

## STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

Winter 2025, Issue 39

## EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWS

### 2025 Edison Athletes Inducted into Hall of Fame

The 2025 Edison Hall of Fame inductees were honored at our annual dinner at Elsie's Entertainment Center. Over 50 people attended and enjoyed a nice dinner and shared stories with each other as inductees prepared to receive their honor.

#### Tim Kraskey (1978)

Tim was an excellent distance runner during his time at Edison. He was a six-time letter winner in the sports of track (3), cross country (2), and skiing (1). In track, Tim set many records which included the two mile run, the 1500 and 3000 meter run. As a senior, he took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the two-mile run at the City meet. He was the Bill Bevans MVP Award winner his senior year.

In cross country, Tim is one of the top two runners in school history at the three-mile distance. He holds the school record at the 5,000-meter distance. Tim was an All-City selection as a senior.



### 1979 Circle of Champions

#### FOOTBALL

The football team had another great season ending the season tied for the city conference title. The only loss was to Roosevelt. Highlight of the season was defeating Washburn 21-0 while holding their offense to 34 yards gained in the entire game. Jon Chelstrom, John Schlundt, Jim Wentland, and Pat Faber were selected to the All-City team. Jeff Moritko was selected All-Metro and Pat Faber was selected All-Metro and All-State.

#### BOYS SWIMMING

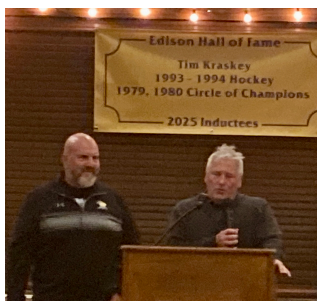
After a regular season that included a loss to Southwest and Washburn, the Tommie's stunned their competition in the city meet. Seeded a distant fourth, Edison upset the competition to bring home their fourth consecutive city title. Bob Reynolds, Larry Kinde, and Dave Farr were the team captains.

#### WRESTLING

The wrestling team continued the success of past champion teams at Edison by winning the City Conference, Twin City title, and by finishing 2nd in the region VAA tournament. Highlights from the season included a 1-point loss to state power Alexandria, and wins over Mankato West and Osseo. Captains Pat Faber and Joe Lubinski ended the season as runners-up in the State Meet. Others who qualified to state were Tony Neis, Bill Burkland, and Joe Wu.

#### BASEBALL

Strong pitching and hitting drove Edison to the City and Region Championships. This was the 8th City championship in 9 years for the Tommies. Pitching leaders included Pat Petrowitz, Tom Kazrowski, and Blain Wakaruk. The hitting leaders were Tom Jaremko, Jim Wentland, Greg Felling, and Jim Burns.



#### Past HOF Plaques

A list of names will be posted to our website under the hall of fame section.

If the plaque that interests you is available, you can request it at: [edisonhof@gmail.com](mailto:edisonhof@gmail.com) and we can arrange delivery. John Banisky

## 2025 Edison Athletes Inducted into Hall of Fame

### 1980 Circle of Champions

#### GIRLS TENNIS

For the first time in school history and since interscholastic tennis began (1967), The team won the City Conference and Twin City titles. The Tommies completed the conference schedule with a perfect 8-0 record. Captain Kathy Brehorst and DeDe Johnston participated in the state meet by winning the doubles championship at the region VAA meet.

#### WRESTLING

The wrestling team enjoyed a successful season by winning the City title for the 4th consecutive year. Senior captains Joe Lubinski and Bill Burkland provided excellent leadership during the year.

#### BOYS SWIMMING

The Tommies won the City Conference title with a perfect 8-0 record. They defeated Como Park in the Twin City meet. Though they were a young team, Coach O'Keefe stated that they matured as the season went on. The team was led by Captains Mark Miller, Marty Pribula and Brian Walker.

#### BASEBALL

Winning City championships continued for the Tommies as their 16-2 record saw them undefeated until the last two games of the season. In 18 contests during the season, the team scored 10 or more runs 12 times. The team statistics included 167 runs scored and 44 runs against. All-City selections included Tom Jaremko, Jim Burns, Greg Felling, Tim Hadler, and Blaine Wakaruk.

### 1993-94 Hockey

The year was 1994 and a group of close-knit friends who had grown up together skating on the frozen rinks in Northeast Minneapolis entered the hockey season with high aspirations after a section final loss at the Met Center the year prior.

Led by head coach **Charlie Burroughs**, the **Tommies** returned a strong core of juniors and seniors. With freshman goaltender **Duck Birmingham** in the nets and **Stevie Vasseur** belting out the national anthem at VMIA the team was ready and determined for a great season. They stormed through the regular season at 9-1 with a non-conference schedule that included Shattuck St Mary's, the Junior B Bloomington Blades and a 3-2 win over eventual Wisconsin State Champion Superior High School.

