





**Maroa-Forsyth Foundation**  
presents the  
**HALL OF FAME DINNER/AUCTION**  
Master of Ceremonies ..... Matt Hall

**Welcome.....** Dr. Kris Kahler  
**Celebrating the Present.....** Brice Stewart  
**Light in the Hallway .....** Sung by the High School Honors Choir  
**Honoring the Past .....** Matt Hall  
**Induction of the Class of 2022 Hall of Fame**

Dale and Rita Colee & Family  
Amy Hayes  
Dave Luster  
Leroy Mills  
Larry "Bubba" Nix  
Edd Powers  
Jeff Query  
Bob Ritter  
Mallory Leggett-White  
William Whiteman  
2007 Volleyball Team  
2012 Football Team  
2016 WYSE Team

**Looking Toward the Future .....** Bart Rose

---



## **DALE AND RITA COLEE & FAMILY**

Moving to Forsyth in 1987, the Colee family attended Maroa-Forsyth because of the gratitude and academic excellence that was offered. All of the Colee children graduated from Maroa-Forsyth, leaving with pride and love for the Trojan nation. Their eldest son, Kyle, graduated from Maroa-Forsyth in 1999, moving to Atlanta in 2013, where he worked as a HR specialist. After Lauren graduated in 2003, she attended St. Louis University, married her high school sweetheart, and now works in the family business as a pharmacist. Erica graduated from Maroa-Forsyth in 2005; she then graduated with her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 2011, moving back to Decatur to work in the family business. Ally graduated from Maroa-Forsyth in 2008 and obtained her undergraduate degree and Juris Doctorate degree from the School of Law. She currently lives with her husband and her three children and is a Director of the Decatur Parks Foundation. At the age of 32, Kyle Stone passed away from a sudden cardiac event, a condition that no one knew he had. The Colee family created the Stone Thrown Forward Foundation to educate other families regarding their heart health; STF partners with local healthcare professionals to provide free heart screenings for student athletes. The Colee family works very hard to turn the tragedy their family has endured into something helpful and beneficial for others.



## AMY HAYES

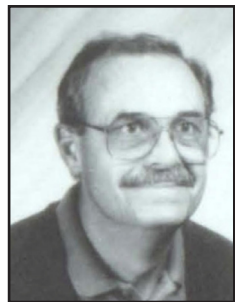
Amy Hayes is being recognized for her dedication in sports as well as the many relationships she developed throughout the Maroa-Forsyth community. Amy is a graduate of the class of '88. Her love of softball began in high school where she made many lifelong memories with her teammates and coach, Maroa-Forsyth legend, Brenda Livingood. She went on to play softball at the University of Evansville while majoring in Sociology and Anthropology. Her skills and dedication also allowed her to play semi-professional softball in New Zealand. After playing for many years, Amy was then inspired to become a softball coach. She coached at Portland State and Bradley, as well as two Division I programs: Oregon and Virginia Tech. It was at Boston University where she led her team to a conference championship. Amy is a dependable person who coaches hard, but loves even harder. She is thankful and honored to be inducted into the 2023 Maroa-Forsyth Hall of Fame.



---

## DAVE LUSTER

After graduating from Mt. Zion High School, Dave Luster served in the United States Army. He later attended Eastern Illinois University, graduating in the spring of 1969. Upon completion of his degree at EIU, he began teaching at Maroa-Forsyth in the fall of 1969. During his time at Maroa-Forsyth, Dave taught social studies at Maroa-Forsyth Jr. High School for 19 years. He then went on to teach history and current events at the high school for another 10 years and added his services as a bus driver for the school district for five years. Early in his career at Maroa-Forsyth, he coached 7th and 8th grade boys basketball for 10 years. After that, he became the head coach of the high school women's basketball team, which he coached for 6 years.



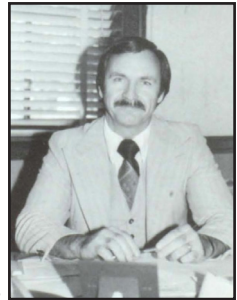


In those 6 years, the girls' team had three 20-win seasons, compiling an astounding 22-4 record during the 1987-88 season. Luster's 1987-88 team was the first girls basketball team in school history to win the Regional Championship game. After working at the Maroa-Forsyth district for 30 years, he retired in 2001-2002. Many of his former students remember him as "Old Man," but he has always been well respected by his former students and colleagues for his many dedicated years at Maroa-Forsyth. Dave Luster currently resides in Mt. Zion and even has two great grandchildren who attend Maroa-Forsyth Schools today.

