

March 6, 2022

To: Cadets Hall of Fame Committee

Re: Marc Whitlock

With the deepest of respect, it is my pleasure to nominate and supply two letters of support for Marc Whitlock to be a member of the Cadets Hall of Fame Class of 2022.

I met Marc when he was a college student and came to Star of Indiana in 1985. You could tell immediately that Marc was different than a majority of the members in the corps. He took in everything he was taught and worked his ass off in a very professional and detailed way. Off the field, he was an easy going and funny guy that wanted to hang around George Zingali, Marc, Ronnie Perez, myself and a few more to laugh and learn more. When Marc left Star for Cadets, I knew in my heart of hearts that he was ready, because I could already feel that Cadet DNA coming alive inside of him.

He went on to march and teach the Cadets over many years being an influential educational advocate for "all things Cadets." When I think of Marc, I think of the Cadets transition from the total "grind it out" drum corps to the more cerebral, educational, and absolute detail driving organization.

Marc became (Just like a few of us are) one of Donnie's (VanDoren) "kids." These are the Cadets that Donnie follows through their lives because they are special, have a hunger and desire for our activity, and no matter where they are, they are teaching "the Cadet way." I have had many conversations about the people Donnie has interacted with over the years and Mark and a few others are always at the top of that list.

While the Director of the Blue Stars, I brought Marc in for a long stretch to ensemble the corps and every day at his block, I would sit next to him, watch the brilliance of his teaching method and tell stories of days gone by and the situations that could be applied to the moment that we were presently in trying to get this 14th place drum corps into DCI Finals in 2008. Needless to say, Marc was an influential part of the success of the Blue Stars in 2008 and our 8th place finish! Marc shared his DNA with that corps and many of those members went on to march in the Cadets because of him. Much the way that I feel a part of the reason why Marc became a Cadet. He has a way of awakening the Cadets DNA in people and showing them their truest potential.

Marc has constantly never lost that connection to the Cadets. Since the events of April 5, 2018, Marc has done all that is possible to help this organization move forward, recruit, and thrive as member of the staff, helping to program the show. Marc is another person that ran to the fire, instead of away, when needed. That is a true hallmark of what a true Cadet is. Many people come to drum corps to "consume" the organization for their benefit. Marc (and other good Cadets) march Cadets and become a "contributor" to this organization, giving much more back than he ever took. He leaves everything in his life better than the way he finds it. That is a Cadet!

Maroon is Marc's blood and Gold is his heart. He is my brother and will always live by the phrase "march straight and true to victory." It is in his DNA.

I respectfully and wholeheartedly nominate Marc Whitlock to the Cadets Hall of Fame.



Eric Sabach

Cadet Baritone 81-84