



TOWN OF STRATFORD
MAYOR LAURA HOYDICK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 24, 2020

CONTACT: Michael Downes
203-385-4001

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR HOYDICK ON THE PASSING OF RAY O'CONNELL

STRATFORD – Mayor Laura R. Hoydick issued the following statement on the passing of Ray O'Connell, long-time Stratford school administrator and former Superintendent of Schools, who passed away on January 20, 2020:

It is with a heavy heart that the Stratford community has learned of the passing of one of Stratford's most iconic and inspirational figures in recent memory. Ray O'Connell always championed the underdog – something that came from his upbringing in Albany, and as he sharpened the character he developed in his service in the U.S. Army, and as a teacher and mentor to countless Stratford children who have taken his life lessons with them well into adulthood.

His service as a teacher, principal, and Superintendent of Schools left a positive mark on the lives of all who came in contact with him. I had the privilege of serving on the Board of Education during Ray's time as Superintendent, and I know firsthand that he earned the "Superman" moniker that came to be associated with him.

All of our thoughts are with his wife Maurine and their family, with assurance that his important legacy lives on in so many of us here in Stratford.

###