

OFHS



WALL OF FAME
Inducted May 29, 2005



REUBEN RADKE

Reuben Radke was born March 16, 1937 in the Town of Oconto Falls to William and Wanda (Schmidt) Radke. One of 17 children, he shared an upstairs attic space with his eight brothers, all sleeping on feather beds which his mother made from the feathers the children collected from the ducks and chickens raised on their farm. He attended Elm Lawn Grade School and graduated with the Oconto Falls High School class of 1955.

At OFHS, he lettered in football and track, and was named all conference as a defensive half back. He set records in the low and high hurdles. The record in the low hurdles still stands. He advanced to the State Track Meet in Madison and brought home a gold medal in low hurdles for the Panthers. His love of high school sports continued beyond graduation. Ever since 1966 he has played an important role at OFHS football games as a member of the "Chain Gang."

In 1957, Reuben married Lorraine Kobs and together they raised five children: Jerry, Steve, Dan, Kristen and Craig. They now enjoy 12 grandchildren. In 1959, he began his 39 year career with the City of Oconto Falls Street Department. He also served as part time police officer in his early years with the City. Working his way up to Street Superintendent, he took pride in well maintained streets and the fact that they were cleared quickly and efficiently after a snowstorm. In this role he was responsible for working with engineers, consultants and fellow employees in making Oconto Falls a better community to raise a family. He is also an avid Green Bay Packers fan with a stretch of attending games going back to 1954 in Old City Stadium.

Throughout his life, Reuben gave his time and talents to this community. In 1959 he joined the fire department as a volunteer and continues today. He was active with the fire department's effort to take on rescue squad services.

Reuben organized and participated in baseball and softball leagues for 27 years. He carried that love of the game as a member of the City Park and Recreation Committee. Reuben helped support the creation of the "Avenue of Lights" that decorates the Eastside Beach area during the holidays. A lifelong member of Grace Lutheran Church, Reuben served on church council for many years. He has spent countless hours for the good of Christ's church.

Proud of the fact that he is a lifelong "West-sider," Reuben has been a good neighbor, friend and proud ambassador of Oconto Falls. The Class of 1955 motto reads, "Anything worth doing is worth doing well". Reuben has exemplified this motto his entire life!