

Robert B. Heasley - Class of 1965

My family moved to the Parchment area in 1951 from Holland, MI where I was born in 1946. I attended Parchment Public Schools, was a member of the first freshman class to use the new high school, and graduated in 1965. I graduated from WMU in 1969, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

While attending PHS, I was heavily involved in various bands, played and lettered in tennis and played football for Coach Jack Krueger. Most importantly, I met my wife of 49 years, Karen Dekker. We have two sons and 3 wonderful granddaughters.

I joined the U. S. Army in 1970 and served in Kentucky and Germany. After my service, I was hired by the Upjohn Company, where I worked for 32 years.

I became interested in local government, and first ran for the Parchment City Commission in 1979. I have served on that Commission for nearly 32 years and as Mayor for eight. I also served as a trustee for the Parchment Community Library for 18 years. Any success I've had in government is the result of the competence and vision of those around me.

Thank-yous

I am grateful that the Parchment Community was such a safe and nourishing environment for young people. The local Boy Scouts played a major role in my education, and of course our schools did as well. In particular I'd like to thank the late Ray Phillips and the late band director, Les Van Waggoner for all of the encouragement they offered. I am very grateful to the late City Manager Glenn Flamm, the late Mayor John Bultje and former Mayor Dan Degraw. Lastly, I must acknowledge the late Bob Bellisle for his positive role in so many young lives.

Favorite Memories of Parchment:

- The Community House on Riverview
- A brand new Parchment High School
- Mrs. Beulah McKee, Kindergarten teacher
- Bob and Ralph Herrick
- The evolution of the Parchment Community Library
- Friday night football games