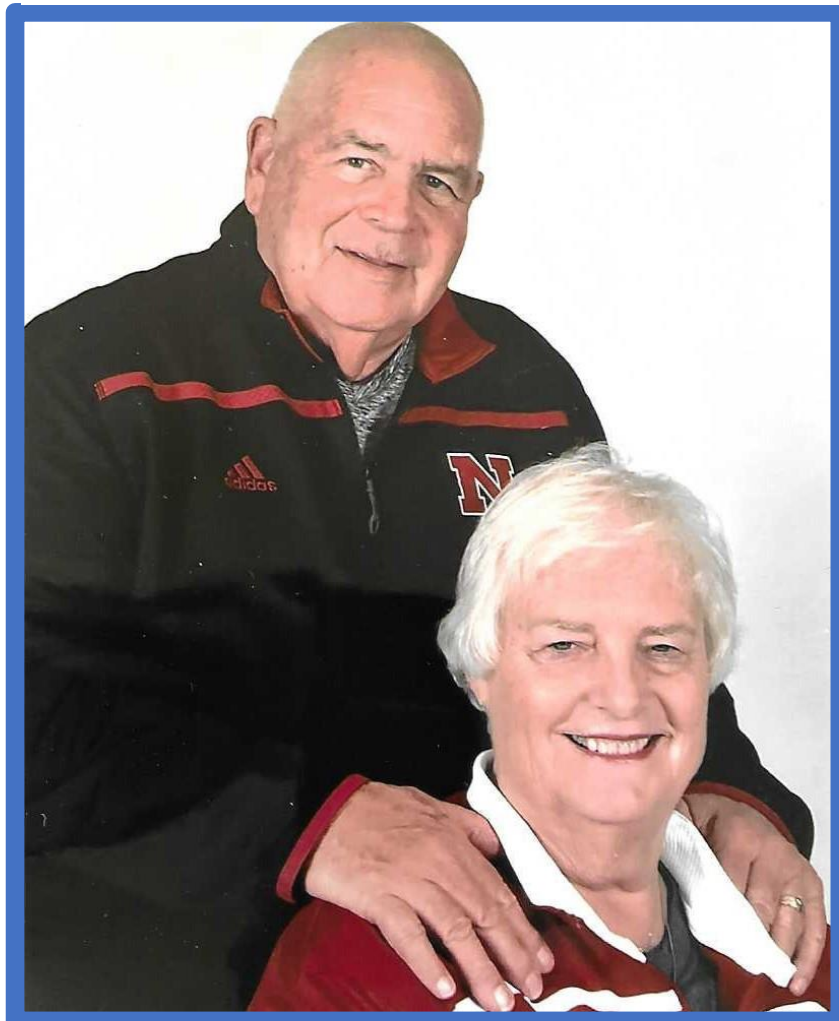




2024

“Honoring the Past to Challenge the Future”

Charlie Caverzagie



Charlie Caverzagie was born in Falls City, NE and raised in both Falls City and Omaha, NE. He graduated from Omaha Cathedral High School in 1959, Peru State College in 1963 with a BSE and earning an MSE at the University of Nebraska in 1973.

Charlie taught Social Studies and Physical Education at Plattsmouth Community Schools from 1963 to 1998. During that time, he coached sports – football, basketball and track at all levels – Junior, Freshman, Reserve and Varsity. From 1980 – 1991 he also served as the PHS Athletic Director. During his time with PHS and beyond, Charlie was deeply involved with the Nebraska Schools Activities Association assisting with the state track meet from 1985 – 2012. He was awarded the Distinguished Service to Youth Award in 2011 for his involvement with the NSAA.

He has been awarded a life member in the Nebraska Coaches Association, a twenty-five year Coaches Award, Friend of High School Athletics in 2008. In addition, through the Nebraska Coaches Association, he hosted multi sports clinics for multiple years, was a State Football Playoff Host and on the Scholarship Committee, both for multiple years.