---

## **LEROY MILLS**

LeRoy Mills was involved in the Maroa-Forsyth District from 1960 to 1992. He taught seventh and eighth grades from 1960 to 1971 at Maroa-Forsyth Grade School, teaching math and science while also coaching. He served as principal of the elementary through high school from 1971 through 1992. During his time as principal, he was able to facilitate bringing Maroa-Forsyth Junior/Senior High School offices into the computer age. He helped start computer scheduling, attendance, and office practices as well as establishing the first computer lab for student classes. One of his fondest memories of the Maroa-Forsyth School District was how supportive the parents were of the schools and personnel in general. He would like to be remembered as fair and honest.





## LARRY "BUBBA" NIX

Larry "Bubba" Nix moved to Maroa in 1970 when he married Janet Nix. While Bubba never had children, he helped raise his nieces and nephews. Bubba worked as a lineman for Bell South Telephone company for 35 years and ended his career as an inspector at the age of 54. Bubba became involved with Maroa-Forsyth High School sports when his nephew, Billy Henderson, joined the football team. From that point on, Bubba made an impact in the sports programs supporting the teams and players by attending practices and helping coaches. He helped many athletes over the years by providing encouragement in their dreams and athletic aspirations. Bubba passed away December 8th 2022, but will be always remembered for his generous heart and desire to help others.



---

## EDD POWERS

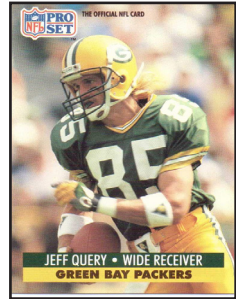
A graduate from Wapella High School who showed his love for music at a young age, Edd Powers came to Maroa-Forsyth looking to teach music in the early 1990s. Edd taught choir from 1994 to 2008 in the Maroa-Forsyth District giving kids a great learning environment and guidance. Edd taught grade school music classes and taught chorus at the middle school and high school. In that time, Edd directed 13 musicals at the high school which were very successful in the community and district. Edd always gave the students his effort and time to help them. Edd made all of his classes fun even for the kids who weren't interested in music. Edd is also famous for starting the tradition of getting ice cream after a concert, a tradition that has carried on even after Edd's retirement.





## JEFF QUERY

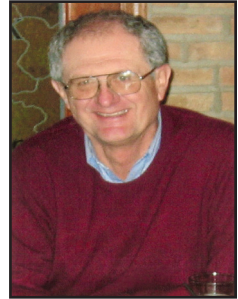
In the mid and late 80's, Jeff Query became a household name in Macon County and the surrounding areas anytime the talk was about standout football players. Jeff was a student at Maroa-Forsyth High School from 1981-1985. In 1983, he played on the 1A runner-up team and was a huge part of the 1984 2A semifinalist team. In recognition of his skills and impressive stat lines, he became the Herald & Review Macon County Football Player of the Year at the end of the 1984 season. After high school, Jeff chose to continue playing football at Millikin University, where he excelled. He became the first ever player from Millikin University to enter the NFL draft, being selected by the Green Bay Packers in the 5th round (124th pick overall) in 1989. He played for the Packers for three years before being picked up by the Cincinnati Bengals (1992-1995). In 1995, he played his last year in the NFL with the Washington Redskins. Over the course of his NFL career, Jeff caught 141 passes for 1,865 yards and hauled in 11 receiving touchdowns. Thanks to Jeff Query and his accomplishments on the football field, young student-athletes across Central Illinois learned that the dream of playing professionally is possible, as long as you are willing to work for it, and you never stop believing in yourself.





## **BOB RITTER**

Bob was first and foremost known as an educator at MFHS. He graduated from Millikin University and eventually completed his administrative degree from Eastern Illinois University. Bob enjoyed a 34-year tenure in the Maroa-Forsyth district where he started out as a high school math teacher, encouraging students to achieve their best while pushing themselves to learn. He cared so much about the people of the community that he would talk to families in the surrounding area, letting them know that Maroa-Forsyth was the best district for their kids if they were looking to move. He coached high school boys basketball and middle school girls basketball. Once he had gained his administrative degree, he became principal of Maroa-Forsyth Grade School. He even did playground supervision to connect with the younger kids and be a part of their lives. Known as a man with great integrity and a passion for being more than just a figure in the community, Bob strove to have a positive impact in the lives of all his students and parents. Bob has since passed away, but honoring him and the astounding life he lived is his loving wife, Diane.





