

To: Hall of Fame Committee

From: Dr. Matt Stratton

Re: Nomination of Joe Roche

Dear Distinguished Members of the Cadets Hall of Fame,

It is with great resolve that I submit Joe Roche for consideration to the Cadets Hall of Fame. He epitomizes the grit, determination, developing artistry through performance, and achievement through excellence that are hallmarks of the Cadets to this day. He has a passion for this activity that is undeniable and infectious to all that he meets and works with.

Joe had a long path in drum corps that led him to the Cadets. He began marching at the age of 12 with the Southern Tier Grenadiers. He continued for a short stint with the Empire State Express. His next stop was three summers with the Watkins Glen Squires before moving up to the Cadets in 1982 at the age of 18. He marched mellophone with the corps for three seasons, winning championships in 1983, and 1985.

Joe started teaching the Cadets at the request of George Zingali and Marc Sylvester in 1987. He continued on the visual staff until 1992. He was the visual coordinator from 1989-1992. In 1993 he taught on the visual staff of the Star of Indiana. He joined the Army in 1994 which drastically reduced his availability to teach the activity. He returned to the Cadets in 2000 as a visual consultant. In 2004, he was a visual consultant for the Madison Scouts. From 2007-2015 he served as the Cadets strength and performance coach. In 2016-2017, he was on the visual team for the Bluecoats. In addition to his work in DCI, Joe has consulted in DCA with the Sunrisers, Hurricanes, and Bushwackers from 2007-2017.

Joe possesses the heart of a champion. He brings about this belief in those he works with through motivation and a personality that is larger than life. He has forged championship level achievement in every area that he has marched and taught the activity. He has the awesome power to get students to achieve beyond what their mind and their bodies are telling them. He is a cultivator and purveyor of the Cadets culture that was and is the foundation of Cadets achievement.

Joe Roche is a legend in upstate NY. Word of his impact on the marching arts was widespread. Without Joe's persistence, perseverance, achievement, and heart to share, there would not have been a Matt Stratton and many like him making their way to Cadets. In 2019, when the corps was at its lowest competitive point in many years, significant changes were made to try and remember the performance and excellence culture of the Cadets. We held a series of talks with the vets and leadership about the history and culture of the Cadets. Tom Aungst and I were on those calls and we had Joe on as a frequent guest to reignite the spark for championship excellence and achievement at the Cadets.

Throughout all of his impactful work in the marching arts activity, Joe Roche has never lost that spark for the Cadets. He continues to be a sounding board for me, and others as we seek to take the Cadets into a future era of success. When called upon, he will always be there for the Cadets, and I have no doubt that a championship mindset and achievement will be produced from the students that are fortunate enough to cross his path. A path which should include the Cadets Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Matthew C. Stratton
Cadets Alumnus 94,96,97
Brass Caption Manager 2019 - present