finally becoming vice president of strategic planning.

Gary's pride and interest in Faribault led him to run for the City Council in 1973. He served as the youngest council member in Faribault history from 1973 to 1979, 1985 to 1995, 2008, and 2012. From 1980 to 1982, he served as mayor. He used his council work to promote many projects such as the remodel of City Hall and Library, and establishing River Bend Nature Center and the Senior Center. He also served on a number of boards including director for Midwest Food Processors, Chairman of Reliance Bank, The Economic Development Authority, the Ice Arena Task Force, the purchase of the YMCA, and on the Public Facilities Task Force. He served as Executive Director of the Industrial Corporation for 20 years. In 2007, Gary was honored to be named the Daily News Citizen of the Year.

Gary's accomplishments and his commitment to the community of Faribault are testaments to his belief in Faribault and his willingness to put in the hard work necessary to accomplish challenging goals. When asked if there was anything he would like to share with others he said, "Give to your community and your community will give back." It's apparent that Gary took his own advice.