

Charles (Hop) Collier

If you ask a former student of Charles (Hop) Collier which historical figure he feels most strongly about, you will get one of two answers. That's because he scorns Aaron Burr almost as much as he admires Alexander Hamilton.

Hop was born in Norwich, New York, in 1949, and grew up in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He is the second of nine children who are a tight knit family. At St. Vincent de Paul High School, Hop was a three-sport letterman who earned All-Ohio honors in basketball for two years. He graduated in 1967.

Hop came to North Canton to attend Walsh College. He was a basketball MVP at Walsh for two years. While he knew he wanted to be a teacher, he didn't decide to be a history teacher until a professor sparked his interest in the subject. He was named Outstanding Student of History when he graduated from Walsh in 1971. After graduation, Hop

worked on his Master's Degree in History at Akron where he had received a graduate teaching assistantship.

Hop began his teaching career at St. Thomas Aquinas High School where he taught a wide variety of social studies classes. He coached boys' basketball while there – 8 years as the head coach – and was named Coach of the Year by the Youngstown Diocese in the 1982-83 season. In 1986, he left St. Thomas to come to Hoover High School.

At Hoover, Hop again taught a variety of social studies classes. He began the Advanced Placement program – APAH – and loved it. He even went to Louisville, Kentucky, to grade the exam for the College Board. In addition to his teaching duties, Hop coached basketball until 1992, was the advisor of the Mock Trial program which sent 10 teams to State competition, coordinated voter registration for first time voters at the high school, was the department chair for social studies, and advised the senior class. He and several

colleagues formed a teacher-band called Mr. Pickle in which he sang and played guitar. He retired from Hoover in 2013.

Hop has been busy outside of school as well. He has served at the state level on the American History Content Advisory Committee and the Social Studies Range Finding Committee for the Ohio Department of Education. He was selected to participate in 4 Summer Teacher Institutes sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities at various historic sites. Hop served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors at Walsh University including one year as president. He is a member of the North Canton Heritage Society and served for over 15 years on its board. He started the Little Vikes youth basketball program in North Canton. He has been the PA announcer for Walsh football and basketball games – he still enjoys announcing Walsh’s men’s and women’s basketball – and was the football PA announcer at both St. Thomas and Hoover. He has even been an umpire for the Hoover Sweepers baseball team.

Hop has been honored for the work that he has done. In 1983, he was in the first induction class of the Walsh University Athletic Wall of Fame. He was later named one of the Top 50 Men's Basketball players of all time at Walsh. In 1990, he was named Outstanding History Teacher by the Ohio Daughters of the American Revolution. He received the Liberty Bell award from the Stark County Bar Association in 1995. He's been nominated as Teacher of the Year by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, WHBC, and the North Canton Education Endowment Committee. He was named Walsh University Outstanding Alumnus in 2004. He received the Stark County Academy of Trial Lawyers' Angel of Justice Award in 2007. Over the course of his career at Hoover, over 30 students selected him as their Honored Educator.

Hop has been married to Cindy – a fellow educator he calls Mrs. Lucky. Though their son Clark has passed away, they enjoy spending time with their grandson, Collin. Hop

enjoys music, playing guitar, playing golf, reading, traveling, and researching his family history. He is an avid sports fan. Hop attends St. Paul's Catholic Church in North Canton.

Charles Hop Collier has been a beloved, inspiring educator and community member in North Canton. The North Canton Alumni Association is pleased to have him as an inductee in its Hall of Distinction.