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln he was a Board of Director Member of the Match Club (volleyball booster club) from 2005-2014, a UNL track official (LJ/TJ) from 2001-2018 and a UNL host for visiting volleyball tournament teams from 2005-2023.

Charlie was made an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy in 1973 and the PHS yearbook was dedicated to him in 1973.

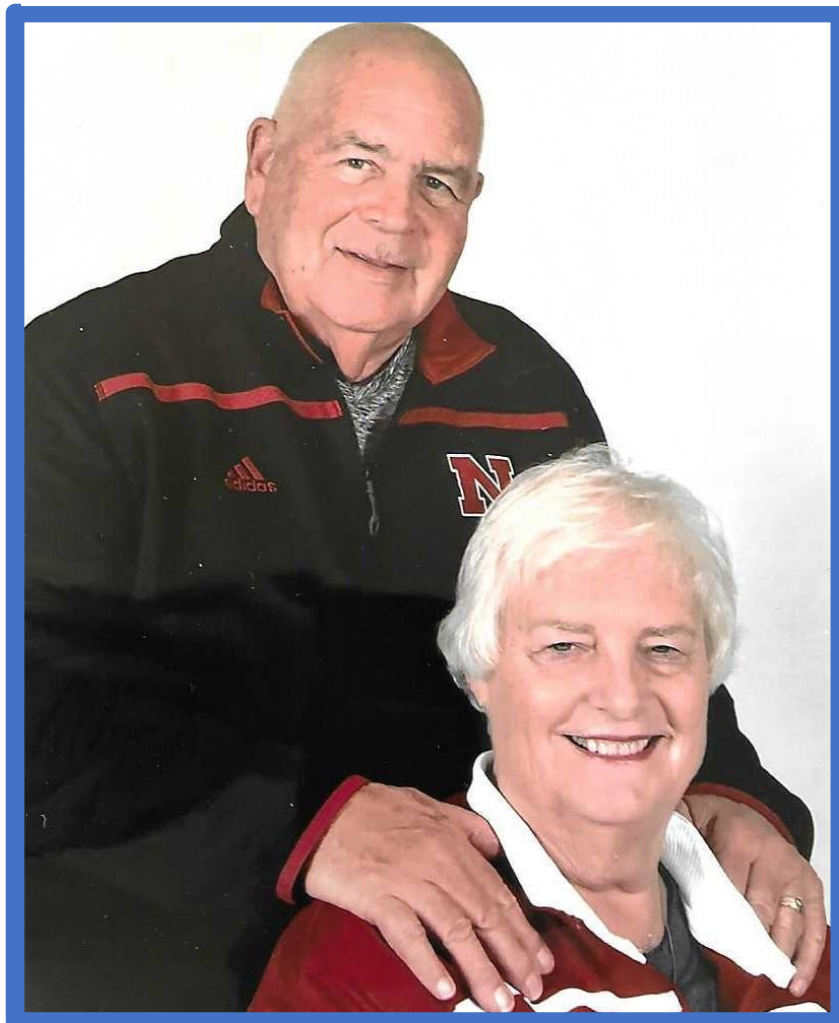
He is a member of the Church of the Holy Spirit and the father of two sons, Kevin and Kelly (that also graduated from PHS) as well as grandfather to eight grandsons.



2024

“Honoring the Past to Challenge the Future”

Mary Caverzagie



Mary Caverzagie was born in Omaha, Nebraska and raised in Bellevue, Nebraska, graduating from Bellevue High in 1962. She attended Peru State College earning a BSE in 1966 and an MSE in 1978 from the University of Nebraska. She married Charles Caverzagie in 1966.

Mary began her teaching career in the Glenwood, IA Community Schools in 1966-67, teaching Business Education. From 1970 – 2000 she taught Business Education in the Plattsmouth Community Schools, becoming the Business Department Head. During her tenure with PHS, she was the National Honor Society sponsor for several years, as well as the Yearbook sponsor and she started the PHS Drill Team (Dance Team). In 1976 the Yearbook was dedicated to Mary.

