

This year's first Distinguished Alumni is Mr. Gino Calcei. Gino graduated with the class of 1955. During high school he and the other boys were completely immersed in sports. They were coached in football by some of the legendary Mogadore coaches including Ned Novell and Walt Evans. The coaches were just returning from World War 2 and were mature and tough men who expected the best of their players. This resulted in many Wildcat football victories. Gino played 3 years of bantam football for the East Akron Corsairs. He then played for Mogadore for 3 years during high school. At the end of his senior season the team had gone undefeated for 2 years including winning the 2 final games the previous season. Gino was part of Mogadore's 1st state championship football team as the team beat Lorain St. Mary's 25-20 in the title game challenge. Gino also played basketball and baseball for the Wildcats.

Gino enrolled at the University of Akron and along with 4 other boys from Mogadore played on the football team. He along with Dave Adolph, who went on to the NFL as a coach, were captains during their successive senior years. Gino also lettered in baseball and wrestling while at Akron.

After graduation Gino was activated into the U.S. Air Force. He was sent to France during the construction of the Berlin Wall and during the Cold War period. Gino worked as an aircraft mechanic and was a crew chief for the T-33 jet.

After his return back to the states he married the former Judy Baker and started to raise his family that includes sons Steven and Thomas and daughter Bethany.

Gino coached briefly at St. Vincent then started his teaching and coaching career in Sidney Ohio. He then moved on to Rootstown and then to Archbishop Hoban where he was Athletic Director. From there

Gino took a position at The College of Wooster as Associate Director of Admissions. After 5 years he moved back to the area settling in Suffield where he built a house on Walt Evans farm (one of his high school coaches)!

He began teaching and coaching at Mogadore's rival school, Field where his team won a Suburban League championship and was selected as coach of the year. He coached the Big Red, now Falcons, for 6 years then moved to an administrative position at Field.

Gino completed over 43 years in the field of education. After retiring in 2000 he spent 5 years as an administrator at Maplewood Career Center.

Gino and his wife Judy, who spent 30 years as an educator in the Rootstown School District, enjoy spending time with their family especially their 9 grandchildren and 2 (soon to be 4) great grandchildren!

Gino remains active in the Suffield and Mogadore communities and he is thankful to both for providing a great place to serve and raise his family.

The Mogadore Schools Alumni Foundation is pleased to award or Distinguished Alumni Award to Mr. Gino Calcei.