The **Tommies** entered the section tournament as the #3 seed behind prestigious, local private schools Blake and Holy Angels. After beating South to open section play Holy Angels was up next and the **Tommies** won an overtime thriller with junior **Sean Trygestad** coming through with the game winner. The **Tommies** came into the section final with a lot of confidence which would be needed as they were playing the #1 team in the state the Blake Bears.

The puck dropped at 7PM that Wednesday night and Parade ice garden was at overflow capacity with supporters from all over the city of Minneapolis. In what would become known as one of the greatest upsets in high school hockey history the **Birmingham brothers** played key roles in shutting out the heavily favored Blake Bears with a final score of 2-0. The **Tommies** were headed to the Minnesota State High School Hockey tournament for the first time in school history.

At the tournament, the puck dropped for Edison at 9:45 pm in the 4th quarterfinal game of the 1994 state tournament. Northern Power Hibbing was the opponent and jumped out to an early lead as the **Tommies** were adjusting to the Civic Centers bright lights and big stage. They fought back in the second and third period but ultimately lost 8-3.

The team's resilience showed in the remaining two games beating Breck 4-1 and perennial tournament participant Hermantown 6-3 for an impressive 5th place finish. It's been 30 years since that magical run to the state tournament but the memories never fade.





## Alumni Remembered - Vietnam War and Korean War

Approximately 200 family, veterans, classmates, alumni, and community members attended a Veterans Day event at Edison on November 11 to dedicate two plaques to honor seven alumni who died in service during the Korean War and 14 alumni who died during the Vietnam War.

The evening started with a warm welcome address by Principal Eryn Warne. 1989 graduate Lanell Lightfoot was next with a powerful singing of the national anthem.

Next up was Mike Warne '89 providing some history of the way Edison addressed service members and the war effort during World War II and some of the history of the plaque honoring the 116 alumni who died in service during World War II. This was contrasted by the lack of acknowledgment by the school of the Korean War or the Vietnam War. A short video tribute was played showing a picture of each of the 21 men being honored. Each picture was accompanied by their graduation year, military branch of service, and age, followed by a picture of their headstone. A short dedication was made, and the two new plaques were revealed to the crowd.

### Plaque Dedication

*Today, Veterans Day, we are here as family, friends, classmates, alumni, and the greater community to dedicate these plaques to the 21 Edison alumni who died in service to their country during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.*

*The plaques will be mounted in a place of prominence in the main hallway of the school. The very hallway where these men walked so many years ago.*

*May the plaques provide some comfort to their remaining family and friends that this school and this community remember these men.*

*May the plaques be a reminder to anyone that sees them that wars have a terrible cost, and it's usually young men and women that are asked to pay with their lives.*

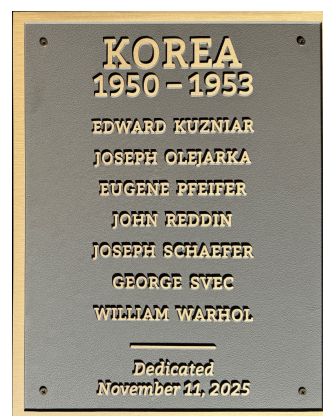
*And finally, may these be the last plaques ever dedicated at Edison High School.*

Navy veteran Davinna (Sater) Hansen '89 gave a heartfelt speech about service and the importance of support from family, friends, and the community to service members.

Marine Corps veteran, Pat Finn '49 shared some of his combat experiences during the Korean War.

Next it was time to honor all veterans for their service. As Mark Vandermyde '87 played each of the service songs, Davinna asked all service members to stand up by branch of service. First it was the Army veterans, followed by the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force. The crowd cheered continuously as the veterans stood proudly. It was a wonderful moment appreciated by all involved.

The event ended with an enthusiastic rendition of the Blue-Gold Rouser performed by the Edison Marching Band.



MEMBERS OF FALLDIN POST  
555 POSE WITH THE PLAQUES



LANELL LIGHTFOOT '89 SINGS  
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM,



## Working Musician by Al Zdon and James Walsh

It's been about 60 years since the Underbeats, later Gypsy, were tearing up the local scene as Minnesota's premier rock and roll band. James Walsh, a student at Edison High School, joined the band in the 1960s and had the unique opportunity of becoming a rock star, something most of us aspired to even if we had no talent. Gypsy became the house band at the Whisky A Go Go in Los Angeles, the major venue for rock music in that era, and stayed on that lofty perch for two years before releasing the first of their four albums. Walsh rode the wave, playing every major music venue in North America for the next four years. And then it all crashed, the band split up, and Walsh became a notable in the Minnesota music scene for the next 50 years. He also sold appliances at Warners' Stellan and slung hash at Key's Restaurant.