## MALLORY LEGGETT-WHITE

Mallory White attended Maroa-Forsyth High School from 2003 to 2007. She played volleyball all four years. Her fondest memories of her high school volleyball career is being able to play with her closest friends, the local fan support, and the close-knit community. She attended Illinois State University on a full-ride volleyball scholarship. One of her many accomplishments while playing at ISU was that she was the fifth player in ISU history to surpass 1,000 digs and 1,000 kills in her career. She was a graduate teaching assistant for two years while receiving her masters degree in communication. She met her husband, Cody White, at Illinois State University, and they currently have three children: Blakely, Brooks, and Baylor. After college, she volunteered as a freshman girls volleyball coach and then was head coach from the years of 2018 to 2022. She is currently a stay-at-home mom. The support from her family through her high school and collegiate career and into her coaching career was very important in her success. If anyone remembers her for anything, she wants them to know how much she truly loved the girls that she coached and her passion and love for teaching the game of volleyball.





## WILLIAM WHITEMAN

Moving to Maroa from Macon in 1986, Wil graduated from Maroa-Forsyth in 1990. During his time at Maroa, Wil remembers his time on the football and basketball teams as well as countless academic memories, including taking one of Mrs. Daggett's baking classes, which resulted in recruiting more football players taking baking classes. One of Wil's biggest influences was Coach Fred Thompson who taught Wil everything he knows about life through football and detasseling. After high school, Wil went on to serve in the United States Navy where, due to the GI bill, he graduated from San Diego State University and went on to earn an MBA from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. During his twenty-five years in the Navy, Wil served many tours and is a certified specialist in human intelligence and counterintelligence. Wil has held many positions throughout his naval career and has been the recipient of many awards and medals, including the Purple Heart. Wil currently works as a private contractor for the National Security Agency and United States Cyber Command at Fort Meade, Maryland. Wil and his wife Tara reside at Fort Meade with their children Piper, Kirek, and Beau and Wil's service animal Typhoon.



---

### Know someone you would like to nominate?

The nominating committee would appreciate your help! Use the QR code below or visit [www.mfschools.net/news/hall-of-fame](http://www.mfschools.net/news/hall-of-fame).

Nominations need to be submitted by July 31st.





## 2007-2008 MAROA-FORSYTH VOLLEYBALL TEAM

The 2007-2008 Maroa-Forsyth Volleyball team etched their place in school history by having the best record of any team in school history going 35-1 in their run to the school's first state appearance for the sport. They still hold the record for most wins by a team in school history at 35 and the longest winning streak of 34 straight games. The team lead by Macon County player of the year and all stater Rachel Hockady won the Clinton Classic Tournament, the Riverton Tournament, and the Macon County Tournament to set them up for a deep run in the post season. They won the regional round defeating St. Joseph-Ogden in two sets moving them on to the sectional round. They remained undefeated through Sectionals defeating Effingham St. Anthony in two sets then beating Casey Westfield and Pana in three sets which set them up to play Carlinville in the Super-Sectional round. They beat Carlinville in the first set and won in a close second set 26-24. Their winning streak continued into their state games winning the first two against Breeze and Chicago Christian ending the season third in the state and with the longest winning streak in MFHS history.



## **2012 STATE CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM**

The 2012 Maroa-Forsyth Football Team had one of the most memorable and successful seasons in school history! After a 2011 team that looked primed to win the State Championship that year, injuries plagued Coach Josh Jostes' group, and they came up just short in the semi-finals. The Trojans lost some key players to graduation that spring, but many important pieces returned to pick up right where they left off in 2011. The Trojans also had an addition of three transfer students that all contributed to the team's success. Coach Jostes immediately asked his players to focus on two internal, team aspects: "DWWD" (Do What We Do) and accept that "pressure is a privilege" (don't worry about outside noise). This team had all the qualities a coach could hope for. They had competitiveness, positive attitudes and outstanding leadership from their best players; all of which are keys to a GREAT team. When the season arrived, this group was expected to dominate every team it faced on the field. Fortunately, they didn't disappoint, burying eight of the nine teams they faced in the regular season. In November, the Trojans played Stockton in the 1A State Championship, which turned into an instant classic. The Trojans started off hot, going into halftime up 20 points. The momentum quickly turned in the third quarter, however, as Stockton obtained a four-point lead. Using all the attributes that made this team special, the Trojans were able to overcome this deficit and outscore Stockton 28-0 in the final quarter, bringing home Maroa-Forsyth's 2nd State Championship. This legendary team posted a 13-1 record and boosted the Trojan football tradition forever.