After retiring from teaching, Mary served on the Plattsmouth Board of Education from 2002 – 2018 serving as the secretary for many years. In 2018 she received the Nebraska School Board Association Level VII Award.

Mary has been a member of Alpha Delta Kappa International Women Educators Sorority for 50 years – from 1973 – 2023. She was a Hall of Fame member since 1998 in the sorority, served as the sorority's state treasurer for many years and the Nebraska state president from 2002-04, as well as the International vice president serving eleven states and Canadian provinces from 2007-09.

The Plattsmouth Harvest Festival honored her as a Lady of the Realm for her many years of service to the Festival – announcing the Friday afternoon kiddie's parade from 1980 – 2013. In 2014 showing their appreciation by making her the Grand Marshall of the Kiddie's parade.

Mary was very involved in high school sports at the state level which included assisting with the Nebraska State Track Meet from 1982 – 2012, the State Wrestling Meet from 1981 – 1988 and receiving the Distinguished Service to Youth Award in 2011. Through the Nebraska Coaches Association, she was named Friend of High School Athletics in 2008, was a host for the State Football Playoffs for several years, served on the Scholarship Committee and Multi Sports Clinic – both for multiple years.

At the University of Nebraska, she was a UNL Track Official (LJ/TJ) from 2001 – 2018 and a UNL host for visiting volleyball tournament teams from 2007-2023.

Mary and her husband Charlie, are members of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Plattsmouth, are the proud parents of two sons and several grandsons.



2024

“Honoring the Past to Challenge the Future”

Cindy Gardner



Graduating in 1974, Cindy was active in cheerleading and was a varsity cheerleading Captain.

After graduation from PHS, Cindy attended the Patricia Stevens Institute, Omaha, NE. earning a Certificate in Fashion Merchandising in 1975. She also participated in UCLA Adult Extension, LA, CA studying Resolving Entertainment Disputes through Mediation and Arbitration in 2003, Cornell University School of Industrial Labor Relations, NY, NY receiving a certificate in Contract Administration in 2008, a Collective Bargaining Certificate, 2009, National Labor College, Silver Spring, MD Secretary-Treasurer Training Certificate, 2011 as well as Teaching Techniques Certificate, 2012. In 2013 she studied at City University of New York School of Professional Studies, NY, NY in Labor Law in Arts and Entertainment, as well as New York State Coalition of Career Schools, NY, NY earning a full teaching License, 2015 through the present.

Cindy was a member of St. Peter's Chelsea Choir, NY, NY, 1988- 1997, St Mark's Canterbury Choir, Glendale, CA, 1997- 2004 and the Chelsea Community Choir, NY, NY, 2005- 2009. She has volunteered at BRC (City Homeless Shelter), NY, NY, 2005- 2017 and has been a board member of Site Five HPD (City Housing Preservation & Development), NY, NY from 2017 to the present time.

Like many young women, Cindy always had a interest in clothing and make-up. Following those interests, she was a Sales Associate at Goldstein Chapman Women's Clothing, Omaha, NE, 1973- 1977, Assistant Buyer at Denver Dry Goods Department Store, Denver, CO, 1977- 1978, worked at Mountain Bell in Denver, CO 1978-1980 and then got into makeup artistry where she was a Makeup Artist in the Entertainment Industry, NY & CA for over 32 years. With that background, she became involved in union organizations serving as Officer and Delegate for two IATSE Union Locals, NY, NY, 2006- 2020, Coordinator at IATSE National Benefit Funds, NY, NY, 2014- 2015 and Analyst at IATSE Theatrical Wardrobe Union, NY, NY, from 2016- Present.

Working as a makeup artist in the television industry, Cindy earned multiple awards in the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences including being nominated three times for an Emmy – twice for *Daytime-the Rosie O'Donnell Show*, 1997 & 1998, and then once in Primetime for *That '70's Show* in 2000. She received an Emmy for the *Rosie O'Donnell Show* in 1998. In addition, she served as a Blue Ribbon Panel Judge for Daytime and Primetime Emmy Awards from 1995 – 2020 and was a Makeup & Hairstylists Peer Group Executive Committee Appointee for 2001- 2002.

