

TONY H. GARTON BIOGRAPHY

TONY GARTON GRADUATED FROM TAYLOR UNIVERSITY WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE. HE HAS A MASTER'S DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS, AND ADDITIONAL CREDIT HOURS FROM INDIANA-PURDUE OF FORT WAYNE.

HAVING SERVED 33 YEARS AS A TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND DRIVER EDUCATION, TONY ALSO COACHED FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, AND BASEBALL. HE HAS ENCOURAGED BLUFFTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO DONATE AND RAISE UNTOLD THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES WITH HIS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS "BUCKETS FOR SANTA" FUND-RAISER. ALTHOUGH TEACHING WAS HIS VOCATION, HE STILL ENJOYS WORKING AS A TRASH HAULER, A VOLUNTEER, AND A PUBLIC SPEAKER.

TONY HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF AS AN OFFICIAL IN BOTH FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGIATE LEVELS. HE WAS AN NCAA DIVISION I BASKETBALL REFEREE IN BOTH THE MAC AND MID-CONTINENT CONFERENCES, WHICH TOOK HIM MANY PLACES INCLUDING UTAH, NEW YORK, TENNESSEE, LAS VEGAS, AND PUERTO RICO.

IN 1998 TONY WAS INDUCTED INTO THE BLUFFTON HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME. HE WAS HONORED IN 2015 AS WELLS COUNTY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND IN 2016 WITH THE HALL OF FAME COMMUNITY LEADER AWARDED BY SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE OF BLUFFTON. THEN IN 2021, HE WAS FURTHER HONORED BY THE WELLS COUNTY FOUNDATION WITH THEIR BETTE A. ERXLEBEN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

TONY HAS BEEN A MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER FOR MANY YEARS, TOUCHING MANY LIVES AT CHURCHES, BANQUETS, RESCUE MISSIONS, SERVICE CLUBS, AND SCHOOL FUNCTIONS. HIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS REFLECTED THROUGH HEART-FELT STORIES AND TRUE-LIFE EXPERIENCES. HE BELIEVES THAT LIFE IS WORTH LIVING BECAUSE OF WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED. TONY IS KNOWN FOR HIS RAMBUNCTIOUS HUGS, HIS GIVING AND GENEROUS SPIRIT, AND A CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM FOR LIFE.