

SHERMAN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Wall of Fame

GARY F. DELELLIS, SR.

Inducted 2017



Mr. DeLellis was a member of the Sherman community for 39 years. He began his work in schools in 1988 at Sherman Central School where he was hired as Senior Custodian. He worked for the school district for the next 7-1/2 years, resigning in 1995 as Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds. He pursued his new position at Jamestown Public Schools as the Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds where he worked until his retirement in August of 2008.

During his working career, Mr. DeLellis was responsible for providing students, teachers and administrative staff a safe, clean, comfortable learning and working environment. He worked with school administrations and school boards on millions of dollars of school renovation projects to achieve this goal. At Sherman he received his School Bus Driver license and safely transported students on a substitute basis when called upon by the district. As part of his many duties at Jamestown, he was in charge of transportation.

Mr. DeLellis was a member of the New York State Association of Superintendents of Buildings and Grounds. He was recognized as a Certified Director of Facilities in 1994 from the New York State SBGA. The ultimate recognition in educational facilities management, SBGA's CDF program is endorsed by the New York State Department of Education. He held the office of President of the Chautauqua County Chapter, served as a State Director of the associations' board of directors, served as 2002 President of the association, and was awarded lifetime membership to the association.

Mr. DeLellis became a member of the Sherman Central School Board in November 2007. He served the district for 9-1/2 years in this capacity. During this time, he also represented Sherman Central School as a member of the Chautauqua County School Board Association Executive Committee from 2009 to 2016 of which he served as president prior to his resignation. He was elected to the Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES Board effective July 1, 2012 and was re-elected for a second term effective July 1, 2015. He served the BOCES Board as the chair for the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee and served on the standing Finance Committee.

Mr. DeLellis believed that our children are our future and should be provided with the best educational opportunities possible. Superintendent Michael Ginestre wrote the following to describe his service, "He fought hard to open doors of opportunity for the students of Sherman. He was tough when he had to be, but he had the biggest heart for the kids of our district. Gary took great pride in being a board member at Sherman, especially with the accomplishments our district has made over the past decade. He will be impossible to replace but would want the great work of our school to continue." He would expect nothing less.

Mr. DeLellis passed away unexpectedly May 12, 2017. Five generations of Gary's family have graduated or are attending Sherman Central School: his wife's grandparents and parents, Walter and Lucy (Tanner) Buesink 1934/1934; Perry and Betty (Buesink) Dewey 1953; his wife, Terry Jo (Dewey) DeLellis, 1972; his five children, Ken Damcott, 1991; Julie (DeLellis) Mullarkey, 1991; Coleen (Mazie) Damcott, 1993; Gary DeLellis, Jr., 1993 and Joe DeLellis, 1999. Two of his six grandchildren attend Sherman Central School at this time.