

Malcolm L. "Max" Orr

1943.

Max Orr is a name that, in the city of Soddy Daisy and the surrounding area, has become synonymous with hard work and civil service in every aspect of his life. Max spent his formative years as an active student at SDHS, playing football and also playing basketball for the now legendary Big Boy Eldridge. He says that some of his fondest memories are rooted in those athletic events, meeting and competing against players from other schools, the camaraderie between his teammates, and especially those away games when transportation sometimes consisted of riding with the coach, all nine players jammed into Big Boy's Chevy sedan, and sometimes a couple of guys had to ride in the trunk. Max says he still has contact with many of the players he met during his high school career in both business and social settings. Aside from athletics, Max enjoyed participating in the school plays and pep rallies, and he was president of his class his freshman, sophomore, and senior years. He was a Beta Club member and served as president at one time; his

senior year, Max won both the DAR Award and the American Legion Award. However, if you ask Max what his most noteworthy accomplishment during high school was, he would probably say meeting the lovely Bobbie Keith, whom he married in 1946. Along with Miss Keith, his friends were Arnold Stulce, Harold Hixson, Wilburn Levi, Ed Campbell, Virginia Daughtrey Graham, and Dorothy Dean Shelton. When asked who his favorite teacher was and why, Max replied: "All of them. They were friends as well as instructors. They made class enjoyable and let me know they were interested in how I did both in and out of school." Further, he said that the SDHS faculty treated the students respectfully, making them feel more like adults and inspiring them to act like it as well.

Max's life of service may have started at SDHS, but after graduation, he joined a new phase of service – the Army Air Corps. During World War II, he flew twenty-nine missions as a navigator on B-24 bombers in the Pacific Rim. When the war ended, he left as a 1st Lieutenant and returned to Soddy Daisy to marry his high school sweetheart. As a civilian, Max entered the construction business in 1946, working his way through the ranks as job superintendent, as an estimator for several general contractors, and finally as CEO of B &

C, Inc., a company which specialized in metal studs and drywall and which led to jobs including: a five story addition to T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital, Erlanger's Professional Office Building, Miller Eye Center, and Medical Plaza South, as well as Erlanger North, the west wing addition to Parkridge Hospital, and a major addition to East Ridge Hospital. B & C Construction did work on the Ft. Henry Mall in Kingsport, TN, the Cleveland Mall in Cleveland, TN, and some of the stores at the Hamilton Place Mall. Max's company also did work on the current SDHS and various other commercial buildings. During the time that he was managing this successful construction company, Max also spent thirteen years teaching the craft to carpenter apprentices at Kirkman Vocational School, and for two years he taught construction supervisor courses at Chattanooga St. Max is the former President of the Chattanooga Contractor's Association and the Hamilton County Vocational Educational Council.

Running a successful construction company for forty-six years is enough to keep most people busy; however, during those years, Max had also been busy in his community, being elected to the first board of commissioners of the newly incorporated city of Soddy Daisy in 1969 and then becoming the city's first mayor. He is a current

member of the Soddy Daisy Planning Commission, having already served on the Commission for fifteen years and as chairman for fourteen years. He is past president of the Lion's Club, a charter member of an early volunteer fire department in the unincorporated "Soddy," and an active member of Cross of Calvary Assembly of God, where he has taught adult Sunday school classes for over twenty years and coached men's church league basketball.

When asked what he loves about Soddy Daisy, Max responds: the friendly people and the scenic beauty of the area. He adds that he feels privileged to have attended SHDS and that it prepared him for the future as well as any high school could have. Max says that his greatest accomplishment in life, by far, is marrying his high school sweetheart and raising a beautiful daughter. His daughter, Sherrill, has taught at Soddy Elementary School since 1973 and is married to James Card, a pharmacist in Chattanooga. Both are graduates of SDHS (class of 67) and have two daughters – Elizabeth, who played softball and basketball at St. Mary's in San Antonio, TX, and Katherine, who played softball at the University of Tennessee and who played on two Women's College World Series teams while in Knoxville.

In 1970, Max was named as an Outstanding Alumnus of SDHS. Today, we extend that honor. In tribute to his life of service to a grateful community, it is our honor to welcome Max Orr to the Soddy Daisy High School Alumni Hall of Fame.

JOE SHADWICK
1945

Joe Shadwick grew up in the small town of Daisy. But he says that it really is a small world. For on some distant islands while serving his country in the Second World War, he saw familiar faces. Twice he would run into his classmates from Soddy-Daisy High School.

