



DANIEL “BUBBA” GOODWIN BILLERICA CIVIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CLASS OF 2023

For nearly half a century, the Billerica community cherished its very own one-name pseudo-celebrity who faithfully patrolled both the Little League and Pop Warner fields, Lodge of Elks hall, and even School Committee meeting room armed with an infectious, giddy chuckle yet accompanied by an intense professional dedication to each.

Affectionally known simply as “Bubba,” Daniel Goodwin proved to be the embodiment of a living legend throughout town, serving as a mentor to thousands of children as a youth sports coach and volunteer for more than four decades. In fact, because the welfare of kids was always a top priority for Bubba, he served several years as a safety officer and administrator for both the Billerica Little League and Billerica Pop Warner organizations. On game days, when not on the sidelines, he could often be found manning the grill at the Lampson Memorial Field snack shack and is so much so identified in that role that the new refreshment stand at the Peggy Hannon Rizza Park sports complex has been named “Bubba Shack” in his honor.

A 30-year maintenance team member for the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail, if not on an athletic field, Bubba could be found in the kitchen at the Lodge of Elks cooking for his fellow members, or volunteering to work on the facility’s upkeep, or even riding on the back of a firetruck as Santa Claus or one of his many helpers each holiday season. A longtime appointee to the town’s Recreation Commission, Bubba also served several years as a Board of Trustees member for the Elks in addition to a long stint on the lodge’s youth activities board.

A U.S. Army veteran, Bubba was a lifelong Billerica resident who valued his community and dedicated his life to doing right by it, especially its children. Which is why after retiring from the commuter rail in 2013, he decided to jump into the town’s political arena and run for School Committee in 2016. With three of his grandchildren attending Billerica Public Schools, he was elected twice to a pair of one-year terms, championing the causes of improved technology in the





classrooms, student safety, comprehensive school buildings' maintenance, the hiring of qualified professionals as well as the completion of the new memorial high school project on time and on budget.

A creative and effective problem-solver in every position he held, Bubba exhibited such enthusiasm and devotion to Billerica as well as its institutions that he had become a treasured staple of the town, someone who “bled green and white” and left an indelible mark on countless lives. That is why following his unexpected death in 2019 at age 65, hundreds of members of the community, including his current and former players, lined the town streets for his funeral procession, which fittingly past both the Pop Warner and Little League fields he roamed in tribute to his unparalleled service.

