

Edward V. Goetz

Ed was a native Harford Countian who attended St. Joan of Arc School and Aberdeen High School. He loved the family farm, fishing, hunting, bird watching, hiking, gardening, and the outdoors. Upon graduation from high school he had a desire to become a Federal Game Warden. He graduated from Towson University with a BS in science and applied for the game warden training whereupon he was put on a waiting list.

While waiting for his name to come up on the list for the game warden position, he took a long-term substitute-teaching position at Bel Air High School. Lucky for us, he must have liked it because he went back to school to get his certification to teach and in 1973 took a full-time job teaching seventh grade science at North Harford High School.

Ed was one of those teachers who opened the new North Harford Middle School in 1976. While at NHMS he distinguished himself as a caring, tough, demanding teacher with a great sense of humor who was not only knowledgeable but could also impart that knowledge to his students. Determined to make the new school a success he and his wife Artie became the sponsors of the SGA where he and Artie guided the new organization for eight years. To help students focus on the very difficult middle school years they developed the "Christmas Families" to help the less fortunate and the "8th Grade Dance," which honored the successes of the students moving on to high school.

Ed sponsored many notable environmental programs, two of which were the annual seventh grade Deer Creek Field Trip and Earth Week. The Deer Creek Field Trip was for every seventh grader at NHMS and required three days to complete. Seven stations were set up at Deer Creek's picnic area for students to actively learn from professional environmentalists about aquatic and terrestrial conditions and the effect humans have on those environmental conditions. Students actively participated in aquatic stations determining the health of the creek through the capture, identification, and release of vertebrates and invertebrates. They determined the health of the creek and learned about the factors and the human responsibilities that affect the wildlife, plants and water in a typical water shed. Earth Day was not long enough for Ed to pass on the valuable information about the Earth's environment, so it was expanded to a full school week. Assemblies about wildlife, endangered species, student projects displaying what they had learned, the development of NHMS Earth Week t-shirt, tree plantings and other special projects were a part of this very special time of the year.

Ed was also active in the community by volunteering at Har-Co Maryland Federal Credit Union and at Aberdeen Proving Ground. At Har-Co, Ed was an advocate for the members while serving on the Supervisory Committee and the Board of Directors. He worked hard in his volunteer position to maintain quality member service and safety and soundness of the credit union for the members who are educators, students and their families. At Aberdeen Proving Ground, he participated in wildlife counts and had students make and deliver over 100 blue bird boxes for the improvement of the wildlife.

Ed received "The Governor's SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE" in 1993 for the many environmental programs he developed at NHMS. Ed had a special commitment to helping protect our environment for today and the future. He developed lessons and programs that taught his students to respect the environment by protecting and restoring the quality of the wildlife, land, air, and water resources. It is only fitting that an environmental scholarship in the name of Edward Goetz be offered to the students of Harford County to provide aid to a new environmentalist and to remember the work and life of this environmental educator and activist.