

IN MY OWN WORDS SPHS HALL OF FAME COL. JACK DRANTTEL, USAF(Ret)

I THINK THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT WERE IMPORTANT IN MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS, AND IN A WAY THEY WERE RELATED.

THE FIRST IS THE TREMENDOUS SENSE I HAD OF THE SUPPORT OF EDUCATION BY THE ST. PETER COMMUNITY. THIS WENT BEYOND JUST THE PARENTS AND FAMILIES OF FELLOW STUDENTS, BUT EVERY ASPECT OF THE COMMUNITY. THE FARMERS, THE MERCHANTS, THE BANKERS, THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS AND THE COLLEGE ALL SUPPORTED PUBLIC EDUCATION IN ST. PETER. THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTED EVERY ASPECT OF OUR EDUCATION - THE CLASSROOMS, THE MUSIC ROOMS, THE PLAYING FIELDS, THE AUTO SHOPS AND THE SCIENCE LABS. WE WERE PROVIDED THE TEACHERS, THE TOOLS AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO LEARN, LEAD AND SUCCEED.

THE SECOND THING THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME IS THE SENSE I HAD OF THE MUTUAL RESPECT AND SUPPORT OF MY CLASSMATES OF THE GREAT CLASS OF 1959. ALL OF US CAME FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE AND WE DID DIFFERENT THINGS DURING OUR YEARS TOGETHER BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS MUTUAL RESPECT, ONE FOR ANOTHER. MY CLASSMATES HAVE LIVED LIVES OF INTEGRITY, SERVICE AND SUCCESS AND I AM VERY PROUD TO BE AMONGST THEIR NUMBER. WHEN WE GATHERED LAST YEAR FOR OUR 50th REUNION IT WAS AS IF ONLY A FEW YEARS HAD PASSED AND WE WERE BACK TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS WHOM WE RESPECTED, LOVED - AND REALLY LIKED.

ST PETER WAS A GREAT COMMUNITY IN WHICH TO GROW UP AND THE SUPPORT THAT MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, CLASSMATES AND THE COMMUNITY GAVE ME HAS BEEN WITH ME MY ENTIRE LIFE. I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO BE SELECTED TO BE IN THE ST PETER HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME.