

"I Touched the Future" Recognition Award Nomination

Mr. William J. Boandl

The Nazareth Area School District's vision is "to inspire students to become innovative, collaborative, and constructive citizens who embrace diversity, value education and honesty, develop a strong work ethic, and a sense of responsibility, that challenges them to be leaders in a global society". I can't think of a single individual who has encouraged more students on the road to fulfill every one of those attributes (and many more) than Mr. William J. Boandl; music teacher, band director, and curriculum leader in the Nazareth Area School District.

"Mr. B.", as everyone called him, was a man of great integrity. His love and dedication to his family, friends, students, and the music program was evident in everything he did. The time and energy he devoted to our youth truly made a difference in every life he touched. The students, through Bill's direction, gave the gift of music in concerts, half time shows, band competitions, theatrical musicals, parades, memorial services, borough celebrations, and charity events.

In the school climate and in the community, Bill set a precedence that set the bar for excellence in Nazareth. The faculty admired him, the parents supported him, and the students respected and loved him. Mr. B. was recognized by directors and band competition judges all over the country. The Blue Eagle band is still known nationally, and continues the tradition to win many state and national championships in the USSBA circuit.

Mr. B. was admired, not only for what he stood for, but his innate ability to bring out the best in others. His sense of humor and jokes calmed nerves, and his smile was contagious. Bill empowered students by giving leadership positions to students as band officers and section leaders to be positive mentors for younger members. He gave the students confidence, was a role model for strength and grace, and was a powerful motivator. In Half Time Magazine in 2009, Nazareth Area High School Blue Eagle Band was featured in an article "How to Boost Morale". Since 1981, as the Nazareth band members line up, getting ready to march onto the field before a show, a band parent begins the traditional chant still around today; "Nazareth, on the count of three...one, two, three". And then the fans yell, "WAHOO". That is letting the band and band front know that the parents love them, are wishing them good luck, and are behind them 100%. Then the drum major readies the band for the return response, "Wahoo" to recognize their loved ones in the stands. This connection is an incredible bond that unites the entire band family.

Mr. William Boandl truly touched the future and positively influenced countless lives. I know that if Mr. B would read these accolades and compliments today, he would modestly give the students and his staff most of the credit. He was an amazing man who brought music to Nazareth like no one else. So, to Bill I say, this one is for you; "Nazareth, on the count of three: one, two, three,... WAHOO".

Submitted by Celia Szuba