*Working Musician* is both an autobiography of Walsh and a history of that era. With humor and honesty he recounts a life in music including producing a platinum single for Sheryl Crow and making a solo album of his own at the mecca of American music, Muscle Shoals.

The book is a collaboration between Walsh and Al Zdon, members of the Edison High School Class of 1966. Zdon had previously written six books, all on Minnesota veterans who fought in the wars. This is his first rock and roll book.

## Lesley Earles, Director of Bands and Instrumental Music

The Edison High School Pride of Northeast supported the Homecoming festivities the week of October 6<sup>th</sup> with a pep fest, parade around Jackson Square Park, march in/out at the volleyball game, half time field performance at the soccer game and ended with their debut performance at the Youth in Music Marching Band Championships at the US Bank stadium. Thanks to generous donors like the Edison Community and Sports Foundation, we were able to ride in style on a coach bus and feed our musicians before the marching band event.



Student leadership (Band Assistant Emmy Miller, Block Captain & Brass Captain Elijah White and Head Drum Major Otellia Olsen presenting our award from the event to Principal Ervn Warne).

## Two sisters share 89 years at the same company



Beanie Suek (Zukowski) class of '76 and Janet Micek (Zukowski) class of '78 both graduated from Edison. Their mother, Evelyn Zukowski -Mulvihill also attended Edison, Class of 1939, as well as their siblings.

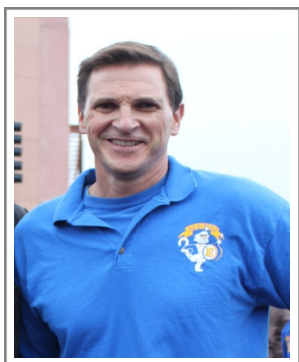
Beanie and Janet worked at the Riverside HealthPartners Clinic together for 39 years before it closed in 2020. When the clinic closed, Janet worked from home and Beanie went on to the Health Specialty Center in St Paul. Beanie and Janet have both had numerous different jobs at the healthcare clinic. Beanie is outgoing, generous, kind, giving, and loves people. She received the President's Award honor for her outstanding service. Janet on the other hand, is reserved but has the same passion for helping patients. These sisters have the

strongest bond and are always together. Janet's most recent title at HealthPartners is a kidney, lung, heart, liver, transplant coordinator. Ironically, Janet's health took a sudden turn in February when she went to urgent care for suspected pneumonia. She was rushed to Regions hospital with dangerously low oxygen levels and was diagnosed with a rare disease Anti MD 5. Her only hope of surviving would be to have a double lung transplant. They knew the situation was dire and the road was going to be difficult. Janet was placed on the top priority list in the nation to receive lungs. Thankfully a donor was found the very next day. It was a miracle! She was transferred from Regions to the University of Minnesota. Beanie and her wonderful family created shifts and they were with her every day for four months. Janet said, "I had to learn to speak, walk and write again. I never would have survived without the love and support from God, my donor, doctors, nurses, family, friends, relatives, coworkers, church members and even complete strangers. It is a long road ahead."

Beanie worked for Health Partners 44 years and Janet 45. They started their careers together and are finishing together. Not sure what their plans on moving forward will be but, I guarantee you, they will be side by side!



## Letter from President Iacarella



### **In Memory Of...**

Jean Rose Brock, '53  
Arnie Carlson, '46  
Peg Carrothers, '82  
Robert (Bob) Dircks, '54  
Lora Kay Epps, '73  
Tom Fahey, '63  
Ted (Goose) Gonsior, '49  
Ricky Labandz, '77  
Mary Ann (Kielb) Nalezny, '49  
Daniel Ptak, '76  
Jean Schmidt (Spano), '56  
Fred Sewell, '50  
Sandra (Manthey) Wert, '62  
Kurt Wilson, '63

Greetings Edison Alumni and Friends,

I hope this note finds you well. As your president—and a fellow Tommie—I wanted to share a few thoughts from my 50th reunion, highlight an important project honoring our fallen classmates, and offer a simple year-end way to support Edison's next generation.