Cindy has served as a member from 2010 to the present of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, NYC Chapter, IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees of the United States and Canada), AFL-CIO from 1993 to the present, SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists), AFL-CIO from 1997 to the present time as well as a member & volunteer for the Entertainment Community Fund (Social Services) from 2011 – present.

She currently resides in New York City.



2024

“Honoring the Past to Challenge the Future”

Richard Ratzburg



Richard Ratzburg, who graduated in 1988 and calls Plattsmouth, Nebraska home, has a diverse background as a military brat who grew up around the world. He currently lives in Bellevue, Nebraska with his wife McKenzie and their seven children, four of whom are still living at home. The couple leads a busy lifestyle, juggling their children's involvement in sports, band, and other activities.

During his time at Plattsmouth High School, Richard excelled in multiple sports, earning varsity letters in golf, football, and wrestling. Following his graduation in 1988, he initially pursued higher education at Bellevue University. However, influenced by his father's military career, Richard decided to follow in his footsteps and joined the United States Air Force (USAF) in February 1989. Over the course of 14 years, he completed various assignments that took him to Hawaii, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Utah, and Arkansas. In 1998, Richard obtained his Associates Degree from the Community College of the Air Force, and was honored as one of two recipients of the prestigious Eagle Grant. During his military career he continued his success in sports, winning base championships in golf, bowling, and flag football.

Throughout his tenure in the USAF, he deployed to different parts of the world, providing support for operations in Bosnia (1993), Somalia (1994), Haiti (1994), Panama (1995), Saudi Arabia (Khobar Towers, 1996), and Kuwait (1997). In recognition of his outstanding performance, Richard received three commendation and six achievement medals during his USAF career. He was recognized for his exceptional expertise in search-and-rescue procedures, which proved instrumental in the successful rescue of 6 out of 14 downed airmen following the crash of an AC-130 gunship along the Kenyan coast.

After concluding his military service in January 2003, he embarked on a second career as a contract intelligence analyst at the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), based at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. In 2004, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Management/Human Resources from Park University, Parkville Missouri. After eight years as a contractor, Richard was hired by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in 2011 and transitioned into a government intelligence civilian role. His analytical work has had a significant impact, providing valuable insights to high-level government officials based in Washington, D.C.

In April 2022, he volunteered to deploy to the Middle East, where he spent four months supporting the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR). Within six weeks of his arrival, Richard's exceptional capabilities led to his selection to command as the DIA Senior Representative for CJTF-OIR. Upon his return from deployment, he was one of 10 selected to attend the USSTRATCOM Strategic Leadership Fellows Program at the University of Nebraska Omaha graduating in May 2023 with a 4.0 GPA. Shortly thereafter, he was selected for promotion.

Throughout his career, Richard has demonstrated a commitment to community service, teaching religious education classes for over 30 years, most recently at St. Mary's in Bellevue. Since 2007, he has coached various football and basketball teams for the Bellevue Junior Sports Association, achieving three championships; one in tackle football (2008) and two in basketball (2018 and 2019).

Richard remains active in the Omaha music scene. He created the band Sherry Drive, which released two albums and had the opportunity to open for renowned acts such as Great White, Skid Row, Powerman 5000, and the Sick Puppies in December 2018. In 2020, he formed another band called Red Leather Pants, which released three singles. Since mid-2021, Richard has focused on solo music projects while also assisting at his son's recording studio, Comfort Studios, located in Papillion, Nebraska.



2024

“Honoring the Past to Challenge the Future”

Don B. Rhoden, M.D.



