



SHUMAN GYMNASIUM FUND

THE SHUMAN FAMILY: FA BASKETBALL ICONS

BONNEY AND BILLY SHUMAN enrolled their two children, Billy Jr. and Mary Ellen, at Frederica Academy when they relocated to the Golden Isles in 1999. It was so long ago, Bonney listed her beeper number in the school directory that first year.

Since their arrival at FA, Bonney and Billy have been actively involved in the life and success of the school. They have been exceptional supporters and have epitomized the gold-standard stakeholder trifecta of making FA a better school through their time, talent, and treasure.



Bonney joined the Board of Trustees in 2003 and served on it with great distinction for 13 years, including serving as its chair and vice-chair for much of her Board tenure.

In 2008, Bonney and Billy joined forces with Robin and Davis Love to chair the school's Great Expectations Capital Campaign. The campaign successfully raised over \$5 million to acquire 12 acres of land, which helped transform the campus by adding the front entrance gates and the front practice field.

With respect to their volunteerism, Bonney and Billy have been deeply involved with the school's athletic programs for nearly a quarter of a century. Although they were and often remain fixtures on the sidelines of all the school's spectator sports, their deepest connections are to FA's golf and basketball programs.

Both Billy and Mary Ellen were elite junior golfers, and their parents were fixtures on the golf course whenever they were playing. In

fact, "Big Billy" served as their Middle School golf coach for many years.

As varsity golfers, "Little Billy" and Mary Ellen played together for four years, helping win state titles during all of them. Since Billy was on a state championship team his eighth grade year and Mary Ellen helped win a state title her senior year following Billy's graduation, the siblings were a part of six different GISA state golf championships for Frederica.

Following their impressive golf careers at FA, Billy played on Furman University's golf team and Mary Ellen played golf at the University of Georgia.

As much as Billy and Mary Ellen enjoyed their FA golf experiences, they were also deeply passionate about and invested in Frederica's varsity basketball programs. Billy won state basketball championships his junior and senior years, the school's only state basketball titles. Mary Ellen was a perennial starter and contributor throughout her FA basketball career, an achievement highly respected by the coach who recruited her to play golf at UGA because she valued multi-talented, well-rounded athletes.

Like golf, FA basketball united Team Shuman. Bonney and Billy were always in the gym whenever Billy and Mary Ellen were on the court. Bonney kept the scorebook for every game and Billy was part of the boys' coaching staff. Their devotion to the program was much appreciated and certainly understandable given their love for their children, Frederica Academy, and the sport of basketball.

What transpired after Mary Ellen graduated in 2013 was not nearly as expected. More than a decade later, Bonney and Billy remain actively involved in FA's varsity basketball programs. Bonney continues to keep the scorebook and Billy remains on Coach Ed Wilson's coaching staff. With the exception of a handful of business and family travel conflicts, Billy is at every practice session and game and Bonney is dutifully and deftly keeping the book at the scoring table whenever our Lady Knights and Knights take the court.

Since 2008, Bonney and Billy have been courtside for hundreds of FA games and have logged thousands of miles on countless vehicles as they have travelled throughout Georgia to follow and assist FA's varsity basketball teams. They are truly Frederica basketball icons.



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Frederica Academy has launched a capital campaign to raise \$7.5 million to build a new and much-needed second gymnasium for the school.

Although the scope of the project includes several new or renovated spaces and amenities, the signature investment is the new gymnasium itself.

Given the significant contributions Bonney and Billy Shuman and their children have made to Frederica Academy this century, school officials have created a fund within the New Gymnasium Capital Campaign to name the new gym in honor of the Shuman Family. This decision was reinforced by friends of the Shuman family who have expressed their desire to support the gym campaign by making their donation in honor of a family they dearly love and who they know dearly loves Frederica Academy. The Shumans have been peerless with respect to how they have supported FA's basketball program with their time, talent, and treasure over the past two decades.

Bonney and Billy were genuinely surprised when presented with this proposal. They graciously agreed to let the school move forward with it after some initial reluctance because they always prefer that the spotlight shine on the student athletes and not themselves.

Donors who are interested in supporting the capital campaign can designate their gift for the Shuman Gymnasium Fund or another campaign naming opportunity. They also have the option of simply making their gift to the general capital campaign fund.

