

Red Bank High School HALL OF FAME

2023 INDUCTION CEREMONY

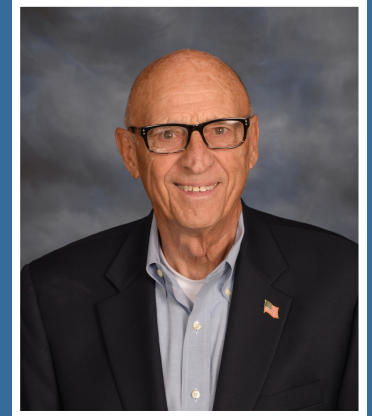
GEORGE FARR CLASS OF 1961

George Farr is a Red Bank High School graduate from the Class of 1961. As a student at Red Bank, he was a wrestling State Champion and went on to attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga as a college athlete. Farr is well-known for his athleticism and wrestling skill.

Farr is a two time SEC Champion and has been inducted into the Tennessee Hall of Fame, the UTC Hall of Fame, and the National Collegiate Wrestling Hall of Fame.

In addition to his contributions in our local community, he also served our Country for 2 1/2 years in the Army as a Second Lieutenant in the 101st Airborne Division's Second Infantry Battalion. He served in the Vietnam War where he was wounded in combat and received both the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his valiant effort in saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Farr spent his career as pharmaceutical sales representative with Schering-Plough Pharmaceutical for 39 years and retired in 2010. He now serves as a member and Deacon in the Ridgedale Baptist Church.



REV. DONALD FERGUSON CLASS OF 1964

Donald Ferguson is a 1964 graduate of Red Bank High School. He attended White Oak Elementary, Red Bank Junior High, and Red Bank High School, where he was a student athlete. He played football, wrestled, and participated in boxing.

In 1965, Ferguson was drafted into the Army and volunteered for the Paratroopers. He served in the Vietnam War and was combat wounded twice. He received the Army Commendation Medal with the "V" for Valor. He also received two Purple Hearts for his service. Ferguson underwent multiple surgeries and rehabilitation in order to regain a normal life due to his injuries from combat, including a traumatic brain injury.

After his military career, Ferguson received his Bachelor of Ministry in Biblical studies at the Baptist Bible Institute and his Master of Divinity Degree at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has dedicated his life to ministry by preaching and counseling others in faith. After serving as a pastor in Daleville, Alabama and New Roads, Louisiana, he also pastored at Mount Carmel Baptist Church on Signal



Mountain, Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Red Bank, and Bartlebaugh Baptist Church in Harrison, Tennessee.

Ferguson and his wife Sylvia live in Hixson and have been married for over 53 years. Both of his daughters and granddaughters are also proud Red Bank Alumni.

VAN O'NEAL CLASS OF 1984

Van O'Neal is a graduate of the Red Bank Class of 1984. While a student at Red Bank, Van loved marching in the band and attending football games at Rankin Field. He went on to attend the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where he received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Finance.



O'Neal has worked as a contractor with GTE and EDS and Northrop Grumman. He began in the warehouse and moved up quickly, eventually serving as the lead engineer for the Department of Energy during Y2K activities and worked at the White House Information Coordinating Center. He has worked at the State Department, supporting embassies worldwide on security and supporting the Treasury Government Security Operation Center. He currently works for the Department of Treasury to support a major data center and the Continuity of Operations and Disaster Recovery.

O'Neal's greatest influences were his grandmothers, Bomba and Nana. Both taught him to live his life to the fullest, and that "where there is a will, there is a way."

Van has received the President's Award for Technical Excellence, and the Secretary's Award from the Department of Energy. He is thankful for his supportive family and encouraging managers that pushed him, trusted his work and leadership, and stood up for him when needed.

GARY PARTRICK CLASS OF 1979

Gary Partrick is a Red Bank alumni from the Class of 1979. While a student at Red Bank, he was a 5-sport athlete and participated in football, basketball, golf, baseball, and cross country. He was a 1st team All State receiver for football, Chattanooga Player of the Year, an All SETAC player, and an All City Player multiple years of his high school career. He was also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Key Club. His favorite memory of Red Bank is beating Farragut to make it to the state finals in football and recalls that his entire senior year was an awesome experience.



After graduating high school, Partrick attended Austin Peay State University to play football. After enduring a neck injury, he was hired as the receiver coach for their football team. He went on to coach at East Ridge High School, Soddy Daisy High School and Cleveland High School and currently serves as the Assistant Athletic Director and Director of Golf at Baylor School.

He has been the football coach of the year, baseball coach of the year, AND the golf coach of the year. He has coached 13 State Championships in Golf and 10 State Runner Up teams. In 2011, he was the National Coach of the Year, has been the TSSAA State Coach of the Year twice, and received the TSSAA Distinguished Service Award in 2022.