Don B Rhoden of Plattsmouth graduated with the Class of 1975 from Plattsmouth High School. During his high school years, he participated in football and chorus as a freshman and sophomore. He was an active member of the Math Club for three years serving as president his senior year. While in Math Club, he placed third at the Creighton Math Field Day his sophomore and senior years and won first place as a junior. He was a member of the National Honor Society as a junior and senior and was a prom server his sophomore year. While in high school, Don received several awards, including Outstanding Junior in Mathematics, Daughters of the American Revolution Best Student in American History, Allied Chemical for Best Student in Science. He graduated with a 4.0 GPA from PHS. All the while, also during his senior year, taking classes through Peru State College with a 9.0 GPA. He was the recipient of a 4-Year Regents Scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1975-1978 again graduating with a 4.0 GPA. He was admitted to the University of Nebraska College of Medicine at UNMC after only three years of college, making the first cut in December 1977 - even before taking his first semester tests his junior year at UNL. He was a student at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine from 1978 – 1982 graduating with the degrees of Medical Doctor with High Distinction (being one of only 3 in that class to do so) and a BS in Medicine. He served his internship and residency at UNMC in the Department of Anesthesiology from 1982 – 1985, serving as the Chief Resident in Anesthesiology for those three years. He was board certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology in 1986. He has held a Nebraska license to practice medicine from 1984 to the present and an Iowa license to practice medicine from 2009 – 2022. He is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society.

Don is a member of The Nebraska Society of Anesthesiologists, American Society of Anesthesiologists and a past member of the Metropolitan Omaha Medical Society. He was a partner in Physicians Anesthesia Services PC at Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital from 1985–1998, until his group was absorbed by UNMC when Clarkson became part of the Medical Center. He then became an Asst Professor of Anesthesiology for University Medical Associates. In 2003, he moved over to Alegent Midlands Hospital in Papillion, Nebraska becoming a partner in Anesthesia Affiliates PC until 2009 when it became Northwest Anesthesia PC. He was a partner in that group until 2015 when they joined Alegent Creighton Clinic (later Catholic Health Initiatives). During the years of 2009 – 2017 Don practiced at Midlands Hospital, Immanuel Medical Center, Mercy Council Bluffs and Creighton University Bergen Mercy Medical Center. Since January 2022, he has specialized in administering anesthesia solely for Electroconvulsive Therapy, which is a life-saving treatment for catatonia, major depressive disorders and other psychiatric conditions at Immanuel Medical Center. He administers approximately 4,000 anesthetics annually, possibly doing more ECTs than anyone in the US. He is fortunate enough at Catholic Health Initiatives to be the only anesthesiologist who can pick what cases he wants to do, what days he works, who he works with and who does not have to be on-call, work nights, weekends or holidays. He has said he's enjoying himself too much at this time to consider retiring.

Don Rhoden has been active in the Plattsmouth Harvest Festival Club since 2003, became a Lord of the Realm in 2007, serving many offices in that organization, having been President in 2014. In 2019 he was crowned King of the Plattsmouth Harvest Festival and reigned for two years due to COVID. According to him, at that time, he considered being King one of the greatest honors of his life. And to that end, whenever he represented the club, he was always “in character” with a regal bearing. In 2023 he completed a project to identify the final resting place of every past King of that event, going back to 1935. On Memorial Day, he placed a commemorative flag bearing the Festival's logo on the graves of the past kings buried in Cass County. In addition, he wrote a booklet, a copy of which is in the Cass County Museum, which lists each king's name, date of birth, and death, coronation, age when crowned, age at death, final resting place and address when crowned.

