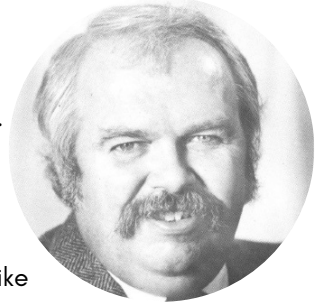


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## Life Legacy Award

### *Ed Connell, Teacher, 1977-89*

Ed Connell arrived at GCA with his wife, Tyke, and their son, Steve, in the summer of 1977. Their son, Darby, was born during their tenure at GCA. Principal Lyle Anderson invited the Connells to join the GCA family and move across the country from Oregon. Ed had grown up near Collegedale, Tennessee, so it felt a bit like he was returning home.



Ed always sensed that it was his destiny to be a teacher. After graduating from Union College, his science and math teaching career began at Valley Grande Academy in Texas. From there he spent three years at Milo Academy in Oregon, 12 years at GCA, and a final 22 years at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas. Ed retired in 2011. A lifelong learner, Ed pursued graduate education at Baylor University, Andrews University, Texas A&M University, and the University of South Carolina.

Ed's memories of their life at GCA are rich. He remembers with fondness the off-campus outings and trips, as well as participating in intramural sports. He recalls playing in the band, trips with his physics classes to Epcot and the Kennedy Space Center, and the many other school activities. Even homeleave bus trips, where he had the opportunity to meet and interact with parents provided special memories. As he reflects on his years in education, Ed notes that the rewards are the joy of each moment. And moments are what make up a life.

Some of those moments of impact will never be forgotten by his students. David Denton, '83, recalls Mr. Connell seeing something in him beyond just a boy who should have been consigned to special study hall. Invitations to the Connell home to watch football made David feel like someone who mattered to a beloved teacher beyond the classroom and left an indelible impression on him. Another classmate remembers being invited to the Connell home for meals and being made to feel like she was part of their family. She remembers that both Mr. and Mrs. Connell were always happy to take time to explain anything she didn't understand. Mr. Connell made math understandable and was happy to answer any question. She also remembers him giving up his Six Flags ticket so she, a student who couldn't afford the trip, could go with her friends.