

OFHS



WALL OF FAME

Inducted May 28, 2006



TOM LUTZ

Tom Lutz was raised on the family dairy farm outside Oconto Falls and it was there that he learned the value of hard work from his parents, John and Marcella Lutz.

As a student at Oconto Falls High School, Tom was active in football, track, dramatics and forensics, FFA, and the school play. He was also elected sophomore class president and junior Prom King. He graduated from OFHS in 1956. After two years of study at UW-Platteville, he enlisted in the US Army, where he continued to develop his leadership skills and earned the rank of E-5 Platoon Sergeant.

After returning to Oconto Falls in 1962, Tom completed his teaching certification at Marinette Normal School and began his career in education as a sixth grade teacher at Abrams School. He continued to take courses, completing his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from UW-Platteville in 1968. In 1970, Tom was named principal at Abrams School and soon added the responsibilities of principal at Little Suamico School. He completed his Master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision at UW-Milwaukee in 1975.

As principal, Tom continued to touch the lives of students and teachers each day. He was well respected by the students for his fair mindedness and his ability to make learning fun for everyone. Many of his students went on to successful careers, often giving him credit for being an excellent role model and mentor.

Tom played a significant role in the remodeling and expansion of Abrams School, which included returning the school bell to its rightful spot in the new bell tower. With the completion of Abrams School, he successfully blended the students and staff from both elementary schools and created a positive learning environment for all.

Tom retired in 1998 after 35 years with the Oconto Falls School District. Although he is now retired, he continues to be active in the community as a member of the Oconto Falls Lions Club, volunteering his time and energy to a variety of community projects.

Tom and Karen (Rabas) Lutz have been married for 42 years, have one daughter, Michelle (Wade) Grenke, and two grandsons, Gabe and David. Their extended family includes three foreign exchange students, Patricia, Misa and Jörn, whom they have traveled to see in Germany and Japan.

Dedicated to education, Tom and his family established the annual John & Marcella (Murphy) Lutz Memorial Scholarship, given for the first time to a member of the OFHS Class of 2006.

Thomas W. Lutz dedicated his entire career to educating children in the Oconto Falls School District.