



BYRON "BARNEY" HANKS

OV CUSTODIAN & BUS DRIVER 1954 - 1985

IN 1954, BARNEY BEGAN WORKING AS A BUS DRIVER & CUSTODIAN AT GUSTAFSON SCHOOL BEFORE ASSUMING THE POSITION AS HEAD CUSTODIAN AT THE OV MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR OVER 19 YEARS.

BARNEY'S TRUE SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT WENT WELL BEYOND HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES. FROM LEARNING EXTRA WORK SKILLS SUCH AS BOILER & PLUMBING REPAIR TO HELP THE DISTRICT SAVE MONEY TO BUILDING BOOK SHELVING IN THE LIBRARY, HE WAS THERE TO SERVE.

BARNEY LOVED TO HELP OUR KIDS. HE SOLD XMAS TREES IN HIS FRONT YARD & DONATED THE PROFITS TO THE KIDS CAMP FUND. HE WORKED SATURDAYS SO THERE COULD BE KIDS ROLLER SKATING. HE WOULD EVEN TAKE A SICK CHILD HOME WHEN A PARENT WASN'T ABLE TO PICK THEM UP. BEHIND THE SCENES, HE WOULD CHECK HIS BUILDING EVERY WEEKEND FOR DAMAGE OR BREAK-INS & WOULD BE THE FIRST TO RESPOND TO ANY BUILDING ALARM. HE WOULD EVEN PITCH IN TO HELP CLEAN THE BUSES ON WEEKENDS IF A DRIVER WAS UNABLE.

BARNEY TOOK PRIDE IN HIS WORK & HOW WELL HIS BUILDINGS LOOKED & IT SHOWED. MORE IMPORTANTLY, BOTH KIDS & STAFF KNEW BARNEY CARED FOR THEM AND WANTED TO GIVE THEM THE BEST THAT HE HAD... HIMSELF