



[Click here](#) to view Bob Wetzel's Hall of Fame induction film.

A decade after his death, Bob Wetzel's contributions to Edwardsville School District 7, especially its athletic facilities and programs, endure.

The former President and CEO of The Bank of Edwardsville and recipient of the Albert Cassens Community Achievement Award and Ed-Glen Chamber Lifetime Achievement Award, Wetzel served on the EGHM Foundation board for 30-plus years. He was also a former Treasurer for District 7.

The EGHM Foundation, which was established in the late 1970s by the late John Hunter, Jr., is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization made up of members who are local business leaders from throughout the District 7 community.

Along with Jim Speciale, Wetzel played an important role in the hiring of Dr. Ed Hightower as Edwardsville District 7 superintendent in 1996.

Wetzel, through the EGHM Foundation, was also instrumental in the creation of the School District 7 Sports Complex. The foundation also played a key in acquiring properties that would eventually become the sites of new District 7 schools. The foundation would buy the property and hold it until the school had the money to purchase it.

The site for Cassens Elementary School was purchased with assistance from Wetzel and the EGHM Foundation, as was the 48-acre site that includes Goshen Elementary School and Liberty Middle School. In addition to the athletic facilities, Wetzel also spearheaded efforts to support academics and the performing arts throughout District 7.

Wetzel joined the bank as a management trainee in 1960, right after graduating from Monmouth (Ill.) College with a business degree. He was elected a bank director in 1974 and was named President in 1981. He continued to hold that position until his retirement in 2004.

From the time he took the reins as president until his retirement, the bank grew rapidly - increasing from two to 14 locations. Assets that stood at \$80 million in 1981 climbed to \$1 billion

in 2004. In 2003, he was the first Illinois Banker of the Year, named by the Illinois Bankers Association.

Wetzel passed away on Jan. 21, 2013, at the age of 75.

He is the second contributor elected to the EHS Athletic Hall of Fame.