

Name of Nominee: Betty Gully

Welcome this evening. As you know, we are here to induct Betty Gully as a Foster High School – Bulldog – Wall of Fame member.

My name is Allan Ekberg. I am proud to say I am a graduate of Foster High School, class of 1977, and a City of Tukwila, City Council Member.

However, I am most proud to have been asked by the Gully family to share with you insights about Betty Gully, a respectable Tukwila citizen and Foster High School graduate who I knew from my Cub Scout Den Mother days in the late 60's until she passed away two years ago.

Betty Graduation from Foster in: 1957. She was a Bulldog, thru and thru...how so, well Betty provided service to her Tukwila community for more than 50 years – she was a true leader, allow me to share some highlights followed by some more detail:

- Worked to annexation portions of the South Central School District into Tukwila,
- She contributed to school levy campaigns,
- She was advocating for the arts
- Betty helped establishment of Tukwila Children's Foundation
- Served as a Foster parent.
- And volunteered often on behalf of the Tukwila School District

Betty was steadfast in helping the community, including:

- In the mid 70's Betty was a surrogate foster parent to a few kids who she "adopted". I being one of them.
- Betty contributed to the Tukwila School District by helping to start the Head Start program here.
- She worked as an employee of the district providing administrative support
- She contributed her time and endless effort as the PTA/PTSA president for her children's schools.
- She tutored elementary school kids in reading, writing and remedial math
- She served on the district's Advisory Council overseeing recommendations to the district's school board.
- Betty and her husband Paul always had a "McGruff House" sign in their front window. That sign was an indication that if a child was in need, he or she was welcomed.
- And she and her husband both brought Square Dancing as a PE activity to the elementary schools. I should know, I'll not forget the call of "swing your partner round and round..." at Southgate Elementary school.
- In addition, Betty was a Block Watch captain for her neighborhood hosting many a "Night out against Crime" events.
- During the Forward Thrust program movement in the Puget Sound region, Betty worked to secure a community pool for our use, right next door to where we are at this evening.
- Betty served as the chairman of the School Levy and bond issues for many years. Many programs were able to be continued such as Band, Art, and Photography because of the levy program.
- In 1987-89, Betty worked with me in her community to achieve successful annexation of the Riverton Area into the City of Tukwila. And she helped with marketing material for the Foster, Thorndyke and Cascade View neighborhoods.

- In the late 1990's, Betty coordinated an effort within the City of Tukwila to rename her street to Macadam Road. It was the first road in the State that was asphalt paved, or Macadam paved as called in that day.
- Betty supported the electoral process by working as precinct commander for local voting/polling places held in our elementary schools.
- Betty was involved with a community group called the Foster Community Club since its inception in the early 1990's through the early 2000's
- She was a strong advocate for community parks.
- Betty started "Gully Gardens" a home produce and honey business. Now, because of her contributions to the community and interest in the environment, this last Saturday the City of Tukwila dedicated the pea patch at Riverton Park as the "Gully Gardens".
- Betty Gully, along with others, started the first-annual Tukwila Arts and Crafts Fair for the City of Tukwila. A successful event held at the Tukwila Community Center which was transformed into the yearly Back Yard Wild Life event.
- In local government, Betty was a behind the scene leader. She gave me her insights on many occasion.
- In the 90's, she was a member of the Tukwila 2020 Vision committee who envisioned what Tukwila would be like in that year.
- When the City was revising its Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code, 20 years ago, Betty was an advocate for neighborhood commercial zoning where residents and local craft businesses could flourish together. You can see that vision now in place at the corner of 130th and E.Marginal.Way.South.
- From Betty's own home, she sponsored countless families during the holiday season by gathering food, clothing and gifts, plus delivering them to those families she adopted.
- Her and her husband Paul would drive to the local grocery, load up on discarded goods, and deliver them to the Tukwila Food Pantry
- When Sound Transit was determining its route through Tukwila, Betty fought alongside me to prevent the light rail line from running down the middle of Tukwila International Boulevard.
- Betty also has been an advocate for the arts in her community. She advocated for and brought forth the Rainier Symphony in Tukwila and sat on its board for many years.

As you can see, looking back at this extensive list of endeavors, Betty Gully has contributed as a Foster High School's graduate with numerous endeavors that contributed to the good of the district, the City of Tukwila, as a whole. She was a tireless working in improving the quality of life of our community.

Betty embodies the spirit of a Fosterite. As a graduate of the class of 1957, our community is a better place due to her contributions. It is because of her 50+ years of dedication that Betty Gully this evening receives the recognition of a Foster High School – Bulldog - Alumni Hall of Fame recipient. It is with great joy that we can acknowledge her memory living on here at Foster.

Now, may we all join in the Foster Alma Mater.

"Hail, All hail to Foster! Forever may we share the memories that we cherished; the friendships while we were there. Uphold the white and purple, Wave forth for all to see. Forever Alma Mater, All hail to thee."

And, thank you Betty Gully, for being an outstanding Fosterite and contributing so much to our community. May we all follow in your footsteps. I hail to thee.