## 2016 WYSE TEAM

The 2016 WYSE (Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering) Team marched their way from 5th, 4th, 3rd, then 1st in the state in the Division 700 competition level. The team consisted of 14 students but was led by Emily Ma who placed 2nd in the state for Chemistry and 4th in Biology. Katarina Gorou placed 2nd in the state in Biology, and Isra Hasnain finished 1st in the state in English. Along with Charlie He, Maddie Hall, Shubha Verma, and Yasir Hasnain, the WYSE team excelled with a perfect score of 500 points to win first place in Regionals in which almost every member earned a first, second, or third place medal. Their great performances landed them a solid showing at sectionals and a first place ranking at State, which was also the first time the program won state.



**The Community Celebration Committee would like to thank the following people for all of their contributions. Without their help, this evening would not have been possible.**

Phil Applebee for having the vision for a Hall of Fame at Maroa-Forsyth School District.

Matt Hall (class of 1998) for agreeing to be our Master of Ceremonies.

Tori Thomas (current student) for designing our program cover.

Grace Allsup (current student) for providing the background music.

The HS Honors choir, under the direction of Christopher Weisenborn for the entertainment.

Jason Doty and Josie Luedke for working with National Honor Society students to capture the essence of our inductees in their bios.

NHS students Kane Eighner, Charlie Gentle, Jasmeet Kaur, Hana Quidan, Zach Scott, Jolie Stuart, Aiden Riser and Caden Young for writing our inductees' bios.

Cassie Crouch and her students for the beautiful table decorations.

Beau Laswell (current student), Owen Vaughn (current student) and Luke Aubry (current student) for making the Hall of Fame Plaques.

The FFA students that gave of their time to help out this evening.

Jason Queen and Wallender-Dedman Printing for the programs.

The Decatur Park District

Kelly Ritter for her planning, coordination, and execution, in making this evening such a huge success.

MAROA-FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL  
PRESENTS

Disney **THE LITTLE  
MERMAID**

RESERVED TICKETS

Adults

\$12

Students (K-12)

\$10



**PART OF YOUR  
WORLD PARTY!**

with special  
character appearances!

RECOMMENDED FOR KIDS  
AGE 3-12

SAT., APRIL 1 - 11:30 AM

\*Ticket required.

**MAROA-FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**  
101 SOUTH CEDAR ST. | MAROA, IL

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 | 7 PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 31 | 7 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 | 1 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 | 7 PM

**DINNER  
THEATRE**

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

6 PM DINNER

7 PM PERFORMANCE

**ONLY \$35**

\*Includes ticket to show.

For more information, please call: 217-794-3463 or  
check our Facebook page (Maroa-Forsyth Musicals).



**MF School Archives**  
**Tina Horve, Archivist**  
Tina.Horve@mfschools.net

The School Archives promotes the collection, preservation, and digitization of historical items from the Maroa-Forsyth School District and its communities. The Archives holds school records dating back to the late 1800s, yearbooks and school newspapers, photos, videos, clothing items, and more, with the goal of increasing public access to these items through its website, social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter), and in-person events. Alumni, former faculty, staff, and community members are welcome to contact the Archives for research or for donations of school-related materials.

Use the QR code below or visit [www.MFSchoolArchives.com](http://www.MFSchoolArchives.com).



## **Maroa-Forsyth Foundation**

Started in 1997, the Foundation is a tax-exempt organization which is dedicated to enriching, enhancing, and supporting the Maroa-Forsyth School District. It provides funds to enhance classroom curriculum and aids teachers through the fulfillment of Teacher Classroom Grants.

Through the generous donations of alumni, parents, community members, and other supporters, the Foundation has provided over \$130,000 to our schools. Foundation funding through the Teacher Grant Program has paid for materials for Grade School, Middle School, and High School students in programs from reading, science, and art, to assemblies and the Wall of Valor display, which honors MF students who have served, or are currently serving, in the military.

If you are reading this, please take a moment to make a donation to the Foundation by writing a check and placing it in the envelope in this program. Your donation makes a huge difference in the lives of current MF students and the work their teachers can do in the classroom.

Thank You!