Our reunion this October was eye-opening and full of heart. I spent more time than I'd like to admit squinting at name tags and doing double takes. At one point, I walked up to a couple, sure I knew the woman. Turns out, her husband was a classmate. He told me he'd never really gotten involved with much of anything at Edison, yet he and his wife flew in from Hawaii just to be there. He said it was worth every mile to reconnect with classmates and with Northeast Minneapolis. That stuck with me. Reunions matter. You can't replace a handshake, a laugh, or an old story told face to face. On a personal note, I reconnected with my wife, Vicky, at our 20th reunion—proof that simply showing up can change your life. If your class has folks willing to do the work of putting a reunion together, please go—even if you're unsure or you've got a lingering beef from back in the day. Go because others want the chance to see you. It's freeing, it's good for the soul, and it reminds us who helped shape us.

I also want to recognize the care and effort that Mike Warne put into a new memorial plaque honoring Edison students who gave their lives in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He did the hard work—digging into records, confirming names, gathering stories—so we remember them properly. The plaque lists seven servicemen from the Korean War and fourteen from the Vietnam War. We unveiled it on Veterans Day, November 11, in the Edison gym. It was a proud, moving moment for our community.

Projects like this aren't cheap. ECSF, generous donors, and Mike himself have

already covered a good part of the cost, but there's still a gap. If you'd like to help, please make a gift through the Edison Community & Sports Foundation and note "Memorial Plaque" with your donation. We'll make sure every designated dollar goes directly to the project.

As we head into the holidays, it's a good time to say thanks and pay it forward. ECSF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and your tax-deductible gift can support what matters most to you: student scholarships, school programs and activities, the Edison Alumni Band, and partners across Northeast Minneapolis. If Edison shaped you—as it did me—please consider including ECSF in your year-end giving. Every gift, large or small, helps keep the Edison spirit strong for the students walking those halls today.

Thank you for all the ways you show up for Edison—by coming to reunions, cheering on students, honoring our veterans, and giving when you can. If you have questions, ideas, or want to get more involved, I'd love to hear from you.

With appreciation and Edison pride,  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Years!  
Go Tommies!

Mike Iacarella  
President, Edison Community &  
Sports Foundation



Special Thanks to our generous supporters.

We Appreciate You!! Donate Online at:

[www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com](http://www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com)

Click Donate Now, YOU Make A Difference!

## **TOMMIE SPIRIT**



## Save The Date

The Edison Community and Sports Foundation Golf Scramble will be at Columbia Golf Course again on July 27, 2026. Watch this newsletter and the ECSF Events web site (<https://www.edisonsportsfoundation.org/golf-tournament/>) for updates as they become available.

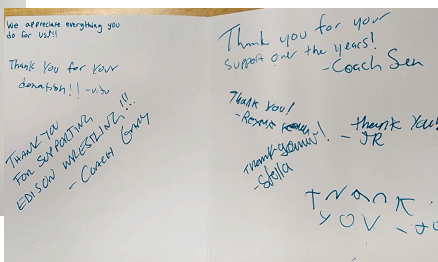
## CSF Sponsors Edison Homecoming Parade — “The World’s Shortest Parade”

Midway through Homecoming Week, Edison kept tradition alive with its annual Homecoming Parade. Sponsored by ECSF, the parade showcased the Marching Band, Edison classes, clubs, teams, and Future Tommies. Though brief in distance—circling Jackson Square Park—the celebration overflowed with school pride and community spirit. This event is just one of the many ways ECSF continues to make a meaningful impact on the Edison community.



## ECSF supports Edison Student Athletes

ECSF recently provided a grant to help purchase new uniforms for the Edison wrestling program. The twenty-member team includes the defending Women’s State Champion and the Men’s State 5th-place finisher—an impressive lineup representing Edison with pride. ECSF is honored to meaningfully support our current Edison student-athletes. Go Tommies!



## CONTRIBUTORS CARRYING ON THE TOMMIE SPIRIT!

### SUPER STAR

Kelly Adair, Renaissance Charitable Foundation  
Wayne Blosberg, in honor of the Edison Hero's exhibit  
Rose Mary McDonald, in honor of the Nierengarten Family whose six children graduated from Edison and the University of Minnesota  
Bob Murtaugh, Chorske Alumni Scholarship  
Kimberly Wentland, Willie Wentland Scholarship  
Wilson Foundation, Willie Wentland Scholarship

### BLUE

Robert and Mary Litterman

### TOMMIE

Jane Bona, Edison class of 1970, in honor of the Edison Alumni Band, Joan Quivered, Wes Hendrickson scholarship

### FRIEND OF EDISON

Anonymous, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, James Becker, in memory of Ross Parker, John & Sharon Benson, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, Rusty Cowan, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, Marianne Custer, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, Gary and Barb Delaitsch, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, John and Penny Dupay, in honor of Wes

