

Thomas O. Chesser is currently employed by Sano-Rubin Construction Company and is the Project Manager for the construction project being undertaken at the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Middle and High Schools. He also manages to work for the Gettysburg Flags Works as a construction contractor and owns his own general construction business.

While attending Columbia High School, Mr. Chesser was awarded an Edith Craig Reynolds Scholarship as well as a Worcester Polytechnic Institute Scholarship. His talents on the theatrical stage were recognized when he was designated as the Outstanding Senior Actor. The prestigious American Legion Award was granted to him in recognition of "outstanding qualities, of honor, courage, scholarship, leadership and service". After graduation from Columbia High School, he went on to receive a B. S. in mechanical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Chesser's professional work experience in the engineering field is impressive to say the least. He has employed his considerable skills and talents in five states and for companies renowned for their accomplishments as follows: Power Technologies, Inc; Gardenway (Troybilt); Lockheed Martin (General Dynamics); General Electric Company (General Dynamics) and BMY, Defense Products (HARSCO). In each of these experiences, Tom Chesser was either a project leader, chief researcher and developer, or high-level administrator. Testimony to his critical contributions to his field of endeavor is his ownership of patents for chipper/shredder design.

Mr. Chesser has somehow found the time to become deeply involved and totally committed to the improvement of the quality of life in his community. Since 1976, he has volunteered his services to local fire departments serving in a variety of capacities and being recognized both in 1978 and 1991 as Fireman of the Year. His contributions to the East Greenbush School District and his tireless efforts on behalf of the students and children in the District have almost become legendary. He serves not only as a member of the Board of Education but has contributed his technological talents as co-chair of the committee for development and implementation of the long-range computer technology program in the District.

It doesn't stop there, for this gentleman has also earned the title of "Mr. Playground." For those inhabitants of the East Greenbush School District who may be unaware, the construction, planning and organization of the playgrounds at Red Mill, Genet, Green Meadow and Bell Top as well as the Goff Garden, have all become a reality due in large part to the efforts and dedication of our inductee, Thomas O. Chesser.

It is, therefore, with great pride that the East Greenbush School District proudly inducts Thomas O. Chesser into the Columbia High School Hall of Fame.