

Thank you Betty Boukus



Good Evening,

I had intended to invite Betty Boukus to our December Board meeting, to thank her for all she has done for Plainville Schools, but that was not to be. Tonight I have invited Betty's family including her husband Gary, son Gary Jr., daughter Helen Santini (husband Jason) and grandkids: Zachary and Alex Santini, and Logan and Madisson Boukus to let them know how much Plainville Community Schools has appreciated all that Betty has done for us. Betty has often been described as a true force of nature and I couldn't agree more. Whether she was attending a Board meeting, a volunteer program event, Veteran's Day celebration (with her patriotic scarf) a Strategic Planning session, when she entered the room everyone took notice. Most importantly, whenever we called Betty, she was always willing to help. I will never forget this summer when I tried to reach Betty, not knowing she had been in the hospital. Out of the blue, she called me in August, let me know she was working on what I had asked her about and was also making arrangements to send a barrel of apples to every school to wish the teachers a great start to the school year. Even though she was quite ill at the time, she thought of others and supported our teachers.

Dr. Henry Lee Presentation



One of the most exciting events that Betty brought to Plainville is Dr. Henry Lee. He was a good friend (and apparently brother) to Betty. She was able to bring Dr. Lee to Plainville High last April to speak to our Science classes. At Betty's request, Mr. LePage also invited high school students from Bristol, Farmington, New Britain, and Southington. This was an amazing opportunity for all who attended.

Turf Ground Breaking Ceremony



Betty will forever be remembered for her incredible efforts to secure both bond funding and a large donation from the Tinty Family that made our new turf field and stadium a reality. This picture was taken at the groundbreaking ceremony

Tinty Stadium Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



This picture depicts our ribbon cutting ceremony on May 26, 2016.

The turf was only one example of Betty's extraordinary contributions. In addition to the turf funding, Betty also supported our after school programs by securing a \$50,000 grant for several years that allowed us to expand our popular and high quality afterschool programs at the elementary and middle school level. Betty was also a former teacher in Plainville, volunteered in our mentoring programs, and helped secured funding for our PHS World Language lab.

Plainville Schools Honor Betty



Our schools were very saddened to hear about Betty's passing on December 2, 2016 and every school honored her contributions by having a moment of silence on the day of her funeral service, December 7. This picture is the front lawn of Toffolon School in which 400 flags were placed to honor Betty for the week following her passing.

Linden St. School Honors Betty



I would now like to ask Paula Eshoo and Barbara Friedman to come to the podium to describe what Linden is doing. This picture is of a Linden 3rd grade class visiting the State Capital.

Barbara Friedman remarked:

Betty Boukus was the nice, friendly grandmother who walked her grandchildren to Linden Street School and chatted with me in front of the school while I oversaw morning drop off.

I soon learned that she was so much more. Betty Boukus was our State Representative for 22 years. She cared deeply about our State, our district and our Plainville community. She worked with the same purpose and passion for our town and for our schools as she did for the larger State issues. One day she would be voting on bills downtown and the next she would be speaking at our school assembly. My sister is a lobbyist and she had the pleasure of working with Betty on a few issues. She described Betty Boukus as the perfect combination of pussycat and pit bull. Betty used her persuasive abilities to fight for funding to create school programs and opportunities to help our children learn and grow. She planted the seeds that became Full Day Kindergarten, Pre School classes

in our public schools and the After School Program. She created Pennies for Prudence to honor Prudence Crandall and to raise money for reading programs. Betty arranged for our fourth graders to take field trips to the State Capital as part of their study of Connecticut and she received a "Friend of the Families" award from The Plainville Family Resource Network. Betty planted these seeds and our children have grown and blossomed as a result of her efforts.

Every Linden Scholar, and staff member are in the process of drawing a flower in Betty Boukus's Garden. Their flower will represent them and all of the students who will benefit from the programs that Betty Boukus's vision, passion and green thumb created to help our students learn and grow for many years to come.



Finally our PHS technology education students under Dave Gaignard's direction created this sign, which remains on display in front of Tinty Stadium. I would now like to invite Gary Boukus and his family to the podium for a presentation.