Hendrickson, Nancy Engen, John Engstrom, in honor of Class of '61, Gerald Espe, Bruce Gallus, Terence Gliniany, Ramona Harristhal, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, Mary Jaszewski, in memory of Gerald Cloutier (class of 1950), Gary Jurek, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, Jim and Katy Livingston, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, Susan Luke, Audrey Mahr, in memory of Carol Peterson and Mary Sue Meulgners, Michael & Lydia Mello, Lynn Miskowic, Patricia Myklebust, Betty Nelson, in memory of Arthur Kirberger, Nancy Novak, in honor of Edison alumni band, Jackie and Charles Osterud, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, Darlene Rice, Tony Savage, in memory of Jimmy Jaremko, Sandy Severson Spore, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, James Terry, Carol Warne, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, Michael Warne, in honor of Devinna (Sater) Hansen '89 for speaking at the Veterans Day event; in honor of Lanell Lightfoot '89 for singing at the Veterans Day event; and in honor of Mark Vandermyde '87 for playing music at the Veterans Day event, Helen and Franklin Yates, in honor of Jack Roach



**Please fill in this form and mail it with your contribution to:**

**EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION**

**P.O. Box 68032 Minneapolis, MN 55418**

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**confirmation of your donation:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Donate online at [www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com](http://www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com)**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Contact me regarding our Legacy Giving Program \_\_\_\_\_**

**Individual Giving Level**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other**

**\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Gold**

**\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Blue**

**\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Tommie**

**\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Friend of Edison**

**\_\_\_\_\_ \$50**

**\_\_\_\_\_ \$25**

**In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_**

**In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_**

Contributions made to the Edison Community & Sports Foundation help support this newsletter, EHS athletics/ activities/community and provide scholarships for Edison students who have shown excellence in academics, athletics and the arts. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.



## Announcements

### Nominations Needed for the Distinguished Alumni Award!

The Distinguished Alumni Award was first presented by the Edison Community & Sports Foundation in 2010 to honor living Edison graduates for their personal achievements. Edison High School has a rich, vibrant, and diverse heritage and has produced **THOUSANDS** of graduates over the years. Many of these Alumni have achieved remarkable accomplishments that are deserving of recognition. Without your help we may never know!

**Please take a moment to drop an email** with the name and brief background of someone you think should be considered for the award. The ECSF goal is to recognize living alumni for accomplishments and it starts with your assistance! For more information, visit our web site for nomination criteria and forms at: [www.edisonsportsfoundation.org/distinguished-alumni-award](http://www.edisonsportsfoundation.org/distinguished-alumni-award)

Email us at: [EdisonCSF@aol.com](mailto:EdisonCSF@aol.com) or [robhovde1954@gmail.com](mailto:robhovde1954@gmail.com). Thank you!

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, go to the ECSF web page and click on the "Receive our mailings" link on the right side of the page or send an Email to [edisoncsf@aol.com](mailto:edisoncsf@aol.com)

**Correction:** The Fall 2025 newsletter should have given credit to Northeaster Newspaper, Al Zdon for the article about Marty Zaworski "Link to the original story at <https://www.mynortheaster.com/news/car-crash-claims-marty-zaworskis-life/>"

## STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

Edison Community & Sports Foundation  
P.O Box 68032  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is made up of a Board Directors who volunteer their time and efforts to support Edison High School students and organizations with scholarships and other charitable commitments. It started as a way to honor former teacher/coach and great athlete - Pete Guzy and has become a lasting tribute to his spirit and Edison's alumni's dedication to the school and NE Minneapolis. You can participate with the Foundation at the annual Hall of Fame Night, Distinguished Alumni Award Event, Niles Schulz Scholarship Fundraiser, Art Solz Memorial Golf Tournament, the Homecoming/Oktoberfest or with a scholarship contribution or Legacy Program.

Board of Director meetings are held at Edison High School on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Changes will be posted on our website [www.EdisonSportsFoundation.org](http://www.EdisonSportsFoundation.org)  
Michael Iacarella, President  
Mary Dalbec, Vice President  
Rick Eskola, Secretary  
John Lawson, Treasurer

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION  
WE'RE ON THE WEB [WWW.EDISONSPORTSFUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.EDISONSPORTSFUNDATION.ORG)



Do you have something to share? If you have an item of interest to Edison alumni, please contact us at [edisoncsf@aol.com](mailto:edisoncsf@aol.com) and we will try to include it. Class reunion announcements or anything to do with Edison school will be considered.

The ECSF would also like to offer classes the opportunity to utilize our mailing services and non-profit mailing permit. Please contact us for more information.

Send information to:

Edison Community & Sports Foundation  
P. O. Box 68032  
Minneapolis, MN 55418