



Mr. Charles Beard Class of 1957



Not long after attending Taft High School, Charles Beard purchased a make-over rig from Chevron Oil Company by way of Lloyds Drilling Company and started his first business. Forty-three years later, he became President and owner of General Production Service, Inc. His company employs nearly 250 people, and its work generates a significant payroll for the Taft community. Even more remarkable than the jobs he provides, Charles Beard has the ability to quietly “make things happen.” One doesn’t need to ask; he sees a public task and responds to it. He has been a core figure in sustaining the Taft Oil-darodo Celebration, the Oil Worker’s Monument, Little League Baseball, and the “Bike” Giveaway. He was the one who provided the manpower and equipment for the development of the lake at Camp Condor named after the Westside Children’s Camp Association Inc., business manager Paul Lukens. He was one of the co-founders of Taft National Bank and is one of the co-founders of The West Side Economic Development Co. LLC.

Charles has been a quiet partner in supporting dozens of other community projects that he recognized as needing a helping hand and the more one looks, the more clear it becomes how much the soul and character of Taft have benefited from Charles Beard’s commitments. He is an accomplished businessman, a community leader and an investor in the future of Taft youth.