Partrick says that his greatest influence was Coach Tom Weathers. "He inspired me to do the right thing, the right way." Partrick states that he never wanted Weathers to be disappointed with him up until his death in 2020. He attributes his success to his teachers and coaches at Red Bank, as well as his family.

Partrick is honored to be a part of the history of players, coaches, and administrators in the Chattanooga area. It has been his honor to give back to the young people of this city.

LEE PEARCE CLASS OF 1990

Lee Pearce is a Red Bank graduate from the class of 1990. While a student at Red Bank, Lee was involved in many activities. Pearce served as Senior Class President, a Commander of the JROTC unit, and was a four year letterman in football. He does not have any one memory that stands out, but says that the teachers, administration, coaches, and classmates made his entire time at Red Bank memorable. The pride of attending RBHS is something he says will always live with him.



After graduating from Red Bank, he attended West Point Military Academy, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Military History. He also received an MBA from Emory University and a Fellowship in National Security Policy from MIT.

Pearce had a 20 year career as an Army Infantry Officer. He served in the 101st Airborne Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the 3rd Infantry Division, as well as serving two years in Iraq and one year in Afghanistan. He served as Personal Staff of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Personal Staff of the Four Star Commander in Afghanistan, and the Staff of the Secretary of the Army. Pearce received the Legion of Merit Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Ranger Tab, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and US and German Airborne Wings.

After his military career, Pearce was a Senior Operations Manager for Amazon and currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer for a large orthopedic practice in Tennessee.

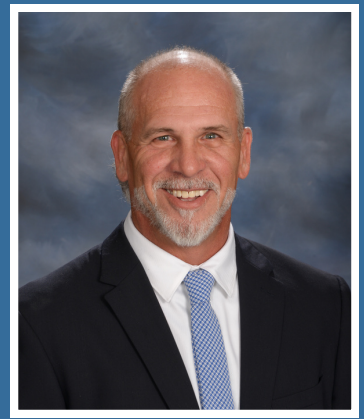
Pearce says that outside of his parents, Coach Tom Weathers had the greatest influence on his life as a young person. He claims that Coach Weathers taught his team to win with class and to push themselves further than they thought possible. Weathers created an environment for the players that brought them together, created accountability, and built lifelong bonds. In addition to Coach Weathers' influence, his parents also set him up for success. Pearce's parents raised him to love Jesus, treat everyone with respect, and work hard.

In addition to Pearce's service to our Country, he maintains leadership roles in his local church, volunteers at the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga, and has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts.

TERRY TOPPING

CLASS OF 1984

Terry Topping is a Red Bank graduate from the Class of 1984. In his time at Red Bank High School, Topping was an incredible student athlete. He was a High School Track and Field All American, set the State record in 300 m hurdles, set several school records, and received a full scholarship to the University of Memphis for track and field. He went on to qualify for the Olympic trials in the 400 m hurdles and was ranked in the top 10 in Track and Field Magazine. Topping has also been inducted into the Chattanooga Area Sports Hall of Fame.



Terry's favorite memory of Red Bank High School is the camaraderie of the Red Bank students, teachers, and parents. Everyone was involved in all aspects of the school community. He recalls that all of the families in the community knew each other, as well as teachers knowing the families and taking an interest in each student's education. The social interactions from high school created lifelong friendships with others which he says are still his good friends to this day.

Topping has been influenced by his family and many teachers, coaches, and friends over the years. One of his greatest mentors was a teacher and coach in the Red Bank community. Jeff Chastain taught Topping that when you put in hard work and effort for the right reasons, you will find joy and happiness. He attributes Chastain for teaching him that this daily practice and work that still help him prepare and perform each and every day.

When Topping returned to Chattanooga after the passing of his father, he helped maintain his family's business, Chattanooga Tractor. He also worked for Gibraltar Steel as a sales manager for metal suppliers to the automotive and appliance industry. Topping ultimately found his calling when he went to work for the Chattanooga Police Department. Combining his interest in chemistry and biology with his passion to help others and protect those who could not protect themselves, he has worked as a police officer and narcotics detective here in Chattanooga for the past 25 years. He has collaborated with several health departments and the CDC across many counties and states helping to formulate strategies that minimize the victimization of illicit drugs.

Topping also helps his community by serving as a member on the Regional Health Council Board, the Hamilton County Recovery Court Staff, the Opioid Abatement Group, The Families of Overdose Loss Support Group, and the Hamilton County Coalition. He coaches track and field and cross country at Girls' Preparatory School and the AAU Track and Field Club. Topping has received awards for being the Chattanooga Rookie Police Officer of the Year and the Chattanooga Police Investigator of the Year.