



## **Bill Hunt Made a Difference**

Duane Bollenbacher, Dave Kullman, Richard Little, and Steve Meiring

William “Bill” Hunt was born in Akron, Ohio on May 6, 1941. He received his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the University of Akron, where he was proud to be the Vice-President of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He earned a master’s degree in mathematics from Cleveland State University and taught for 30 years at Mayfield High School. Because of his dedication to his students, his school, and the state of Ohio, he received numerous awards and proclamations.

Bill received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching personally from President Ronald Reagan in 1983. This was the first year that this award was given to one individual in each of the 50 United States. Bill served as President of CPAM, the national group of presidential awardees in mathematics, as well as President of OCTM from 1984 to 1986. He received an Outstanding Alumni Award from Cleveland State University, a Tandy Technology Scholar Award, and in 2016, both he and wife Margie Raub Hunt received the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics Lifetime Contribution to Mathematics Education Award.

In 1999, Bill and his wife, Margie, received the prestigious OCTM Christofferson-Fawcett Award for a lifetime of service to mathematics education in Ohio. They worked together on numerous projects including: editors of the Problem-Solving Section of *The Mathematics Teacher*; mathematics consultants for WVIZ projects, one of which received an Emmy; OCTM Newsletter editors; and executive directors of the School Science and Mathematics Association.

Besides teaching for 30 years at Mayfield High School, Bill taught mathematics at Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland State University, and Kent State University. He taught part-time at Mesifita, the Hebrew Academy in Cleveland, for 11 years, as well as a summer term in Hawaii. In retirement, he taught mathematics to retired military personnel at John Carroll University.

Bill could never sit still. His part-time jobs included: selling real estate, selling Fuller Brushes, and being a Pinkerton guard. For a while, he drove a 100-mile route to deliver the daily Geauga Leader newspaper in rural Geauga County. Although he was not really a horse rider, Bill directed the Cleveland YMCA’s Rolling-Y-Ranch, a summer camp with 60 teenagers and 48 horses. (He admitted that he had to fake his riding ability.)

Bill Hunt was very proud of his three sons. Bill would always say that they worked in the professions they learned in college—and they lived outside of his home. (Bill’s humor!!) Brian is a social worker in Cincinnati; Todd is a lawyer near Los Angeles, California; and Mark is an engineer in Greenville, South Carolina. He had five grandchildren: Gage, Olivia, Tyler, Dylan, and Kathleen, and a great-granddaughter, Audrey Mae.

Bill and Margie moved to The Villages, a retirement community in Florida, in 2000. There he learned to play golf and enjoyed many days golfing with friends. Bill fell in their Florida home, which resulted in a very bad charcot foot. After one year of treatments at the University of Florida’s Shands Hospital, Bill chose to have his leg amputated below the knee. He never let this become a handicap. He managed to golf three times a week, even during the pandemic. He always said, “I am handicapped when I want to be.” Of course, he never let himself be handicapped. He always tried to do everything a person with

two legs would do. He belonged to the Palo Alto Club and planned a yearly golf scramble for its members. He also played in a monthly euchre group, a hand & foot group, a bunco group, and in weekly and monthly bridge groups. He never lost interest in education, however, as he served as President of the Retired Educators Club at The Villages. Bill died in a golf cart accident in July 2020, at the age of 79.

OCTM's renowned Bill Hunt had his own unique brand of witty, dry humor. Bill was well known for keeping the presenters at OMELC meetings to their 5-minute limit. At the end of the 5 minutes, he would drag them off with a shepherd's hook or a big fishing net. Once he pulled his wife Margie off, and her comment, "Bill, I didn't think that applied to me," brought down the house.

Not long after they were married, Bill came from Mayfield HS to pick up Margie at Strongsville HS. As he was there, a male colleague of Margie entered Margie's room and said, "I just want to congratulate you guys on your marriage. I've had 14 years of wedded bliss." Bill deadpanned, "Well, how many years have you been married?" The other teacher did not get it, but Margie doubled over in laughter and embarrassment.

At OCTM's Annual Conference, Bill's presentations were flavored with remarks such as these:

1. As he was writing toward the bottom of the transparency on an overhead projector, Bill said, "Oh, this side is full. I better turn it over."
2. As he was explaining how to find the area of a ring ( $A = \pi R^2 - \pi r^2$ ), Bill said "Now remember, the area is  $\pi$  (yelling) **BIG R** squared –  $\pi$  (whispering) **LITTLE R** squared."

Bill loved to tell this story... An older gentleman went ice fishing. He dug a hole in the ice and dropped in his line. From above came a big booming voice, "There are no fish in there." He moved down the ice 20 yards and did the same thing. Again from above, "There are no fish in there." Again, he moved 20 yards and dropped in his line. And once again, "There are no fish in there." Shaken, the gentleman looked skyward and said, "Are you GOD?" "No, I am the manager of this hockey arena."

During the 1990s, Bill and Margie got the Ohio License plates 'OCTM 1' and 'OCTM 2'. After moving to The Villages, they retained Ohio's 'OCTM 1' on their golf cart, exhibiting their pride and continued love of OCTM. After Duane Bollenbacher's presidency of OCTM ended in 2000, for his plates he decided to choose 'OCTM 51' for 1951, the year OCTM was founded. Twenty years later, Duane still has those very same plates. Duane and his wife Deb visited the Hunts in The Villages in June 2007. When Duane got up the first morning, Bill had already moved his golf cart beside Duane's car and said, "We have to get a picture of this." Hence the picture shown here.



William "Bill" Hunt was indeed a treasure to OCTM and to all of Mathematics Education throughout Ohio and beyond. His leadership, his achievements, and his personality will live long in the hearts of all who knew him. We thank Bill and his wife Margie for all their many contributions. Rest in peace!!