During his junior year at Soddy-Daisy, he turned 18 years old. The war was raging and the need for soldiers was great. Uncle Sam called, and Joe would never return to his senior year in school. He and many of his high school friends would answer that call and leave to fight the war. They would join the 90 Chattanooga-area young men to be deployed that summer.

On July 25th, 1945 Joe sailed for the South Pacific. It was only days before the atomic bomb would be dropped on Japan ending the war. But Joe was assigned to go into Japan and rescue any remaining U.S. soldiers held in prisons there. Some were rescued, others were only remembered. He still owns some of the souvenirs that he found in that place...Joe Shadwick speaks with pride about serving his country. For its unselfish service, his generation was apply named "The Greatest Generation" in history. He received a Presidential Citation for his military service.

After the war, Joe and many like him received credit for service and were granted high school diplomas. Joe headed to college. He married Mary Schumacher, who Joe calls his "companion and best friend for 58 years." They attended the University of Chattanooga together, both earning teaching degrees. Joe received his Masters Degree from Middle Tennessee State University, and has graduate studies in Special Education from the University of Tennessee.

When asked why he decided to be an educator, Joe tells this story: He said that one day his 4th grade teacher at Daisy Elementary, Mrs. Skillern, hugged him and kissed him. And Joe remembered that she smelled really good, and he also noticed that she drove a brand new

car to school. Joe determined that teachers must be rich if they could drive a brand new car, so Joe decided in his heart that day to become a teacher just like her! As it would turn out, his starting salary was \$250 per month.

What a teacher Joe was! He and Mary taught for the Chattanooga City School System for a combined 70 years. Joe became principal of East Lake Elementary School. One of his favorite accomplishments was to build a shooting range in the basement of the school where the children could learn marksmanship skills (with their parents permission!). The school-wide competition was so popular that the school saw a drastic rise in grades and attendance.

For many years Joe has also taught the TWRA Hunter Safety Course to hundreds of eager young people. His love for the outdoors includes hunting, 4-wheeling, and flying a plane. He and his family made many trips to see Alaska in their SUV before his wife, Mary, passed away.

Joe is a life-time member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the National Education Association. He is a deacon and 70-year member of First Baptist Church of Soddy-Daisy. He served on the Soddy-Daisy City Commission for eight years and was Vice-Mayor of the city. Joe is joined today by his son, Bill and wife Ruth Ann, and his granddaughters, Lindsey and Lacy, and his sister, Jane Buckner.

Joe's legacy is summed up in how he views people. He said, "I never met a child I didn't love. Some took a little longer to love than others. But everybody has some good points about them." Joe Shadwick, thank you for loving others! And for contributions you have made to our world.

It is a great honor to induct Joe Shadwick, soldier, educator and friend into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

PAUL BEENE
1958

Paul Beene has lived all over the world. He says that what he gained at Soddy-Daisy High School prepared him for a lifetime of exciting experiences in the world of work and travel. The teachers at Soddy-Daisy taught him that poor, bright, hard-working kids can succeed too. Paul has indeed succeeded. He has traveled to every corner of the world, and has the experiences to prove it.

While at Soddy-Daisy, Paul had a variety of interests: he belonged to the science club, the latin club, and was on the yearbook staff. His favorite teacher was Mrs. Clara Bond who taught him how to diagram sentences. His college major was English. Later in his life he would take a job in London, which he says was a "dream come true for an English-lover!" Paul never missed a day of school after the 7th grade. That spells "dependability." In fact, Paul Beene has never taken a day of sick leave in his entire working career. He firmly believes that success starts with showing up for work!

After graduating in 1958, he entered the United States Air Force. He would later marry a high school friend, Joy Weeks. He learned Spanish in Mrs. Bond's Spanish class, and it was in Sonoita ("So-no-WEE-tah"), Mexico where he and Joy would be married. Paul says, "The acting judge spoke no English, so we made do with my high school Spanish. Mrs. Bond never heard this story but would have been pleased that she taught him enough Spanish to get married!

Paul and Joy would attend Berea College together. There Paul worked for a wealthy family as a bookkeeper for the family's 13 corporations. He would later make a 30-year career with the Internal Revenue Service. He became the IRS District Director for the Pacific-Northwest United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. His hard work and creativity in the tax business earned him the distinction of the state of Washington's Man Of The Year!

