

Dear Garfield Cadets/Cadets Hall of Fame Committee-

I nominate the Great Michael Jones to the prestigious Cadet Hall of Fame, Class of 2021

Hard work
Dedication
Tradition
Class
Respect
Humble
Willingness to help others
Lead by example

These words describe Michael Jones and the Essence of Being a Cadet.

Michael was a percussion marching member and section leader of the Garfield Cadets from 1983 thru 1988. He became a percussion instructor from 1989 thru 1990. He won 5 DCI titles and 2 DCI High Percussion Awards during his tenure with the Cadets, including the 1987 Perfect Percussion Score that still stands to this very day. In addition, Michael won countless Cadet awards as well. During his active marching years, Michael transcended the art of playing quads/tenors. He helped push the envelope on what could be played on the percussive instrument with a quality of sound that was unmatched during that era. He represents the essence of "Being a Cadet"- Hard work, dedication, tradition, class, respectful, humble, a willingness to help fellow Cadets, and lead by example. As a fellow member of the Cadet percussion section, I have seen first hand these innate Cadet qualities in action. I observed him numerous of times putting in extra hours of practice to ensure that his section was ready to perform the charts written by Thom Hannum and Tom Aungst. Most of this time was spent after hours or during shortened lunches. He was a true perfectionist with everything he did musically and on the field, never making a mistake even though I tried my hardest to get him to screw up all year long during his age out year. The uniform was made for Michael Jones in my humbled opinion. He's already tall, but the uniform made him look like a Cadet God. He commanded respect by setting the example for ALL Cadets who had the honor of marching with him. After all, who do you know that had so much respect from not only the members but the staff that he would stop the ENTIRE corps if the tempos weren't correct or if there was an ensemble problem; and NO ONE would question him. When Michael talked, WE listened. He had NO problems ensuring even members of the brass and color guard sections were on their A game at all times.

Most importantly was Michael Jones the person. Fun, caring, humble, and supportive. He may not have known it then, but he was an example to not only his fellow Cadets, but he was an example to many minorities who grew up in the inner city of NYC. Many of us came from small inner city corps with very little funding, direction, and support. We looked at Michael Jones as INSPIRATION and as a role model. He made it!!!! And he did it with SO much joy, pride, and class. He did it effortlessly. He did it perfectly. We internalized that and said to ourselves, "I can do it too!!!" With that same inspiration and example, I too became a Cadet and had the honor and privilege to march literally right next to my role model from 1987 thru 1988. Through his inspiration and paving the way, there were MANY more like me that became some of the best and talented Cadets. And we owe it ALL to him.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jerede D. Brown
Garfield Cadet- 1987 thru 1991 Percussion
FHNSAB