



ALBERT "AL" KEEFFER
Class of 1948

During Al's time at Ottawa High School, he participated in football (3), basketball and track (2), Junior class officer, Junior class play (lead role), and sports editor of newspaper and yearbook. Before beginning his advanced educational journey, Al served with the USA 40th Infantry Division in the Korean War. Upon returning to his hometown, he entered the field of education. Al was an educator in Ottawa for 38 years. He began teaching in 1957 at Lincoln Elementary for 3 years, followed by 9 years at Garfield Elementary beginning in 1960. In 1969, he became Eisenhower Elementary School's first principal until he retired in 1995. Upon retirement, Al still made time for children by tutoring and providing mentoring at Eisenhower and Garfield. Staff remember him basing his decisions on this statement, "What is best for our students?" and for his favorite phrase, "I understand".



MICHAEL SKIDMORE
Class of 1974

Mike, during his time at Ottawa High School, participated in Student Council. He was elected Junior Class Treasurer, and Senior Class President. Mr. Skidmore also served as a delegate to Boy's State. Mr. Skidmore completed his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics. During his time at K-State Mike was elected president of Marlatt Residential Hall his junior year and then went on to become a senior representative for the AgEcon Curriculum Upgrade. After graduating, Mike married his high school sweetheart Marliee Thornburg, (OHS 1975), and began his career at Federal Land Bank. Working within the banking system Mr. Skidmore held executive positions with several institutions. Mike became Vice-President-Ottawa Branch Manager of Goppert State Service Bank until his retirement in 2022. During this time, Mike successfully appealed to the Goppert Foundation for over \$1.2M for various projects and organizations in Ottawa.



DEREK CHAPPELL
Class of 1983

Derek participated in sports and activities during high school, including basketball for 3 years, football for 1 year, O Club, and Student Council. At Ottawa University, he played basketball, then worked in the Sports Information Department and eventually provided play-by-play for Braves football and basketball on the campus radio station, KTJO. After graduating from OU, Derek became an on-air personality for KCFX Radio in Kansas City, where he consistently produced ratings as one of the top programs in the market. In 1990, he transitioned from radio to law, where, after graduating with a law degree from Washburn University, he joined the Gary L. Jordan Law firm, in Ottawa. He eventually hung his own shingle as Derek. R. Chappell, Attorney at Law, until 2015, when he then returned to radio at KOFO in Ottawa. He is also an accomplished voiceover talent, having produced commercials and videos for clients all over the world.



RYAN HENNINGSWORTH
Class of 1997

Ryan graduated from Ottawa High School in 1997. During his high school years, Ryan was involved in many clubs and played baseball, golf and soccer. After graduating from Benedictine College with a degree in Business Finance, Ryan began working for Edwards Jones in Ottawa. A new opportunity within the finance industry took him to St Petersburg, FL for 5 years but he returned home to Ottawa when his father Bill was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer. Ryan returned to Ottawa in 2011, using his leadership skills to help move Ottawa forward. His work with FCDC has helped support existing Franklin County businesses. In addition, he assisted with planning the new Proximity Park in south Ottawa to provide for our community's future growth. Besides offering financial assistance for the people of Ottawa, Ryan continues to be involved in local organizations such as Onward Ottawa, Rotary, Ottawa Elks and other groups.