



Robert Eugene “Duke” Sherwood Class of 2026

For most of his life, Robert Eugene “Duke” Sherwood has been the kind of person who simply gets things done. Whether building roads and infrastructure, serving his community, supporting local agriculture, or helping young people succeed, Duke has spent decades making Oroville a better place—not for recognition, but because he believed it was the right thing to do.

Born and raised in the Oroville area, Duke graduated from Las Plumas High School in 1968, having played football, basketball, and baseball, and was a member of Block LP. He was elected student body president as a senior and quickly developed a reputation for hard work, honesty, and determination. Those qualities became the foundation of a successful career in construction and underground utilities. Through Sherwood Construction, he helped shape the growth of Oroville and surrounding communities, leaving a lasting mark on the landscape of Butte County. Many of the projects he completed stand today as quiet reminders of his commitment to quality and his pride in a job done right.

But those who know Duke best will tell you that buildings and roads are only part of his story.

Throughout his life, Duke has believed that success brings a responsibility to give back. He devoted years of service to the Oroville Fire Department, helping protect the community he called home. He also served on the Mining Commission, where his practical experience and thoughtful leadership helped guide decisions affecting local industry and natural resources. In every role, he brought the same common-sense approach and steady character that defined his business career.

Duke’s connection to the land and the agricultural traditions of Butte County has always been strong. As an active member and past president of the Butte County Cattlemen’s Association, he worked to support ranchers, promote agriculture, and preserve a way of life that has long been central to the region’s identity. His leadership earned respect because it was rooted in experience, humility, and a genuine concern for others.

Perhaps nowhere has Duke’s generosity been felt more deeply than in his support of local youth. For years, he has been a familiar presence at county fairs, livestock auctions, and Future Farmers of America events. When a young exhibitor needed encouragement, Duke was often there. When an animal struggled to attract bidders, he stepped forward. He understood that those projects represented months of hard work, responsibility, and learning. By supporting those young people, he helped teach lessons about perseverance, confidence, and community.

What sets Duke apart is not any single accomplishment, but the way he has lived his life. He built a respected business, served his community, supported agriculture, and invested in future generations—all while remaining approachable, humble, and deeply committed to the people around him. Friends, colleagues, employees, and neighbors consistently describe him as dependable, fair, and generous, a man whose handshake was as good as a contract and whose word could always be trusted.

The story of Duke Sherwood is, in many ways, the story of the Oroville community itself: built on hard work, service, integrity, and a willingness to help others. His contributions can be seen in the projects he completed, the organizations he strengthened, and the countless lives he touched along the way.

For a lifetime spent building not only structures but also community, Robert Eugene “Duke” Sherwood exemplifies the values of Las Plumas High School and the very spirit of Hall of Fame recognition.

Duke, his wife, and their three children are all involved in the family business.