

Celebrating Mr. Howard Benjamin Thomas

Howard B. Thomas was born on January 20, 1919, moved to McDonald Road in 1924, and lived in this school district for 71 years. He attended Burlington schools, two years at Burlington High School (now an apartment building on the corner of Walker and French Roads), and junior and senior years at Plato Center High School (so he could play basketball). He was valedictorian of the 1936 class.

Mr. Thomas served on the school board from 1950 to 1975 and served as the board president for 17 of those years. He missed only two board meetings in his 25 years of service to the school community. This is one example of his dedication and commitment. Mr. Thomas was instrumental in consolidating the area into a school district and securing the land on which the current Central Middle School is located. After this land was purchased, H.B. Thomas and his son, Howard W. Thomas, were part of a small group of men who farmed the land and turned the profits over to the school system.

Howard B. Thomas valued education and worked as a school board member to provide quality educational opportunities for students in this district. He was a hard worker and, according to his daughter, Mrs. Van Meter, had a good sense of humor. These are some great qualities for our students to emulate.

