

Dear Committee,

I would like to enter my parents Joseph and Arlene Nikischer for consideration for the Cadets Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

It all started in 1969 when a family friend asked me to go to a Plebe rehearsal because they were looking for new members to see if I liked it. I did. When mom told dad that I was joining his words were and I quote "just don't get me involved". Famous last words right?

Within I would say a month Aunt Nellie had said she needs some help with the quartermistress responsibilities of the Plebes it because there was so much going on with the corp and the girls coming in at the same time and so Mom volunteered to help and the job was handed over to her. What was Dad to do? He became the quartermaster of the Plebe corps. So much for don't get me involved.

From that moment on all of their vacation schedules were based around going to the championships with the cadets and we all had a ball but they were there to volunteer to do whatever they needed to do to help.

When the girls were allowed into the plebes in 1970 mom made the first set of flags and when the guard came out for the first season in winterguard mom and dad went to every guard show. Mom to help the girls get ready and dad to make sure that all the equipment was ready. He was also the bus driver.

After the 1972 drum corps season the corps was having financial problems so the booster association basically went on hiatus and a group who called themselves "The Dirty Dozen" which was a group of 12 people that sat down just about every week to discuss how to bring money into the corps and they succeeded by doing all little fundraisers little dances and raised \$100 here \$200 there, candy sales, jewelry sales, tag days and both my parents were in that dirty dozen and got the corps out of debt so they can keep going.

My father took over the manager/director position of the plebe corps and stayed in that position until 1974 and mom was head quartermistress and even though at that point I no longer wanted to be a horn player and was not happy I stuck with it because their involvement. I was a color guard person I really like the rifles and I saw that the Polish Falcon Cadets had an all-male rifle line at the 1974 Garfield Memorial Day parade. I knew what I wanted to do. Dad was the President of the Booster Association and mom was the secretary at the time. Both worked hard coordinating the running of the Drum Corps and Guard shows. When I joined the Falcons it was a tough for them but they volunteered at both corps but their heart belonged to Garfield and they stayed in their positions and their main concern was always with the Cadets.

In 1978 the Plebes found themselves without a director just before the Winter guard season started so Dad came out of retirement and came back to take over that position

for the one season to get them on the floor and out into parades. They thought they were done with their commitments at that point until I took over the place as the Director manager in 1980 which then mom came back as quartermistress and remained the secretary of the booster association and Dad remained a member of the booster association and while he was ran the drum corps shows, Winter guard shows and fundraising events they stayed active until I was no longer the director of the the plebe corps.

Mom volunteered to work at the Garfield Friday night Bingo at the Garfield Girls Club the major revenue producer for the corps. She eventually became the chairperson and ran the whole show of the midnight bingos and once a month the Friday night Bingo went into a Saturday morning bingo. Two bingos back to back.

It was always a labor of love for both of them and they loved the corps. They bled Maroon, White, and Gold so I really think with all the hard work and dedication they put into the Cadets that they are deserving of the honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame and I would appreciate even though Mom is no longer with us as she passed away two and a half years ago that they both be considered to become a member of the Hall of Fame together.

Respectfully,
Joe Nikischer
FHNSAB
Joecool31761@gmail.com