

I. Senior High School proposed name: N/A

II. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PROPOSED NAME: Mae Durk Elementary

Nominee's country of citizenship: U.S.A.

Year of birth: 1903 **City:** Giltner **State:** Nebraska

Passed Away: 1985

Married: 1920 **Husband:** Ed Durk **Children:** Lois (Durk) Shoemaker (Las Vegas)
Russell Durk (L.V.)
Three grandchildren (L.V.)
Two great-grandchildren (L.V.)

Number of years in Clark County: 30

Occupation: Clark County School District Teacher

Please list professional affiliations, clubs, organizations, etc., in which the nominee has membership.

- Member Retired Teacher Association of Nevada
- Member First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas
- Elected Officer: Parent Teachers Association

Please indicate major contributions to children, community, city, or state in this space.

My grandmother was a teacher for elementary school children in Nevada in the communities of Ely, Panaca and Las Vegas. She dedicated herself to children and the community while raising two children and acting as surrogate mother to myself as my mother was a single working parent. I recall my grandmother reading to me as a young child and as I matured. Her encouraging manor when I had difficulties in math and science helped me succeed when I thought I was a failure. Mae's imaginative manner of making learning a delightful experience remains a memory I, and I'm sure her students, will never forget.

Mae volunteered for the Clark County Election Department and she and her husband, Ed, continued in this endeavor well into their 80's. My grandmother valued her religious commitments and worked unselfishly for her church, the First Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas, serving on committees and helping the pastor in special activities and Sunday School.



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My grandmother taught the 4th grade at Crestwood Elementary School in Las Vegas from approximately 1954 until 1965 when her loss of vision reduced her mobility. Nonetheless, she continued substitute teaching for several years. My family recalls the many students my grandmother tutored in her home through the years. Mae believed an education was important and her efforts to help countless struggling students learn to read and master their subjects was its own reward.

Please indicate any special attributes, talents, accomplishments, or contributions that you have not mentioned elsewhere in this application.

Mae had a special interest in music and shared this with her students. She taught the "fluteaphone" and proudly led her students in the many Las Vegas parades of decades past. Mae had a special talent of praising others and empowered her students and myself to believe we could accomplish anything.

My grandparents were not wealthy, in fact, they recounted stories of surviving the Great Depression, losing their farm before moving to Nevada. My grandfather and his brothers built their home in Ely from discarded railroad ties. Although they were not prosperous or philanthropists, they made a difference in this community. My grandmother managed to teach her students, children and grandchildren pride in their accomplishments and the humility and values that have lasted a lifetime. My grandmother's desire to help others instilled my desire to enter the helping profession and I succeed in obtaining a graduate degree in Social Work. My grandmother touched many and I hope the School District will consider conferring this honor for the work and efforts of this most cherished woman.

On a separate sheet, please supply the name, address, and phone number of five references for the nominee(s). References may not be relatives of the nominee(s)

Person submitting application:	Ted D. Shoemaker		
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References:

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