

Duane graduated from West Salem in 1971. As time passed, he found a passion for serving his neighbors when they were in the most need. For over 30 years, Duane has given time to be a West Salem First Responder and serve as the president of the non-profit organization. Even though Duane has a full-time job as a meat cutter, his expertise in helping others has played a huge role in his life. Any time, any day, and any place in West Salem, the First Responders are called to help you or your loved one. As one community member stated, "Duane has been there at the worst time in someone's life. He has always done this quietly with grace and compassion without ever seeking a thank you." What a great way to explain how important his years of service have been. As a graduate of West Salem, the odds are he knows most of the people he is called to help, and his humility and desire to be there for anyone is inspirational. Finally, almost yearly you can find him in the news asking for more people to get involved and help him serve the community. Instead of just being complacent, he sees the importance of getting more qualified people involved to serve others. His desire to give back to the community never seems to stop. We are so proud to call him a Panther.