

I have never known anyone as supportive, giving, and dedicated as my Father, Roger Hanneman. Growing up, my Dad was always there. Every game, recital, concert, band show—he found a way to make it work in his extremely busy schedule. Not only did he work his regular 40-hour-a-week (sometimes more) job, he was helping run a family business, being a volunteer firefighter, and coaching different teams. I think he is the perfect candidate for the Gene Stechschulte Award.

Sports, especially baseball, is one of my Dad's passions. He was a key component to getting the T-Ball program started in Kalida. He loved working with the youngsters, teaching them the fundamentals of the game. Even after my brother and sister had moved past the age of T-Ball, he continued to help. He stayed involved with the Kalida baseball program as a coach at many levels. Even now, he works with the baseball coaches to organize equipment and make sure they have everything they need for a successful season.

The Historic Holy Name Ballpark holds a special place in my Dad's heart. He has spent more hours than anyone could imagine organizing work days, cleaning and painting the grandstands, and keeping the grounds pristine and up-to-date. There have been many times when I would need to ask him a question and my Mom would say, "Stop by the ball diamond. You'll find him there." He has also been in charge of many young boys over the years who were 'hired' by the Holy Name to make sure the ball diamonds in town were kept up and ready for games. He has taught them what it means to have a strong work ethic and pride in your community.

Another love my Dad has is trapping. Trapping local wildlife has been a part of his life for almost 50 years. He enjoys sharing his knowledge of trapping, hunting, and local wild animals with Boy Scout groups, classrooms, and anyone willing to listen! He gets so excited to see young boys and girls become interested in his favorite pastime.

Whether it was being a member of the marching band pit crew or helping a 5-year-old get their first hit in baseball, my Dad has always supported my brother, sister, and me, along with many other youngsters in Kalida. The list of what he has done for our town could go on and on. And not once has he gone looking for recognition for these things—he is too humble. But I have noticed. His pride for this community is rivaled by few others. I am extremely proud to call this amazing man my Father.