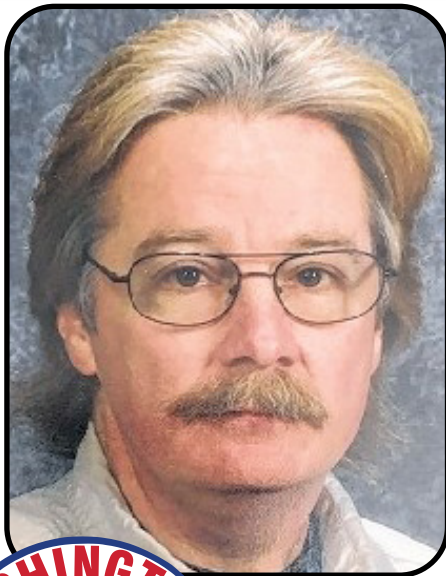


# Rick Veenstra

Inducted into the *Hall of Fame* in 2020



Rick Veenstra was a 1978 graduate of Jefferson High School who served the country in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft maintenance specialist from 1979 to 1983.

A talented mechanic from an early age, Rick applied his technical skills to auto, cycle, and marine engineering. These interests were terrific preparation for his career at Washington High School. Rick was named Washington's second shift Building Engineer in 2007, then assumed the role of lead Building Engineer in 2009.

Rick was a fantastic Warrior and a strong and valued supporter of the performing arts. He often graced our hallways with a big smile and positive attitude, greeting students and staff with genuine kindness and peeping into our rehearsals just to enjoy a bit of music.

He went above and beyond when setting up for our numerous events. The rooms were spotless, and he added the extra details as only someone could do after years of experience and countless hours working fine arts events. He was always available to help, and he encouraged us as we brought thousands of people (and their mess) into WHS. Rick was always there for whatever the Performing Arts department needed.

For MOShow, WHS's annual show choir competition, Rick attended planning meetings and was proactive in getting us ready for the largest PPA fundraiser of the year. He was present the entire day and made sure the building was in tip-top shape.

In July 2019, Rick passed away as a result of a boating accident while fishing at Palisades State Park. He was a great friend and colleague. He leaves a legacy of strong support for the performing arts at WHS, as well as many other areas, and is greatly missed.