Robert Black - Nominated by Carrie Lineberger

Robert Black began teaching band and chorus at Mount Holly High School in 1950 after he completed his military service in World War II and graduated from Shenandoah Conservatory with a teaching degree in Music. He built the music program into one that was recognized not only in Gaston County, but statewide. The Marching Band received honors through invitations to march in Chicago's Christmas parade in 1953 and in Miami During the Orange Bowl in 1957. At football games in Mount Holly, a new halftime show was produced each and every time. The infamous "Lights Out" halftime shows were always a crowd favorite with majorettes twirling fire batons and band members with shoulder harnessed flashlights covered in various colors of cellophane. The Concert Band was also exceptional and went to the North Carolina State Band contest where they received four Superior ratings in 1964, 1965, 1967, and 1970.

Robert Black gave 35 years of service to music education in Gaston County, teaching at Mount Holly High School 1950-1972, he opened East Gaston High School 1972-1976, Mount Holly Junior High and Stanley Junior High 1972-1985. He was inducted into the Bandmaster Association in 1976 and was one of 227 nationwide named “Distinguished Bandmaster of America.” His 35 years of service in the Mount Holly School System were marked by outstanding loyalty and devotion to the youth of our community, teaching hundreds of boys and girls, along with being a friend and counselor to them and their parents...his sphere of influence has extended beyond the classroom into the life of our community, enriching and improving life for all of us...throughout his career he has earned the respect and affection of his colleagues, students and the community.