

OFHS



WALL OF FAME

Inducted September 19, 2015



RON LEJA

Ron Leja was born in Abrams, grew up on a farm a few miles outside of the community and continued a life-long connection to the people and land of the surrounding area. He entered Abrams Elementary with a strong work ethic coming from that farm background.

Moving on to Oconto Falls High School he participated in football, wrestling and baseball, National Honor Society, FFA and Chess Club. He is proud to have been a catcher during his senior year on the 1973 OFHS state championship baseball team. After graduation he continued his education at UW-Platteville where he earned a degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1977.

He used this education to start a career as a design engineer at Allis Chalmers in West Allis. After two years, he came back to Abrams to be involved in the family dairy farm and has been involved with wide variety of agricultural ventures ever since. Among these were: serving as the President of the Abrams Livestock Shipping Association for 33 years; serving five years as a director on the Pulaski Chase Co-op, and being part of the Farm Service Agency Board for 3 years.

His life long love of athletics continued on a number of levels, including being involved with Oconto Falls / Abrams Youth Wrestling Club for over 30 years and serving the past 7 as President. His work with the club not only provided resources to support the school program but also helped with youth development that was the foundation for a number state qualifiers and state champions in recent years.

Ron's public service record includes serving on the Town of Abrams Planning Commission and the Oconto County Board of Canvassers. Most people would agree that his most significant public service has been as a 27-year member of the Oconto Falls School Board, including 22 years in which he provided leadership as President. Under his direction the district has grown to be recognized as an outstanding place for students to learn in a safe caring environment, with a wide range of opportunities, and great facilities, both within school buildings and with its new outdoor facilities.

Ron and his wife Cathy, another Oconto Falls alumni member (Class of '75), have been married 39 years. Their 4 children: Ryan, Renee, Rory, and Riley, have also all graduated from Oconto Falls High School. Ron's deep connection to the school district and dedicated service over the years, have earned him a prominent place in the Oconto Falls High School Wall of Fame.