

To the Cadet Hall of Fame Nominating Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Billy Gaeckle for the Cadet Hall of Fame.

I first met Billy when I was in the snare line in 1972. Billy came on staff as a volunteer to help Fred Sanford with technical issues. He was very precise and clear with his instruction. He, along with Fred, took an educational approach with us. They really focused on teaching us the "why" as well as the "how". They emphasized the importance of reading music which was not common during that era. We usually learned by rote. This was a turning point for me and the rest of the line and it paid off in the following years.

After the 1972 undertime penalty that kept us out of Finals we headed into the 1973 season with many challenges. There was a turnover in staffing and it was difficult to get members. It was an extremely tough year for the corps. Billy needed to leave us for personal reasons and we were all very sad to see him go.

Much to our delight, Billy came back in 1974. He helped the drumline get back on the right track. It was definitely another rebuilding year and we still had a very young and inexperienced drumline. Billy's pride in the Maroon and Gold motivated us to work harder for the good of the Corps reputation. Again, his educational approach helped us to improve over the course of the season. I'm not sure that without Billy's help and belief in us that we would have survived the season.

That hard work and "Esprit de Corps" attitude paid off in 1975. The Corps was back on the national scene and made the Finals for the first time in the DCI era. The drum line was very solid. This improvement continued into 1976. I personally believe it was one of the best, if not the best drumline of the decade. We accomplished a great deal in 3 years with Billy at the helm. On a personal note, Billy was more than a teacher for me. He was a life mentor as well. I gleaned as much from him off the rehearsal field as I did on it!

Lastly, as I have stated in previous support letters, I believe that being a Cadet means having attributes such as professionalism, a striving for excellence, comradery, a helpful attitude, a competitive spirit (but always treating your competitors with the respect and dignity that they deserve), having pride in your work, approaching everything you do with a 100% effort and never ever doing or saying anything that would besmirch the Maroon and Gold. Billy Gaeckle exemplifies these attributes.

I sincerely hope that you will consider Bill Gaeckle for the Cadet Hall of Fame.

FHNSAB

Robert J Dubinski (1970 - 1976)