

O F H S



WALL OF FAME
Inducted June 6, 2004



ROBERT W. ELLNER

Robert Ellner was born on August 2, 1935 to Frank and Helen Ellner in West Allis, Wisconsin. After attending Abrams Grade School, he moved to Oconto Falls High School, where he was very active in many organizations and excelled in all sports. Well liked by his fellow students, he was selected as Homecoming King his senior year.

As a senior, he joined the Wisconsin National Guard. After 35 1/2 years of continuous service, he retired as a Master Sergeant. He provided great leadership to his National Guard unit and demonstrated his personal commitment when called to active duty a number of times, including during the 1961 Berlin crisis. Each time he responded without complaint, even with the knowledge that he was putting his personal life on hold.

While in the Guard, he joined the Wisconsin High Power Rifle Team. He earned his Distinguished Rifleman medal as part of the All Guard Rifle Team. He was renowned for his accuracy in long distance shooting. Through the National Guard he coached many junior rifle teams and started a Junior Rifle Team in Oconto Falls.

After graduating with the class of '54, he went to work for Scott Paper. During this 40 year long career, he advanced to a millwright position. He attended NWTC to improve his skills in the trade along the way. Throughout his long career at Scott paper, he became a "go-to" person when difficult situations were encountered.

On September 11, 1954, he married Dorothy Marks. During that marriage of 47 years they had five children, 10 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. He was a proud parent and grandfather.

His active community involvement included the Kiwanis, Lions, and the Oconto River Bowmen. After his retirement he added the Senior Citizens group as another focus for his extensive volunteer work. Along with traveling, Bob had a great love for the outdoors, including deer hunting, golfing, and especially fishing. He would often take a friend along who never got out much.

His calm, supportive demeanor, coupled with his energy and tenacity, evident in his high school athletic career and his military service, were a source of strength and reassurance to those around him. Whether it was in his education, loyal military service, professional career, or his personal life, Bob always reached higher than those around him. His greatest strengths were his ability to recognize the important things in life and his commitment to share the gifts of his knowledge and friendship with everyone he encountered. Above all, Bob was the ultimate good guy.

Bob never wanted to be recognized for all his accomplishments because it was "something you just do." He passed away on August 13, 2001, from acute pancreatitis.