Paul worked for 4 years as the Tax Attaché to the American Embassy in London (where he walked to work!). There he administered tax treaties with Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom, South Africa and

Finland. Working with these countries provided him with many opportunities to visit many places. He and joy have also lived in Washington D.C., San Francisco, Seattle, Detroit and Houston, just to name a few. In all, they have moved over 15 times since they were married. His favorite place to live was London and favorite spot to visit was Venice, Italy. When asked about the most beautiful place on earth, he says it is hard to beat the scenic mountains near Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee!

His most recent job was as an international tax consultant in Afghanistan. There he has helped the emerging nation learn how to fairly collect taxes from its citizens. The tax season there begins in March, the beginning of the Muslim new year 1390. Paul affirms that it is really a small world after all: only a few weeks ago in Kabul, Afghanistan he ran into a man from Ringgold, GA. On living in so many different places around the world, Paul comments, "Always looking to see more places, I found a blessing under every rock, every place I looked. One thing I have found is that happiness and enthusiasm are learned qualities. Wherever I've found myself, I've always tried to smell the roses and count my blessings. But I always did want to see what is on the other side of the mountain."

When asked what he considers to be the greatest accomplishment in his life, Paul replied, "having a strong marriage and raising my son and daughter." His son, Eric, is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and a Colonel and Wing Commander in the United States Air Force in Adama, Turkey. And his daughter, Paula, is a chemical engineer in Houston, TX.

Students, listen to these words again, "The background and experiences I gained at Soddy-Daisy High School prepared me for a lifetime of exciting experiences in the world of work and travel. I would not be here...(pause for effect)... if I had not been there."

For his hard work and distinguished achievement, It is a privilege to welcome Paul Beene into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

BOBBY JENKINS

1965

We all know people who are funny: those who act silly and can make us laugh: the goofballs and class clowns. But there's a difference between being funny and being witty. Someone who is witty is clever; he's highly intelligent and keenly perceptive. A witty person can shoot you down and you probably won't even know it. Bobby Jenkins is the wittiest person I know. You can see it in his eyes: that mischievous twinkle, always sharp, and always with a clever comeback. He is a Southern gentleman with a knack for literature and storytelling. He is a fisherman, a grandpa, a manager, an educator, and a scholar.

Bobby considers the greatest accomplishment of his life to be his forty-one year marriage. You see, he fell in love with Alexis Denton in second grade when he was seven years old, and has been in love with her ever since. She is the love of his life.

So, guess what his favorite memory of high school is: spending time with his sweetheart, Alexis Denton...and hanging out with his friends, like Gabby and Mary Lou Williamson, Joe Varner, and Jim

and Janie Smithson. While here at SDHS, Bobby was in the Latin Club, the Science Club, was an officer in the band, and was voted Friendliest Senior Boy. Just like your favorite teachers have changed your lives, Bobby had some favorite teachers, too: Ruth Swingle and Clara Bond, who challenged him to reach beyond the mundane, and Sam Mills, who helped him to appreciate nature.

Bobby graduated from Tennessee Technological University, earned a master's degree from the University of Memphis, then a Doctorate of Education from Vanderbilt University. He has accomplished many things in this life. He started his career in education teaching in inner city Memphis, then he went to the Chattanooga City Schools , then to Soddy Daisy High School where he taught American history and English. He has served as an assistant principal at several schools, as the curriculum coordinator for Hamilton County Schools, and for 17 years as the principal at Soddy Daisy Middle School. In all he has spent 29 years in administration for Hamilton County Schools. Even though he is now retired, he continues to influence young lives in this community by serving as an At-Risk Coordinator here at his alma mater.

I know a few things about Bobby Jenkins. He can spin a yarn about fishing. He has read practically every book ever written. He can hold his own with the smartest people I know. He is humble, unassuming, and kind-hearted. He gets teary-eyed when he talks about his grandkids. He said that he is proud to have grown up in Soddy Daisy. "I love this community," he said. "We still have a strong feeling of family and God, and a deep sense of pride in our schools."

I am proud to present to you, my friend, Robert "Bobby" Jenkins, for induction into the Soddy Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

STAN CRAWLEY 1967

William Stanley Crawley grew up playing lots of sports. He came by it honest. His dad was the baseball coach with a field named for him. But more than just sports, Coach Merle Crawley taught boys about hard work and treating others right. Stan learned to work hard and be loyal to those around him.

His friends elected him as a class officer every year at Soddy-Daisy High School. He was a good student, member of the BETA Club, and was chosen "Best All-Around" by his peers. But his best memories of his high school days came on the ball courts and baseball fields around Trojan Heights. He played basketball for coaches Boodie Fox and Sid Levi. His baseball coaches were Buck Johnson and Huck Smith.

