



**Buchanan Community Schools
Hall of Fame
2024**

Contributions to Buchanan Community Schools
Ronald E. Stone



Ronald "Ron" E. Stone's love for Buchanan began in 1965 when he purchased a summer home on Clear Lake. Each summer, he took time off from his job in Chicago to immerse himself in the small-town atmosphere and close-knit community of Buchanan. His affection for the town grew so strong that in 1977, he made Buchanan his permanent residence, choosing it as the ideal place to raise his family.

In 1982, despite having little knowledge of floor hockey, Ron stepped up to become the coach of a Buchanan floor hockey team. Over the next 25 years, he dedicated himself to the program, learning and growing alongside his players until his granddaughter's last year in 2007. His commitment to the team and the sport was unwavering, and he enjoyed every moment of it.

After retiring from the Ironworkers' Union in 1998 after 42 years of service, Ron had more time to give back to his community. He followed many of the girls he had coached in floor hockey through their high school sports careers, volunteering to assist Mike Welsh, the varsity girls' softball coach, at every practice and game. Ron cherished getting to know the players and offering his guidance and support.

During the basketball season, Ron attended every game, earning a reputation as the team's biggest fan. At halftime of one memorable game, the girls held a ceremony to honor him, presenting him with a signed basketball, which he treasured until his passing.

In addition to his contributions to floor hockey and softball, Ron also helped coach middle school football. He was a friendly man of outstanding character who took immense pride in Bucktown. Ronald Stone's legacy of dedication and love for Buchanan Community Schools will be remembered and cherished by all who knew him.