

Paul D. Kieffer

Paul D. Kieffer not only brought excellence to Hoover High School every day of his long career, but he also treated his pupils with deep respect and showed sincere empathy.

Paul was born at Mercy Hospital in Canton, Ohio, on June 2nd, 1938. He grew up at Edgefield Grade School while his father worked in steel sales at Timken and his mother was a teacher and housewife. He had a younger sister Donna. As a child he enjoyed playing basketball and baseball. He was old enough to have some memories of being a child during World War II which he later shared with his students.

Paul was a 1956 graduate of Lehman High School. After school, he attended Kent State University where he majored in Social Studies Education. During college, his father got him a job on the labor gang at Timken. While he did not enjoy the work – which often involved digging

sediment out of the acid pits – and he did not enjoy the hours, he made enough money to pay for his college expenses.

Paul began teaching at Taft Junior High School. After two years, he moved to GlenOak High School before eventually settling in for his 31 year career at Hoover. During his career, he continued to grow and learn. He earned a Masters degree in history and in administration from Kent State, he did post graduate studies in economics at Akron University, and he did seminars in AP government and AP American History.

Paul derived a great deal of joy from his students. He has said that “the pleasantries of working with students outweighed” everything else. He respected his students and measured his success by their own. Early in his career, Paul lost four students in the Vietnam War. He and his wife purchased plaques in their honor and gave them to the North Canton Heritage Society. Paul’s son, Brian, has said that he

and his sister, Karla, are “so very proud to say that ‘everyone’s favorite teacher’ was” their dad. Brian recognized that his dad put “thought, care, and heart into not just what he was teaching but more so who he was teaching.”

While at Hoover, Paul had other roles as well. He served as department chair and spearheaded the addition of Advanced Placement classes. He developed new curriculum such as Psychology, Sociology, and World History and encouraged the department to bring in guest speakers from the community. He was the school’s liaison for the Boys and Girls State programs. Additionally, Paul was the Junior Class advisor – and therefore prom chairperson – for 21 years. He advised the National Honor Society and even coached middle school cross country. During the summers he worked on a paint crew with other teachers.

Paul has been active outside the school district as well. He taught night classes at McKinley’s Canton Public Evening

School for 5 years. He was an adjunct professor at Malone from 1969-1970 and then went back to Malone after retirement. He worked there for 20 years teaching government, American history, economics, teaching methods, and supervising student teachers. Paul has been active at the churches he has attended. He has served as a deacon, taught Bible classes, and served as an elder. Additionally he has served as a board member and officer at the North Canton Heritage Society. In 2002, Paul and Rebecca Hall co-authored the book *A Place in Time* which tells the history of the Hoover Company and North Canton against the backdrop of American history. It has been republished several times.

Paul has been honored for his service. He has received commendations for his book from the Ohio Historical Society and the North Canton Chamber of Commerce. He has earned the Martha Holden Jennings Education Scholarship Award as well as the Good Citizenship Award from the

American Legion. The North Canton City Schools awarded him the Education Endowment Award for his work as a master teacher.

Paul and his wife Jeanne still live in North Canton. They have done a great deal of traveling over the years including many summers at North Myrtle Beach. He attends choral and instrumental concerts and follows the Cavs, Guardians, Browns, and our own Hoover Vikings. He still exercises regularly and keeps his yard in perfect shape.