

LETTER OF SUPPORT - #1 – Legacy Category

John Liptak – Drum Instructor (1938-1950)

Dear Hall of Fame Committee:

While Mr. Huber was the man, the unquestioned authority figure of the Cadets, Mr. Liptak was right there supporting him every step of the way and helping to shape the drum line into a national caliber contender. Mr. Huber shaped the program. He envisioned where he wanted the Corps to go as an organization and how to achieve the goals he established. In his first year as Director, Mr. Huber together with Mr. Liptak, brought us our first American Legion National Championship win in Boston, Massachusetts (1940).

Then, not too long afterwards, everything came crashing down. The United States entered World War II in December of 1941. A huge number of Cadets were of enlistment age, and like most of their contemporaries joined the armed services. Corps disbanded in wholesale numbers. Mr. Huber was faced with a difficult decision. He met with John Liptak and the remaining Cadets still too young to enlist. There were only three options; disband, go inactive for the duration of the war, or continue as best they could with a reduced program. It was the boys in the corps that pushed the hardest for the third option. They wanted their friends and fellow Cadets, now scattered all over the world, to know that when they returned the Corps would be ready to welcome them back. It was during this period that the final words of the Holy Name Hymn took on special meaning to the Cadets. "*For Holy Name shall always be. . .*" meant that the Cadets remaining behind were making a solemn vow to the Cadets fighting for their Country that the Corps would endure waiting for their return. It was a promise that was not broken.

Following the end of the war many of the junior corps that Holy Name had competed against reorganized as senior corps. Holy Name considered that option as well, but after a short period of reflection and experimentation, decided to remain a junior corps. And so, under the leadership of Joe Huber, with John Liptak at his side, the Corps commenced a rebuilding program, lasting from 1946-48.

It is my honor to support the nomination of Mr. John Liptak to the Cadets Hall of Fame class of 2022.

"For Holy Name Shall Always Be . . ."

Sincerely,

Greg Cinzio

Greg Cinzio
1967-1977



A rare photograph of the 1940 Holy Name Cadets at the New York World's Fair - one year after we introduced the traditional Corps uniform.