

Richard “Dick” Muri

OUTSTANDING AMERICAN AWARD

Ashland High School, Ashland, Massachusetts 1967-1971

University of Massachusetts-Amherst 1971-1975

Vanden Vikings High School, Fairfield, CA. 1985-1988

Incirlik Air Base High School (Turkey) 1989-1990

Lakewood Lumberjacks Wrestling Club-Lakewood 1992-2001

Hudtloff Middle School, Lakewood 2001-2003

Volunteer Coach Steilacoom High School 2001-2005

Richard “Dick” Muri was born in Fairbanks, Alaska. He wrestled at Ashland High school in Ashland, MA. graduating in 1971 and was a collegiate wrestler and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1975 and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force in 1975. He earned his navigator wings in 1976 and flew the C-141 as a navigator. Muri is an Operation Urgent Fury and Gulf War veteran and served in the Air Force for 22 years retiring in 1998 as a retired lieutenant colonel.

After his retirement, Muri turned to the public sector serving as a District 6 Pierce County Councilmember from 2003 to 2012. He also served as a board member of the Steilacoom Historic School District #1 from 1997 to 2004. Muri was appointed to the Washington House of Representatives in July 2013 and elected to his first full term in 2014. He serves on many committees and is passionate about helping veterans and current members of the military and meeting the educational needs of students, teachers and parents.

During his military and public service careers he has stayed active in wrestling where he coached at the high school, middle school and club levels wherever he was stationed and resided for 18 years. Muri has been recognized for his contributions to veterans and students receiving the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, John H. Anderson Military Citizen of the Year in 1996; The District Three Middle School Wrestling Coach of the Year; Inducted in the Fort Lewis Civilian Hall of Fame at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in 2006; 2015 Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs Representative of the Year.

Most recently Rep. Dick Muri sponsored House Bill 1830 to create the Washington State Wrestling special vehicle license plate which was signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee in 2016. Due to a lack of funding there is currently a shortage of college wrestling programs in Washington State. Funds from these special license plates will go to the Washington State Wrestling Foundation to allocate money for new and existing college wrestling programs. After the signing of the bill, Muri stated, “These license plates can potentially fund one or more college wrestling programs for men and women bringing more opportunities for students to participate in this great sport and keep our best wrestling athletes right here in the state of Washington.”

Dick and his wife of 37 years, Mary, reside in Steilacoom and have four adult children; Jennifer (36), Jonathan (34), Sarah (32) and Bradley (30). They currently have seven grandchildren.

459 words