

# 2021 FOUNDER'S MEDAL HONOREE

**JOHN LOWE '69**



John started his longstanding association with Bergen Catholic as a Freshman in September of 1965 after graduating from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel grammar school in Ridgewood, NJ. He was in the honors class during his four years at Bergen as well as being enrolled in the National Honor Society. He earned varsity letters in football and track while also an original member of the Crusader hockey club founded in 1967 that has evolved into a highly regarded varsity sport. John was elected Treasurer of the Bergen Catholic Student Council for his Senior year. He was Senior Prom Committee chairman that along with committee members transformed (aided by the expertise of the father of Dan Mulhauser '69) the BC gym into “A Night in Bavaria” and certainly a night to remember.

Upon graduation, John matriculated to Boston College with fourteen of his Bergen classmates. He joined what was then the relatively new rugby team his freshman year, playing four years and being elected captain of the team as a Senior. He graduated in 1973 *Cum Laude* with a BA in Economics. He also worked with Bergen classmate, Bob Mulder, during two college summer breaks doing maintenance and landscaping work at Bergen Catholic.

A week after graduating from Boston College, John started working for IBM. During his 30 year career, he held various sales, marketing, staff, and management positions primarily in the New York metro area. His most memorable job at IBM was a

---

# 2021 FOUNDER'S MEDAL HONOREE

management position outside of the NYC area. It was a two and a half year stint in the IBM Branch Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was memorable not only because of the territory covered, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, but more importantly it was where he proposed to his wife, Jean, while she was visiting him as his assignment in PR was coming to a close.

John and his wife, Jean (sister of Bergen Catholic classmate, Bob Rapport), have lived in Allendale, NJ since 1989. They are members of the Church of the Guardian Angel. John serves as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and is part of the Ministry that counts the Sunday collections. He has also been a member of the Altar Servers Ministry as well as Co-leader of the Food Pantry Ministry. John has continued his association with Bergen Catholic as a long time Alumni Association Class Chair as well as an active participant in the Class of '69 five year reunion committees. He is the proud recipient of the Bergen Catholic Horizon Award for Lifetime Investment and the Gold Award for 25 Years+ of Consecutive Giving to Bergen. John's car license plate number is BC69N73, proudly displaying his graduation from the two BCs (Bergen Catholic and Boston College).

John's parents, Kay and John Sr. (RIP 2020 and 2010, respectively) were also engaged in the Bergen community. During John Jr.'s time at the school his parents were active members of the Mother's and Father's club. Kay also provided administrative/secretarial support to the School office during and after John Jr.'s time at BC. After Kay and John Sr. moved to Florida in 1979, they were visited on a number of occasions by Brothers they had befriended at Bergen Catholic. In 1999, Kay and John Sr. provided for one of the earliest legacy gifts to Bergen in the form of a Charitable Remainder Trust. Bergen Catholic received their distribution from the CRT in the summer of 2020 after the passing of Kay Lowe. Following the example set by his parents, Jean and John have established their own Charitable Remainder Trust with Bergen Catholic as one of the named recipients in addition to naming Bergen as a contingent beneficiary for their IRAs.

---