



The Bolton Scholarship Fund

Investing in the future...

Ralph Daniel Decker Memorial Scholarship

Established 2022

Ralph Decker was one of 52 young Boltonians in the first graduating class from Bolton Junior-Senior High School fifty-five years ago in June of 1967. He was known as Danny to his family and many friends. Danny was the brother of Darlene Decker Boyd, BHS Class of 1978, and the stepbrother of John B. Toomey, Jr., BHS Class of 1972.

Danny was fun-loving. As his yearbook quote stated, "If I can't find fun I'll make it!" Danny sure did, as he was a great camper, hunter, fisherman, and a good sport. He loved to run just for the sheer joy of running.

Danny's Class of 1967 friend and fellow runner, Jack Bosworth, has the longest-running memorial scholarship. It has been awarded by the BSF since 1976. Danny and his inaugural Class of 1967 classmates were responsible for: Bolton students being known as Bulldogs; our school colors being blue and white; the name of our yearbook, Annuleis; the style of our school logo which is on the cover of your graduation program tonight; and the school song on the back cover of your program.

Danny was an outstanding athlete. He was on the varsity soccer team and was an excellent all-around gymnast. One of his favorite teachers was his gym teacher and coach, Mr. Mike Landolphi, the first teacher hired for the new Bolton Jr-Sr High in 1964.

Danny was always industrious and learned woodworking, carpentry, mechanical repair, and other industrial art skills from another of his favorite Bolton Jr-Sr High teachers, Mr. Roger Titus. After graduation, Danny became a plumbing apprentice at Bolton's M&M Oil Co. He became a licensed plumber and then worked as a union steamfitter at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, now known as Raytheon. He could fix almost anything, be it plumbing, electrical, mechanical, or computer problems, Dan was there to fix it. After a golden handshake from P&WA, he started his own repair business and never had time to be idle.

This scholarship is being awarded to a BHS Class of 2022 member who has shown that they are mechanically inclined and have taken the initiative to help repair items that benefit their friends and neighbors. As his mother Violet Toomey often said, "It's nice to go to college, but we need people to learn how to fix all the things that we use every day."

The Ralph Decker Memorial Scholarship is given in his memory by his sister Darlene and stepbrother John to honor their big brother Danny.