

Duane E. Tron

An Olympic Torch Bearer, an educator, a corrections and probation officer, a firefighter, a Sonar and Commissary man in the Navy, and a proud 1962 graduate of NHS. Duane Tron has done all of these things and more. After all he professed to his students that "life is a journey and not a destination! Enjoy every minute fully. Duane has done just that.

Duane joined the Navy after high school (1962-66). He performed with the USN Drum and Bugle Corps while stationed at Great Lakes. He was assigned to Ground Electronics Maintenance in Florida during the Cuban Missile Crisis, followed by service in communications and security at a top secret base, during which time he travelled to England and Europe. Subsequently, he was assigned to Submarine Squadron 4 in Charleston, SC. After his discharge from the Navy, he moved to Dayton and went to work for Lau, Inc. While he worked at Lau, Inc., he attended part-time classes at Sinclair and later attended Wright State University full-time, where he earned his BA degree in geography along with his comprehensive teacher certification (1969-72).

For the past 36 years Duane served as an educational leader, building administrator, teacher, coach and student advisor. In 1972 he began as a social studies teacher, and later became head teacher at Graham Junior High (1983). He coached football, basketball and track as well. At the same time he earned his M.Edu. in Administration (1983). He was appointed principal in 1989 and remained at Graham East Elementary until its closing. While there, he began working on his Ph.D. in Education. Soon he accepted a position as Middle School Principal at North Union Schools in 1991. After three years he was selected as Unit Principal with the Freemont City Schools (1994-98). I strived to impart values that would become an everyday part of my students' lives. I raised the bar high and insisted that students live up to expectations and not down to them. We pursued excellence in the classroom and on athletic courts and fields.

He retired in 1998, only to continue his journey by joining the Champaign County Sheriff's Department and Juvenile Court as a Corrections Officer and Director/Probation Officer with the COBRA Juvenile Court Program (1999). He was director of a juvenile boot camp and probations officer for two years. In 2001 the Springfield City Schools appointed him principal of the Eagle and Dove Academy. He remains there today heading a program for 160 at-risk learners in grades 1-5.

Duane has received numerous honors: a Scholarship to Georgetown U. and a Congressional Internship (1970); Teacher of the Year Award, Graham Jr. High (1983/1984); DAR American History Teacher of the Year (1983, 1984, 1987); Excellence in Education Awards for sponsoring students in national competitions (1976, 1986, 1990); Presidential Recognition for Grow Your Own Teachers at a Town Hall meeting in Akron presented by President Clinton (1997); Excellence in Education Award, Fremont City School Board (1997, 1998); and, Olympic Torch Bearer, 2002 Winter Olympics, Lima, OH (1/2/02).

Some of his other activities include: being a firefighter, fire inspector, and fire marshal for the St. Paris Fire District (1979-1992); being a member of the Social Studies Speakers Bureau (1976-95); serving as Chairman of the St. Paris Planning Commission that brought a Honda Satellite plant to St. Paris (1980-85); and serving as a member and leader of the St. Paris United Methodist Church (1979 to present).

On May 29, 1965, Duane married, Mary Jane Edwards, now a Commercial Insurance Agent. I want to thank my wife of 43 years, Mary, for her love, support, friendship and being my soul mate. Without her love and support I wouldn't be receiving this honor. This honor belongs as much to her as it does to me. She has been my essence, a part of me, since we first started dating in 1964 when she was a senior at NHS, and I was in the Navy. They have one daughter, Jennifer Maria Tron-Drukker (1972) who is a Special Agent in the United States Secret Service. Her husband is Andrew, and they have a new daughter, Maya Grace.