

OFHS



WALL OF FAME

Inducted September 21, 2019



JAMES F. MOYNIHAN

James Moynihan was born in Oconto Falls in 1937, the eldest of eight children and only son of James and Marie Moynihan. He attended St. Anthony Catholic School and graduated from Oconto Falls High School in 1955. He was active in FFA and was the Badger Boy of his class. Although Jim never attended college, he had an entrepreneurial spirit and vision for Oconto Falls. Jim married Anita Meyerden in 1957, and together they built an A&W Drive-In in 1960, later expanding to a restaurant in 1964, thus sparking interest in a business park along the eastern corridor of the city. His business ventures continued with additions of a laundromat, a car wash, and J-Way Sand & Gravel in the early 1970's, followed by a franchise selling Wick Homes. He later sold his businesses, ultimately completing his career expediting house building for Ark Homes. To honor Jim, an entrepreneurship scholarship was established in his name at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

In addition to his business activities, Jim has been a servant leader in the community for decades. In 1965 he became a volunteer with the Oconto Falls Fire Department, serving as fire chief from 1981-1991. He continues to be a volunteer fireman today, offering his astute historical perspective to young crewmembers. His civic leadership included terms as alderman of Oconto Falls, supervisor for Oconto County, and board member for Oconto Falls School District for 13 years. His volunteer spirit also was shared at St. Anthony School and Parish where he served on parish council, school board, Home & School Association, and where he led campaigns to save the school and to build a new church. An avid sports fan, he volunteered over 30 years on the OFHS football sidelines 'chain gang'. He coached Oconto Falls Youth Baseball, American Legion Baseball, and summer Girls' Youth Softball, and also contributed to business associations, Boy Scouts, and the River Island Golf Club. He has used his keen memory of business history in Oconto Falls as an active member of Oconto Falls Heritage Society.

Along the way, Jim and Anita raised nine children - all graduates of OFHS. Jim's example as volunteer, civic leader, and entrepreneur is both broad and deep, covering many organizations over his entire life. The vision that James Moynihan has provided Oconto Falls has generated benefits for the entire community for decades.