

Damon L. Welch

Class of 1971

MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2020

For most of his life, titles preceded Damon Welch's name. *Student Council President. Prom King. Air Force Captain. City Councilman. Mayor.* This MCHS alumnus, Class of 1971, certainly prized and respected these labels of distinction, popularity and public endorsement, but his heart equally cherished the lower case headings of *friend, church member, volunteer and community leader.* Personally and professionally Welch lived by the philosophy to serve others, be humble and do the small things well.



Although his political responsibilities demanded hours and hours beyond the normal day, he always found time to help with his church's food giveaway, befriend a citizen beset by homelessness or hunger, brighten an event with his love for music or pick up trash on the city sidewalk. As the mayor of Madison from Jan. 1, 2013 until his sudden death on Sept. 25, 2019, he viewed his role like a father protecting his child. Like a loving parent, the Jefferson County native wanted the best for the town he called home for most of his 66 years. With the help of other city leaders, Welch proudly led Madison to "Stellar Community" distinction which resulted in millions of grant dollars to revitalize old industrial sites into modern day facilities. In addition, he spearheaded the effort, with input and support of past mayors, to gain state approval and funding for the new Ohio River Bridge approach into Kentucky. None of these projects came easy, but the former Air Force veteran persisted for the town and citizenry he loved.

A big supporter of substance-abuse agencies, Jefferson County Youth Shelter and the Salvation Army, Welch demonstrated an intense sense of obligation and compassion for these residents belonged to Madison too.

A graduate of University of Kentucky in 1975 with a degree in business administration, Mayor Welch championed the same advocacy for education. He often read holiday stories at Christmastime to elementary school children and delivered addresses at his alma mater on Clifty Drive. Much to the pride of Madison Consolidated Schools, one of Damon Welch's many titles reads *MCHS graduate.*