Stan's favorite teacher was Buck Johnson at Soddy-Daisy Jr. High. He said, "Coach Johnson saw that I had a skill for writing and he got me involved with the school newspaper. Later Buck Johnson was able to get Stan a part-time job with the Chattanooga Times. This led to a 30-year career in the newspaper business. When sports are in your blood, you never leave them. He also credits 2 teachers, Mrs. Bessie Nipper and Mrs. Myra Millsaps for teaching him skills like shorthand and typing. These skills have helped him make many deadlines over the years. Even today, Stan's skills can be seen daily in the sports stories on chattanooga.com.

After high school, Stan earned his Bachelor's Degree from the UTC. He served in the Army Reserve for 6 years. In 1980 he became a full-time reporter with the Chattanooga Times. He would work his way up to assistant sports editor at the paper. Stan is an award-winning writer in many avenues. He won 3 National Softball Media Association awards, was chosen the USSSA Tennessee Sportswriter of the year, was voted the Tennessee Prep Sports Writer of the Year, and in 2010 Stan was inducted into the Chattanooga Area Sports Hall of Fame for media coverage.

In the sports arena, Stan has seen the best. He covered the Vols, the Braves, the Masters and Nascar. He has fond memories of

Peyton Manning staying at the press conference until every question was answered, and was in Tempe, Arizona when the Vols won the 1998 National Championship. He was there covering the Braves through all those World Series runs. His favorite Braves were Tom Glavine and John Smoltz. He says Manager Bobby Cox never forgot Stan's name from the day they met.

On Stan's first visit to the Masters Golf Tournament, he ran into a threesome of Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus and followed them all the way to the club house. He would later have several interviews with Tiger Woods. And at Talladega Motor Speedway, hearing the roar of the cars on the first lap made Stan a lifetime Nascar fan. A one-on-one interview with Dale Earnhardt, Sr. in Atlanta is a fond memory to this day.

But it is in local sports where Stan Crawley has captured local hearts. He covered wrestling and was there to see Coach Henry's first state championship. He followed the girls golf team to the state tournaments, and witnessed all of Clifford Kirk's state championships in softball. He was there when Coach Tom Weathers and Gerald Riggs, Jr. led Red Bank to the state in football. But it was his coverage of girls softball that brought out the best in Stan. He watched lots of Soddy-Daisy athletes perform over the years. He remembers Robert Smith and Erik Ricketts among the best ball players from Soddy-Daisy.

When asked what is his greatest accomplishment in life, Stan said, "Living up to the high standards and work ethic set for me by my parents, making the right decisions, and always being there for my family."

For always being there for us, the Soddy-Daisy family recognizes Stan Crawley with his induction into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

**Bill Haley, Jr.
1971**

Bill Haley has always had a passion for the outdoors. He became interested in butterflies when he joined the 4-H Club in the 4th grade at Daisy Elementary. One thing the club studied was entomology, the study of insects, and this opened up a whole new world for Bill. His first butterfly net was made from a coat hanger and his mom's sheer curtains. Today he is known for connecting kids with nature through programs with the Tennessee Aquarium. He says "You never know when a hobby begun in elementary school might become a life-long interest." **Bill is the founder of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association.**

As long as Bill can remember, his parents always encouraged him to read. Weekly his dad drove the family to the public library. He recalls, "I'd check out a pile of books and I would read all summer long. To this day, as soon as I finish one book I start another one. It is very rare when I'm not reading something."

At SDHS Bill pitched for the baseball team and served as Band Captain. His favorite teacher was Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins, who taught Biology. Bill said, "She had a real love of the subject that was infectious, and her classes were fun. She instilled in me a love of nature and the outdoors."

Another boyhood hobby was combing the banks of the Tennessee River looking for arrowheads. Near Sale Creek he found relics in the dirt that dated back over 5,000 years. He discovered early Indian campsites in the bed of Soddy Lake. His passion then became digging in the dirt. He dreamed of being an anthropologist and enrolled at UTC to chase this dream. There he studied and majored in anthropology and archeology. He was a few years ahead of his

time because environment protection and discovery was just budding in our area.

A change of career paths took him back to college to learn graphic arts. He landed a job with the Chattanooga News Free Press Advertising Art Department designing ads. Bill is blessed with many talents, and his artwork earned him a living for the next 10 years. He created ads on a drawing board with his hands because computers were not yet on the scene.

Perhaps his fondest hobby is bird watching. He says, "Years ago I was on a hawk watch on Signal Point, and the leader yells out "bald eagle", and a bald eagle came by so close we could almost shake hands- then, I was hooked."

