

27 June 2021

**Andy Warntz**  
**Hall of Fame Committee Chairman**  
**Cadets Drum Corps**  
[halloffame@cadets.org](mailto:halloffame@cadets.org)

Re: Letter of Support for George Hilger

Dear Mr. Warntz and members of the Cadets Hall of Fame Committee,

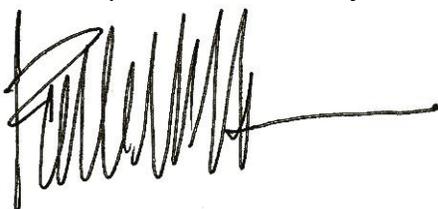
The Cadets are known for their championship heritage, the class with which they carry themselves both on and off the field, their sense of respect for each other and their fellow competitors, their professionalism in both victory or defeat, their innovation, their legendary work ethic, and their iconic maroon and gold uniform. I write this letter today, to say that perhaps no other Cadet exemplified these Cadet qualities or wore the uniform with pride better than George Hilger.

George was a member of the Cadets from 1971 to 1979. He reflected the very best of the Cadet ideal. I had the privilege of marching with him from 1977 to 1979. He was a tireless worker, a world class player, a dedicated leader, and a “rock” within the Cadet organization. George was our Horn Sergeant, and as a former Drum Sergeant with the Cadets, I can tell you that George set the standard of how to lead from within the organization. **He inspired me to be a better leader.** Never concerned with his own recognition, he instead focused on developing those around him into becoming better Cadets. His marching skills were tremendous, no doubt magnified by his high level of physical fitness and he often would be one of the last Cadets standing in the M&M block march-off. Due to his imposing stature, without raising his voice or any show of force, he could send a clear message to surrounding corps that the Cadets were not to be toyed with. We all looked up to George as our quiet but effective leader within the corps ranks because **he embodied everything that the Cadets stood for**, and still stand for today.

As a player, simply stated, he was the best. He led the lower brass section and was recognized by Drum Corps International as the World Champion individual Baritone performer in 1977 when he flawlessly performed an extremely challenging Bill Watrous piece. He was also featured as a soloist within the brass section for many years.

Sadly, George was taken from us far too early in life. We can never replace him, but we can enshrine him. I sincerely ask that the members of the Committee vote to induct George Hilger into the Cadets Hall of Fame, Class of 2021.

For Holy Name Shall **Always** Be,



**Pat Zampetti**  
Cadets Hall of Fame, Class of 2016