

The Minutemen Wall Monument

By the Cocoa Beach Alumni Association

Tradition – an inherited, established or customary pattern of thought, action or behavior handed down from generation to generation.

There is always a beginning of a tradition – and you'll read about it later in this article – but we thought it'd be different to start out with the present-day finished product ...



In 2008, the Monument was torn down by designation of the School Board to make way for a new electronic sign. The electric sign is there – and looks great - but several alumni refused to let the Wall tradition end. Many people (see below) and the Cocoa Beach Alumni Association spearheaded the reconstruction of our 'Tradition' and the new Minutemen Wall will continue as a 'tradition' for many, many years to come. Because the Wall was completely torn down and not simply remodeled as in the past, the process to rebuild was extremely lengthy and frustrating due in part to red tape and untimely delays in decisions that were out of our realm of control. The following people were instrumental in getting this project completed: conceptual and location design by alumni Jeri (Fritz) Laufenberg '72, Jane Elliott '70, Bev (Ramsey) Kasmier '66, Juli (Shroble)Tucker '68, CBJSHS staff members Melody & Mike Gaudy and Principal Tim Cool; structural design and certified drawings by alumnus Luke Miorelli '74; physical labor provided by alumnus Dan Higgins '72, JR Gosa '71, Bruce Petro '78, and Scott Hardcastle '71; wall construction by alumnus Todd Knapp '81 ; and graphics by alumnus Terry Griffiths '04.



While the north side of the new Wall incorporates a new red, white and blue greeting in 'BEACH PRIDE' - a phrase coined by longtime Athletic Director and historic (only Florida state Coach ever to coach both Men's and Women's State Championship Basketball teams) and legendary basketball coach Mike Gaudy. It also retains the original 'Fiat Lux' (Let There Be Light) symbol from the 1969 Wall.



The south side continues to show 90 names of the Minutemen Award winners as originally introduced in 1966 and a new scroll proclaiming the attributes of the Minutemen Award which is the highest award the school bestows replaces the mosaic now displayed above the front doors. As you can see there is room to add many more names of winners of this prestigious award.

And so, another CBHS tradition will continue ...

Here's how it all began ...

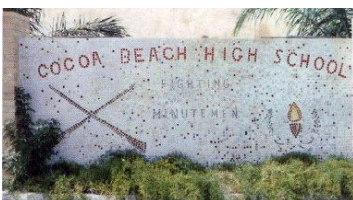
A brief history of one of Cocoa Beach High's first traditions, the 'Minutemen Wall Monument' as traced through 40-plus years of Minutemen yearbooks. Hereafter, referred to as the "Wall".

The tradition was started in 1968 when the first rendition of the Wall was designed and built by the Class of 1969. Positioned in the east corner of the front school parking lot until 2008, the Wall maintained its same shape and size with only the graphics changing, but the message has always been the same, a welcoming of sort to all the students, faculty, parents and visitors.

Five times in the Walls' existence, there has been a graduating class that decided to change the Wall as their contributing project to the school and below are pictures of those renditions.



First picture of its existence was in 1968 – designed and built by the Class of 1969. It had the name of the school in big bold letters with crossed rifles and on the left and the Fiat Lux (Let There Be Light) symbol on the right. And as far as we know the sign was just one-sided, facing east.



In 1975, the Wall was re-done – same basic design but this time it was done totally in mosaic. And the sign was facing west – again, since there were no other pictures, we're not sure what was on the east side.



In 1978, the west side of the Wall was re-done totally and contained a listing of those who had won the prestigious Minutemen Award over the years past.



In 1986, the east side of the Wall was redesigned with its bold lettering of COCOA BEACH HIGH SCHOOL MINUTEMEN with a Minutemen portrait in the middle.



The class of 1999 decided to again re-do the Wall by adding the Minuteman Mosaic to the Award side of the Wall and re-lettering the list of Minutemen Award winners and the "Welcome to the Beach" sign was born. It was proudly displayed at CBHS from 2000 until it was torn down in 2008.



When the monument was torn down in 2008 both sides of the Monument were saved and portions refurbished. The "Welcome to the Beach" is proudly mounted in the Minutemen Gymnasium and the beautiful Minutemen mosaic is proudly displayed above the front office doors of the newly remodeled school entrance where it greets all who enter.