

CADETS HALL OF FAME NOMINATION LETTER  
BILL GAECKLE

I nominate Billy Gaeckle for The Cadets Hall of Fame.

Billy has a long and illustrious history with The Cadets. Billy joined The Cadets in the winter of 1962. Billy tried out for the snare line but was not quite good enough to make the line. The drum instructor at the time was Bill Westdyk, a member of The 1957 Holy Name Cadets, when they won the American Legion National Championship. Westdyk recommended that Billy march in the snare line of a local drum corps that he taught. After a few years of marching in the Little Falls Cadets, Billy was now ready to March in the Garfield Cadets snare line.

Billy again joined The Cadets in 1965 and, this time, made the snare line. Billy marched in the snare line in 1965, 1966, and 1967. In fact, in 1967, Billy was promoted to Cadet Drum Sargent.

After three successful years in The Cadets, Billy decided to join the Marine Corps. Billy spent four years in the Marines playing snare in the Marine Drum Corps. While in the Marines, Billy volunteered his free time to teach local drum corps in the Maryland area.

After finishing his tour of duty with the Marines in 1971, Billy returned back to The Cadets to assist Fred Sanford with instructing the drum line.

In 1974, Billy assisted George Tuttle in instructing The Cadets drum line.

In 1975 and 1976, Billy became the Percussion Arranger and Caption Head and successfully led two very good drum lines.

In 1977, Billy left The Cadets and moved to Virginia. Billy taught and arranged for a number of High School bands in the Virginia area.

In the late 1970's, Billy arranged and taught a very talented Yankee Rebels senior drum corps.

Billy has always been a great supporter of The Cadets and has always been a generous contributor when asked to donate.

In summary, Billy Gaeckle is a true Cadet, he bleeds maroon and gold, and is worthy of being inducted into the Cadets Hall of Fame.

Respectfully

John J Hannigan  
Member – 1974-1979  
Instructional Staff – 1980  
Cadet Board Member – 1990's  
NJDCHF Member – 2017