Bill Haley spends many of his waking hours perched on a scenic bluff atop Soddy Mountain watching hawks, eagles, falcons and other predator birds travel from north to south and back again. Bill takes bird watching to the next level. Writer Richard Simms called Bill Haley "a modern-day mountain man..." He shares his bird watching stories every where he goes.

When the TN Aquarium opened its doors, Bill was one of the first volunteers to sign up. And in 1992, all of his expertise landed him the job of a life-time. He now serves as the aquarium's **Education Outreach Coordinator**. He oversees educational programming within a 150 mile radius around Chattanooga and personally presents environmental education programs for 15,000 school children every year. He is known to many students as "Mr. Bill". Since 1992, over 300,000 students and adults have attended these presentations.

He has mentored several high school students, including two from Soddy-Daisy, on their senior projects, and helped train hundreds of volunteers at the Tennessee Aquarium. It is safe to say that there are many more people thinking "green" due to Bill's hard work.

He is active in the following organizations:

The TN Ornithological Society

The National Audubon Society

and The Hawk Migration Association of North America
(to name a few).

He is active as a Lay Leader in the Daisy United Methodist Church, works with the Soddy-Daisy Food Bank, and serves on the board of Reflection Riding.

His list of awards is impressive. In 2010 he helped the aquarium earn national acclaim with the **Institute for Museum and Library Service Award**. He was named Chattanooga's **Informal Educator of the Year in 2007**. And in 2009, he was named the TN Wildlife Federation's **Conservation Educator of the Year**.

He says his greatest personal accomplishment is raising his daughter Malinda to be responsible, hard-working, and a good citizen.

Soddy-Daisy High School is honored to recognize Bill Haley, Jr. for his service to our community and his contributions to the world by his induction into the SDHS Hall of Fame.

SAM ELLIOTT 1974

Sam Elliott is more than a history buff. As a young boy growing up in Soddy he read a book on the Civil War. He grew very curious about the war and began to ask questions. The answers he found soon sparked a life-long love of history. In fact, today Sam helps others love history. He has written or edited three books on the Civil War, has written articles and essays for many publications, and has spoken about Civil War topics to various groups in 11 states.

Last November he gave the keynote speech concerning the war in Tennessee on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. He also appeared in a Nashville Public Television program on Tennessee's secession that premiered on PBS. He currently serves as chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Sam, whose family has been in Soddy Daisy since Civil War days, has even traced his ancestors back to our country's Revolutionary War.

Sam was an active member of the SDHS Class of 1974. During his high school days, among other activities, he served as a class officer, member of the Service Club and the football team. Not surprisingly, he received the American History Award. He attended the University of the South (Sewanee) where he earned a B.A. in history, graduating with honors.

In 1981 he graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law and began his legal career in the U. S. Magistrate's office as a law clerk. After a year's experience, he then joined the Gearhiser Peters firm. He is a partner in the firm now known as Gearhiser, Peters, Cavett, Elliott & Cannon.

Sam is an outstanding trial lawyer, handling cases involving personal injuries, product liabilities, employment discrimination, eminent domain, as well as other areas of the law. He represents the cities of Soddy Daisy, Lakesite and Collegedale and is, therefore, very familiar with municipal law. He has been selected as a Mid-South Super Lawyer and has received the highest rating from

Martindale-Hubbell, an organization which rates lawyers throughout the country. One of his partners said that “he is the ultimate lawyer’s lawyer and is always willing to share his knowledge and experience. In fact, he has been the mentor to the young lawyers joining their firm.”

He has, and is, giving much back to the legal profession. He has worked tirelessly at both the local and state level. Sam served as president of the Chattanooga Bar Association in 2001, after serving on the Board of Governors for five years. An official with the CBA said, “Sam strives to represent his profession as a true leader; is straight up, honest, and can be relied on to do exactly what he says. Also, a leader who gets results and a delight with whom to work.”

Sam is currently serving as president of the Tennessee Bar Association, the state’s largest professional association, with more than 11,000 lawyers as members. He has shown the same type of leadership on the state level as locally.

One of the programs Sam has instituted as state president is a contest for middle and high school students in which a three-minute video is produced concerning an important event, person or legal development in Tennessee history. He has stated that “Our young people are the future of our state and country and we should look for innovative ways to educate and engage them in ways that will enable them to understand our government and appreciate its past.

