

2012 Featured GDFS Scholarship:



Richard Mann Award

This year we remember fondly and honor with gratitude the first President of the Gananda Central School District's Board of Education – Richard G. Mann.

Born in Nunda, NY in 1933, Dick graduated from Nunda Central School in 1951, served in the U.S. Navy for four years, and then attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison where he graduated *Summa Cum Laude* in 1957 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Dick's professional life began with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Buffalo, NY, followed by a move to the Rochester area where he designed and supervised the construction of sanitary disposal systems.

Dick married his lovely bride—Martha (Marty) Freeman Mann — in 1957, and they raised four children: Alexander, Barbara, Julie, and Eric. His family agrees that he was a wonderful husband and father who was happiest when he was with his wife and children. Marty Mann describes her late husband as kind and considerate, a man of compassion and caring, soft spoken, quiet and gentle. He was patient with others, encouraged others to voice their opinions and was never too busy to listen. He respected nature, honored his parents, loved his family, community and country. He was always learning as he read, discussed, and discovered. His love of God was evident late in his life, and he was passionate about his faith.

Dick believed in youth, evidenced by serving as a co-leader of a 4-H club for 18 years. He believed deeply and profoundly in education and was completely dedicated to playing a role—and encouraging the community to play a role—in establishing high standards for education in the “new” district of Gananda Central. He is remembered for encouraging young people to pursue their dreams. His advice to his own children was that “education is never a waste of time. You can go to school at any time in your life. You aren't expected to know all the answers, but it is important that you know where to find them.”

It was this passion for quality education that led Dick to serve as President of the Gananda Board of Education from the time of its creation in 1972 until 1983 when he resigned due to illness. Colleagues who served as fellow Board members during those years remember Dick as a visionary, a focused leader, a fair man, and a man of great honesty and integrity. He had natural leadership qualities that were evident even early in his life, when he served as president of his junior and senior high school classes and then graduated as class valedictorian. At the University of Wisconsin he was president of the Student Civil Engineers and president of the Engineering Society.

Just as some say it takes a “community to raise a child,” Dick said that it took a community of individuals to play instrumental roles in the process of establishing the district that we are so proud of today. We congratulate the recipient of the Richard G. Mann Award for exemplifying the characteristics so important to Richard Mann, and we wish you great success in your educational endeavors.