

Handy B. Wolf

With roots in North Canton's earliest history, Handy B. Wolf served his nation, his community, and his students admirably.

Handy was born in 1924 in his childhood home on 6th Street in North Canton to Grover and Lillian Wolf. Grover was a disabled WWI veteran and Lillian worked for Boss Hoover at the Hoover Company. The Wolf family settled in New Berlin in the early 1800s. Handy's grandfather established the town print shop and both his father and uncle served in North Canton's government. Handy attended the Portage Street School and No-Ca-Hi. In addition to serving on student council and performing in the choir and senior play, he was a standout athlete at No-Ca-Hi – he was a 3-year letterman in football and basketball with All-County and All-District awards -- and he met his wife, Marillyn, in the 9th grade. Handy graduated in 1942.

World War II interrupted Handy's college career. He – along with all 3 of his siblings – served in the military. He went to basic training in 1943 and became a member of the 86th BlackHawk Infantry Division in Patton's 3rd Army in France, Belgium, and Germany. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, his Combat Infantry Badge, and a European Theater Ribbon.

After returning from the war, Handy earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from Muskingum College in 1948. He began his teaching career as a science teacher at Jefferson High School in Dresden, Ohio, but quickly moved to New Concord High School where he taught science, was the head coach for basketball and baseball and an assistant football coach, and lived in John Glenn's childhood home. In 1957, Handy moved home and took a job at Glenwood High School. He earned his Masters of Education from Kent State University in 1960.

Handy spent 21 years as an administrator in the Plain Local Schools. He began as an assistant principal at Glenwood High School before becoming principal of Glenwood High School, Oakwood High School, and eventually oversaw the combination of the two into GlenOak. Handy was a 48-year supporter of Plain Local Schools where he worked on operating levies, bond issues, scholarships, and coordinated student activities with community groups like the Elks, Rotary Club, and American Legion. He retired in 1981.

Handy was equally involved in the North Canton community. He was an active member and president of the Rotary Club and an active member of the Hoover Lodge #770, the Tadmor Shrine, the North Canton Elks Lodge, and the North Canton Booster Club. He was an active supporter of his children's and grandchildren's activities in the North Canton Schools. He was a lifetime member of the North Canton School Alumni Association. He served the larger

community as a lifetime member, secretary, treasurer, and president of the McKinley Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. He was a 21-year member of the Stark County and Federal Athletic Leagues. He was a life member and 32nd degree Mason and a Charter Member of the Lions Club.

For a lifetime that speaks volumes about his character and contribution, Handy has received honors and recognition. He received the Paul Harris Fellow Award by Rotary International for furthering positive relations in addition to the Arden Basinger Award from the North Canton Rotary for his work supporting Polio-Plus, a global immunization effort. He received the Kappan Award for Distinguished Service to Education in 1981. In 2005, he was inducted into the Plain Local Alumni Hall of Distinction, and, in 2011, he was inducted into the John Glenn High School Athlete Hall of Fame. He's been recognized for support by the Plain Local Food Service Restaurant Co-op, VICA, DECCA, Future Farmers of America, and the Plain Local

choir and band. He received a Congratulatory Citation from the Stark County Board of Education.

Handy and his wife Marillyn were married for 67 years. Their sons Tim and Thomas graduated from Hoover High School in 1969 and 1971. Their 4 grandchildren attended North Canton Schools, and they had 6 great-grandchildren.

Handy's first church was Community Christian in North Canton where Boss Hoover was his Sunday School teacher. He and Marillyn were married in Trinity Lutheran Church in Canton and attended there beginning in 1957. Handy served on Church Council and as a Sunday School teacher.

Handy died in 2013. Prior to his death, he continued to be an active supporter and attendee of school functions. He also loved to golf, travel, and work with photography.

Handy B. Wolf's diligent efforts in serving the children of our community are a tribute to his character. It is with great satisfaction that the North Canton Alumni Association welcomes him into its Hall of Distinction.