

OFHS



WALL OF FAME

Inducted October 02, 2010



BILL KAMKE

Growing up with strong rural roots, Bill Kamke built the foundation and ground floor on his formal education at the one room Beaver Lake School. He capped that off with one year at Kelly Brook School before walking through the doors of OFHS. Active in Key Club, football, track, FFA and school play, Bill graduated with the class of 1960. He went on to St. Norbert College for a year before deciding to return to the family dairy farm.

The family farm operation changed in 1967 when Bill married Kathy Haley. Later Jennifer and Michael joined the family team working long hours on the dairy operation.

Bill ventured into a new area in 1987 when he started a pheasant hunting club that has blossomed into an operation covering over 1000 acres with over 500 family memberships.

His six years of service in the Marine Corps Reserves provided the inspiration for a half century of public service to Oconto Falls and the surrounding area. Included were significant contributions on the St. Anthony Parish Council, St. Anthony School Board, Production Credit Association, Federal Land Bank, Pine Hill Cemetery Board, and the Town of Oconto Falls Land Use Committee, just to mention a few.

Continuing a family tradition, in 1973 Bill was elected to the Oconto Falls School Board. While on the board he achieved a stellar 23 year record of dedicated service to the young people of the school district. He served several terms as Board President and representative to the CESA Board of Control. He worked to establish the Oconto Falls Dollars for Scholars program, which up to this point has distributed over \$80,000 in scholarships.

After retiring from the school board, Bill stepped up to the plate to chair the community effort to support a twenty million dollar effort to expand and upgrade the high school with smaller improvements at other schools. This project, approved by voters in April 2000, will serve the community for generations to come.

Bill still enjoys getting into classrooms. He brings history to life as he portrays a 1852 lumberjack. These efforts give Bill a chance to practice the skills he acquired as an actor in high school drama.

Beyond the education field, Bill left his mark serving as the Board President on the Oconto Falls Community Health Care Foundation. Their efforts have provided the resources to make CMH a lighthouse for health care in Northeast Wisconsin.

The positive attitude that permeates everything he does and his commitment to make the community a better place, serve as an inspiration to all who know him.