Additionally, he has served on the boards of the Friends of the Chickamauga and the Chattanooga National Military Park and is a pro bono volunteer for Legal Aid of East Tennessee, an organization which provides legal assistance to citizens who cannot afford an attorney.

When asked what his greatest accomplishment is, he said, “My role as a loving husband and father to my wife and daughters.” Sam’s wife, Karen, works in television broadcasting. They have two daughters, Mary Claire and Sarah Anne.

It was said of him that “despite his many activities that he is committed to fulfilling his responsibilities to his family and faith.” He has served his church as deacon, trustee and elder.

Also, this is a special day for Sam’s father, Gene Elliott, as they become the first father-son inductees in SDHS Hall of Fame.

On helping others, Sam says, “There are so many people out there who need just the smallest kindnesses – not a million dollars, but someone to listen to them and help them find solutions to problems. And on choosing a career, he tells students they should “choose something that you are passionate about. I’ve found the best lawyers are the ones who really love practicing law and I am sure the best teachers are those who are passionate about teaching.” One of his colleagues said, “Yes, Sam is passionate about his work, his family, Soddy Daisy and its history and even the Soddy Daisy – Red Bank football rivalry.”

So today, we honor Sam Elliott for his exemplary character, his caring and concern for our community and for his continuing leadership by inducting him into the SDHS Alumni Hall of Fame.

FRAN LYNCH
1975

Fran Lynch's call to missionary service is one into which she grew. Her mom was a Soddy-Daisy High School teacher and her dad was a United Methodist Church pastor. She recalls her parents saying many times, *"Do something for someone other than yourself."* She says her father was quick to invite her and her siblings to join him when he went to visit shut-ins, take someone food, repair the steps to someone's home, or give someone a ride to town. Fran still lives by the motto of *"doing things for others."*

She was the salutatorian of the 1975 class, a 4-year honor student, won the volleyball award, and was voted Most Intelligent. But Fran didn't really have any career plans. She says, *"I knew that my career was out there, and it would find me."* She credits her high school history teacher and mentor, Lynn Thompson, with pushing her to "like herself" and put life's decisions in perspective.

After high school, she attended East Tennessee State University, but in her junior year decided she was wasting her time and money since she did not know what her major should be. So she dropped out and worked at Wesley Woods Camp in Townsend, TN. At the camp she enjoyed teaching recreation, so she decided to major in Outdoor Recreation and Park Administration. She attended Murray State University where she earned her bachelor's degree and was recognized as Outstanding Recreation major.

The more Fran served others, the more her career sought her. She attended the Scarritt Graduate School in Nashville where she majored in Christian Education. It was becoming apparent that she would serve in mission work. She recalls one assignment in high school where she would research a state and tell the class what it would be like to live in that place. She chose Alaska. The people and the culture there fascinated her, and there was stirring in her spirit a longing to go there one day.

The United Methodist Church gave her the opportunity. In a meeting in Nashville, she heard a minister from Alaska put out a plea for anyone to serve as missionary to Willow, Alaska. Fran told a friend, "That is my job!" Her career found her. She now serves the Alaskan people, doing something for someone other than herself. She visits shut-ins, takes food to the hungry, repairs steps to someone's home, and gives someone a ride when they need it. Sound Familiar? Doing things for others is a really rewarding job.

She helped organize and build the first Habitat for Humanity house in Willow. About one third of her time is spent in Athabaskan Indian villages 400 miles from her town. She can only get there by air, snow sled or boat. She teaches Bible stories to the children, and in the summer the youth are flown into Anchorage to attend a United Methodist Church camp. For her service to the Alaskan people, Fran received the Willow Community Service Award. There she established a food bank and collects school supplies for the children in the community.

About the Alaskan weather Fran tells, *"Since coming to Alaska I have learned to appreciate taking a break at noon on winter days when it is finally good daylight and snow shoeing across the frozen lake. The winter brings its own beauty. I just bundle up and go out and enjoy it. Thawing starts in April, and the snow stays in her yard until mid May.*

When asked about her greatest accomplishment in life, Fran says it is "coming to the understanding that I have been called to serve God through mission work of the United Methodist Church." She says, *"God's messages don't have to come in the form of lightening bolts. Sometimes the still small voice of a friend, the smile of a stranger, the words of a song, or the wonder of the night sky is God speaking."*

Soddy-Daisy High School is proud of Fran Lynch! And for her service to humanity, we induct her today into the Soddy-Daisy High School Hall of Fame.

Fran was unable to be with us today. Accepting her award is her niece, Hannah Lynch, a Senior at Soddy Daisy.