



RETIREE SHOWCASE KEN PARKER



Today we celebrate Mr. Ken Parker and his 27 years of dedication to maintaining a clean and safe school environment. Mr. Parker attended Brocton Central School, graduating in 1970. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army and served from 1979 to 1982 at Fort Riley, Kansas. During his active duty, Mr. Parker worked as a Track Wheel Generator Mechanic, initially specializing in the maintenance of Army tanks and personnel carriers. His dedication and technical expertise led to his promotion to Assistant Motor Sergeant. After completing his active duty service, Mr. Parker continued his commitment to our nation by joining the Army Reserves. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Parker for his service to our country.



Following his military service, Mr. Parker worked alongside his brother in the excavating and contracting business, primarily operating in a gravel pit. He also gained experience in electrical work before joining Ethan Allen, where he was employed for nine years. During his time at Ethan Allen, Mr. Parker worked in the machine room, operating a variety of heavy and potentially hazardous machinery—yet he proudly notes that he still has all of his fingers to this day. Mr. Parker attended Jamestown Community College and studied computers. He later joined Cassadaga Design, a furniture manufacturing company, where he applied his skills in a hands-on environment. Mr. Parker began his role at the former Turner Elementary School in Chautauqua, where he was employed as a Cleaner. His strong work ethic and reliability earned him a promotion to Utility Worker at Chautauqua Lake Central School District, where he continued to serve with dedication.

Building Maintenance Supervisor, Nick Green appreciates what he has learned from Ken over the last 4.5 years here at CLCS. “Ken has shown me things about this building that he has learned over the last 27 years at CLCS. I wish I had more time to learn from Ken, but I know if I call him anytime he will be right there to lend a hand to help. That’s just Ken, he won’t just do it, he will actually take the time to teach you, so you can do it and understand and maybe teach someone else.”

Mr. Parker has always enjoyed seeing the students each day and watching them grow over the years. As he looks ahead to retirement, he shared that he will miss the students as well as the staff. He noted, “everyone has always been so kind!” Friend and Co-worker, Phil Hammond shares that sentiment about Ken saying “It’s been a pleasure working with him for the last 27 years after starting as a sub at Turner. I wish him the best on his retirement. I’ll miss giving him a piece of candy and I hope his retirement is sweet.”



After retirement, Mr. Parker hopes to take a vacation with his wife to see the Grand Canyon. In addition to traveling, he plans to spend time pursuing one of his favorite hobbies: repairing lawnmowers. This hands-on activity has been a long-time passion of his and continues to bring him both enjoyment and satisfaction.

We echo the sentiments of Ken’s colleague, Deb Ward, who expressed gratitude for the years they worked together, “May your retirement bring you a new adventure and more time for things you enjoy. Wishing you the very best.”

Though we say goodbye to his daily presence, we know retirement is just the beginning of another great journey. Congratulations and thank you Ken!

