

Inductee



Peter B. (Pete) Davidsen exemplified the true meaning of teaching and administration through his thirty-six years of dedication in public schools. Davidsen was born in Auburndale, grew up in Auburndale then graduated from Auburndale High School in 1955. He credits his former football coach, Tom Terry with influencing him and preparing him for success. Coach Terry instilled in his players the idea that discipline, hard work and perseverance lead to success. Davidsen was the first and only Varsity Football player to be named to the All State and All South Teams from AHS.

Davidsen received a Football Scholarship to University of Florida, where he was a three-year letterman. When he began his post-secondary education, his major was in Mechanical Engineering. He switched majors, as teaching and coaching were his passions.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Florida in 1959 and achieved his Masters of Science from the University of Florida in 1960.

Davidsen's entire career was in Hillsborough County beginning with Plant High School in 1960. From 1962-1966 he was the Dean of Students; then in 1966 he became the Assistant Principal. In 1968 he was promoted to the principalship of Madison Junior High School. In 1971, he was appointed Principal of Robinson High School. In 1977 he became the General Director for Areas I and III successively. In 1989 he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Operations. In 1993, he was promoted to Deputy Superintendent of Schools in 1993. He held that position until he retired in 1995.

Davidsen served on several Southern Association of Colleges and Schools evaluation teams as team member and chair. He was the author of the manual: Guidelines for Conducting Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Evaluations; Consultant and Committee Chair for Policies and Procedures Handbook, Revised, Hillsborough County Public Schools and Consultant, School Plant Survey, Hillsborough County Public Schools and Consultant and Evaluator, Education Facilities, Valente-Hernandez P.A.

Throughout his career Mr. Davidsen received many honors and awards. In 1992 he was presented the Leadership Award from the Hillsborough Association of School Administrators. He received the Special Recognition Award in 2000 from the National Football Association, Tampa Bay Chapter. His most notable was the namesake, Peter B. Davidsen Middle School in 2000. "It was quite an honor to have a school named after me; there are not enough words to describe the feeling," said Davidsen.

Davidsen enjoys his retirement by staying very busy with various hobbies including fishing, hunting, golf, tennis, reading, home improvement projects, history and travel. Another activity is his 4-year membership and 2 years of chairing the Auburndale High School Reunion Committee.

Pete Davidsen is married to Claudia Davidsen. They have two sons--Jeffrey Davidsen and Christophe Camp. Pete's sister Ann Davidsen Bowie is also an alumna of AHS.