



BUILT BLUE Alumni Spotlight

Ms. Margaret E. Workman

Class of 1970



I graduated in 1970 and am proud to have been a member of the first graduating class of Woodbridge High School. The Woodbridge School District was established in 1969, so the 1969-70 school year was the year I became a Raider – we weren't called the Blue Raiders yet! Before that, I was a proud Bridgeville Mustang, so becoming a Raider was a big change for me and for our entire community. Little did I know that more than 55 years later, I would still be a Raider!

Today, I am still a (Blue) Raider. I work at Woodbridge High School as an Administrative Assistant III – Financial, where I oversee the High School budgets and assist our administration, Main Office, teachers, staff, and students. I started at Woodbridge High School in 1992, so I have been here quite a while.

I have always enjoyed my work at Woodbridge because it gives me a sense of purpose and an opportunity to serve the students and families of our district. Bridgeville, Greenwood, and Farmington may be small communities, but our schools have an enormous impact on the children and families who live here. I believe a strong school district can help shape an entire community. It takes strong educational programs, dedicated administrators and teachers, great coaches, involved parents, hardworking staff, and most importantly, students who are given opportunities to succeed. No school district gets everything perfect every day, but I believe Woodbridge continues to strive to do what is best for its students. I am proud that, all these years later, I still get to play a small part in that.

My senior year – 1969-70 – was a challenging but incredibly important year and memory. Our communities were not all in agreement about consolidation. There were many unhappy students and parents, and as a senior, I wondered how students who had once been rivals would come together and make our final year successful.

For me, one of the hardest parts was giving up being a Bridgeville Mustang. As an athlete, I was proud to be a Mustang. We had great teams, tremendous school spirit, and traditions that meant a lot to us. And now, suddenly, we were Raiders! But what exactly was a Raider going to be? What would Woodbridge be known for? Those were the questions on my mind, and I only had one year to find out.

That year, we created Woodbridge's first Raider Field Hockey team, and I was fortunate to be part of it. We weren't very successful that first season, but we showed up, worked hard, and learned together. It makes me especially happy to see how strong the Woodbridge Field Hockey program has become through the years because of the great coaches and female athletes who followed us.

Then came basketball. I was also a member of the girls' basketball team, coached by Kay Smith, who knew how to recognize and use each girl's strengths. We came together as a team and became a force to be reckoned with. In 1970, we became Division Champions. That championship helped put the new Woodbridge Raiders on the map!

Our other athletic teams may not have won titles that first year, but they were strong and mighty. More importantly, something bigger was happening throughout the school. As students, we could have carried the disagreements of our communities into our classrooms, clubs, and teams. Instead, we learned to accept one another, work together, and want the best for OUR school. By graduation, we weren't former Mustangs or Foresters or former rivals anymore. We were the WOODBRIDGE RAIDERS- and we were proud of it!

For only spending one year at Woodbridge High School as a student, I do have many wonderful memories. I remember Principal Joseph T. Conaway; teachers Merritt Littrell, Norman and Lou Reynolds, Ellene Gardner, Judy Ellington, Margaret Wall, and Delores Handy; and coaches Kay Smith and Fillmore Clifton. People who had high standards and high expectations for us. I still appreciate the dedication, talents, and encouragement they gave us.

And of course, there are the memories of the fun things – the Homecoming bonfire, incredible school spirit at athletic games, sock hops after football games, antics on the athletic buses, prom, chorus, the one drama production I participated in, and simply having fun with my classmates. And I can't leave out the great lunches from our cafeteria staff! Some things deserve to be remembered!

Many of the practical skills I learned in Business, English, Math, and Home Economics classes have stayed with me throughout my life and career. But some of the most important lessons came from being an athlete: listening to instructions, working hard, doing your best, having integrity, and being a team player. More than 55 years later, those lessons still guide how I work and live every day.

"Built Blue" is a newer phrase to me, but when I think about what it means, I realize I have watched Woodbridge being "built blue" almost from the very beginning. To me, Built Blue represents the pride of this district and the generations of administrators, teachers, staff, coaches, parents, students, and community members who have worked together to make Woodbridge what it is today. They have created a school district that has shown strength in times that have been challenging, support when there has been a need, taking pride in where we come from, and continuing to strive to do what is best for our students.

I saw the beginning of that in 1969, when students from different schools and longtime rivals had come together and created something new. More than five decades later, I'm proud to still be here helping build it.

I am Built Blue because (Blue) Raider Pride helped build me – and more than 55 years later, I'm still proud to help build the next generation of Blue Raiders!