

To: Cadets Hall of Fame Committee
From: Jim Prime
Re: Nomination of Bob "Chicky" Gross

Bob "Chicky" Gross, in my humble opinion, is one of the most influential Garfield Cadet contributors of the pivotal early 1980's. His talents, dedication, and persistence served as a vital catalyst for all of us – designers, instructors, and members alike. "Chicky", as many affectionately call him, was the original percussion front ensemble force – the innovator who set the wheels in motion for the succession of greats in this area who followed, like Bob Morrison, Joey Gaudett, and Neil Larrivee. Stellar brilliance of the front ensemble became a Cadet hallmark.

The integration of stationary concert keyboard instruments, the insistence on offering a musical approach to the writing as well as performance, and supporting the contention that the front ensemble could dramatically support and enhance the brass, battery drums, and even the visual presentation all had strong roots with Bob's involvement.

As the brass arranger, I would personally attribute a good deal of the innovations and progressiveness of those 80's repertoires to the notion that we always felt free to reimagine and orchestrate some wonderful music, like "Rocky Point Holiday", Bernstein "Mass", or "West Side Story", because we had the utmost confidence that the soundscape presented by the front ensemble would indeed lead us to some musical magic.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of Chicky's devotion to both the marching arts (Cadets specifically) and his school success as an educator has been his consistent attention to treating the students he served with care, concern, and respect, as he carried out his strong commitment to providing them with all he could offer – musically, professionally, and personally.

Of course, we know there are many in the Cadets Hall of Fame that have offered so much to the revered history of this organization. I strongly believe that Bob "Chicky" Gross can be considered among them, and that his selection for this honor would be very well deserved.

Jim Prime

Cadets Brass Arranger and Instructor 1980-1984