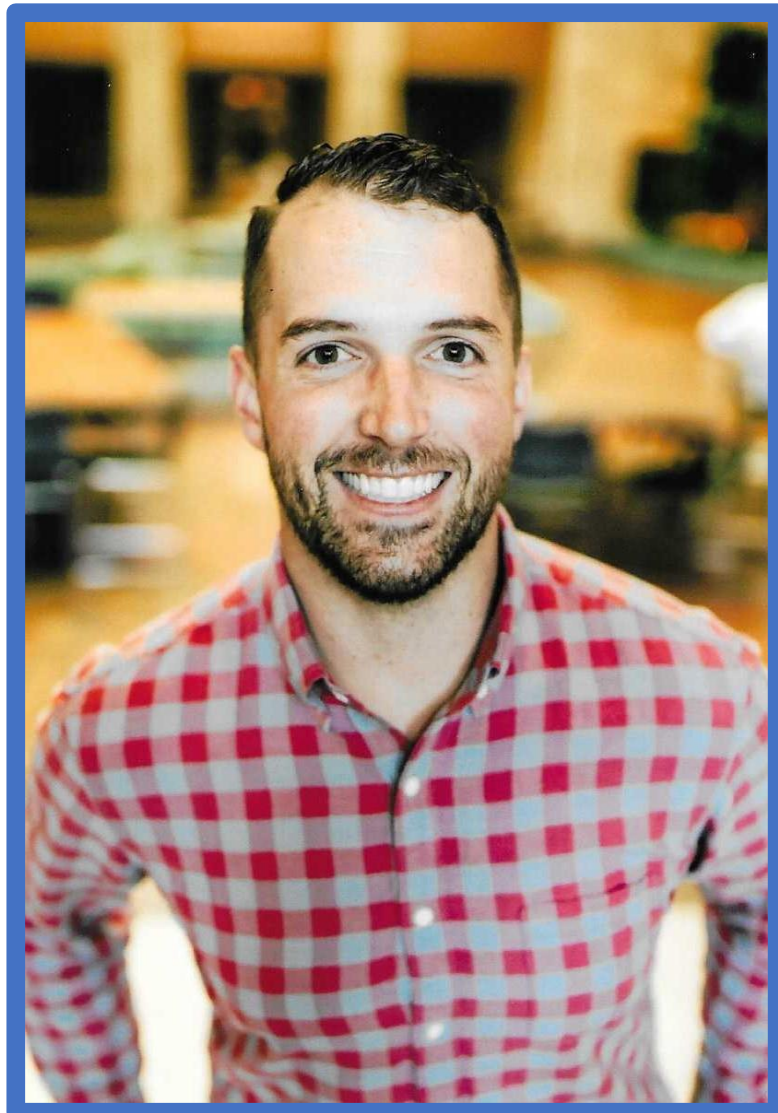
Don has stated being admitted to the PHS Hall of Fame ranks right up with being crowned King and he is deeply humbled and appreciative.



2024

“Honoring the Past to Challenge the Future”

Andrew Wassinger



Andrew Wassinger graduated from Plattsmouth High School in May 2002. While attending PHS, he was a member of the state championship marching band where he played trumpet, as well as participating in ensemble and jazz bands. In addition, he was a four-year letterman in basketball, student council member for three years, serving as president in his senior year, class vice president for three years, a Spanish Club member, Mock Trial member, Quiz Bowl member, a member of the National Honor Society and a Wiley scholarship recipient.

After graduation he attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2002-2006) earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science, with minors in Chemistry and Spanish.

At The Ohio State University (2006-2011) he earned a Ph.D in Food Microbiology. His dissertation topic was “Molecular Attributes affecting the Biofilm Formation of *Listeria monocytogenes*”.

Andrew began his career with Conagra Brands in 2010 as a food scientist within product development and is now a director over Conagra's frozen meal division.

He has published articles on *Extraction and Characterization of Starch from Alkaline Cooked Corn Masa-2007*; *Molecular Attributes affecting the Biofilm Formation of Listeria monocytogenes-2011* and *Role of GntR-family response regulator LbrA in Listeria monocytogenes Biofilm Formation-2013*. He holds patents on Liquid Oil-based fat system composition for microwave popcorn in 2021 and Sprouted Popcorn and method for making sprouted popcorn in 2023.

Andrew was one of 50 individuals selected to participate in the 45th class of Leadership Omaha in 2023. It is a program put on by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce that helps to build leadership within the community .

In 2021, Andrew and his wife started Sandhills Elixir, Nebraska’s first zero-proof spirit business, made in Valentine, Nebraska. They currently have over 2000 customers in 49 of the 50 states.

Andrew was a Child Savings Institute foster parent from 2012 -2015 and is a member of St Pius X Catholic Church in Omaha.