

**Letter of Support to the nomination of Lewis Merikas to the Cadets Hall of Fame
in the Legacy Category**

March 4, 2022
368 Mitchell Road
Shrewsbury, VT 05738

The Cadets
Attn: Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson
1444 Hamilton Street
Suite 103
Allentown, PA 18102

Re: Letter of Support to the nomination of Lewis Merikas to the Cadets Hall of Fame in the Legacy Category

Dear Hall of Fame Committee Members:

It my honor to write this letter to you in support of the nomination letter for Lewis Merikas submitted by Greg Cinzio.

The Holy Name Cadets were founded in 1934 in an attempt to provide boys of the Holy Name Parish with an activity that would help guide their development by instilling in them positive traits such as discipline, teamwork, and a quest for perfection. Lewis Merikas has been a member of the Cadets organization either as a member of the Plebes, the “BIG Corps” or an alumnus since 1967, and through all that time has reflected well on the Cadets by striving to live according to these core values.

I first met Lew in the fall of 1971 when I accompanied the Cadets to New York City for the Pulaski Day parade to get a sense of the Cadets and to help me decide whether to join them. During that day, Lew spent time talking with me about the various aspects of the Cadets, their history, and what was expected of a Cadet. He also took the time to introduce me to other Cadet members and staff. His friendly welcome played a large role in my decision to join the Cadets. During the years we marched together I saw him welcome many other new or prospective members in the same manner.

During his marching years Lew would “*eat, drink, and sleep Cadets*” and the core Cadet traits he practiced were always a good role model to others in the Corps. His discipline and quest for excellence involved:

- Intense focus and concentration during rehearsals (practicing during breaks was not unusual),
- Frequent practices outside of official rehearsals (at home and in sectionals), and
- Post-rehearsal/competition analysis of what went right, wrong, and how to improve.

Lew would analyze, and work on details concerning his performance till they were mastered and met his standards. Before the term “leave it all on the field” became common, Lew would do just that and devote 100% to rehearsals and competitions.

Lew was always generous:

- He worked with the Plebes organization as a volunteer instructor in the marching category.

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- During a time when multiple automobile families were rare it was sometimes hard for members to get to/from practice. Lew would frequently offer rides and sometimes go significantly out of his way to ensure a member would make it to rehearsal. If you did get a ride from Lew, you could also be assured that you would arrive early to warm-up before practice.
- When the Corps needed members to march in parades after the competition season ended to help with finances; Lew participated when others would not.
- While not required to do so, Lew could be counted on to help load and unload the equipment truck and perform any other acts of assistance to Corps instructors, staff and volunteers. Lew's father was also a Quartermaster for the Corps.
- In a time when fund raising was vital to the Corps survival, Lew did more than his share during tag sales, candy sales and the like.

After aging out of the Corps, and to give back to the Drum Corps activity that he loved, Lew continued to work with the Plebes and began to instruct Color Guards in the North Jersey area. He also became a Marching and Maneuvering judge.

The Cadets meant a lot to Lew, and he was serious about his obligations and service to the organization. Lew was not a casual member of the Cadets; he stood head and shoulders above many in his dedication: he was "all in". For the reasons mentioned in this letter in support of his nomination, as well as other letters of support, he deserves to be in the Cadets Hall of Fame.

Regards:

Richard Biziak

Cadets Percussion '72 – '76

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