

It is 1963, just home from college for the holidays in Rochester New York and Bob, affectionately referred to as Vigs, was picking me up for an alumni "Sock Hop" at his high school. We were both from Rochester but actually met while away at school at Assumption University in Windsor, Ontario. He noticed a stack of 33 1/3 records by the stereo and started going through them. To his amazement they were mostly drum corps records, senior corps' from across the Northeast. He practically freaked out since he had many of the same records. We had only dated a short time and drum corps had never come up. We believed that is what formed the basis of our relationship for the next 57 years. We spent our summer weekends home from college following senior drum corps at shows around the New York state area. Vigs had hopes of marching with the Rochester Crusaders but finding the time back then precluded that from happening.

When Vigs accepted a job at Pierce Chemical Company in 1975, he was excited to find that Rockford had a "junior" drum corps. We attended our first junior show at Harlem High School in the August-September timeframe of that year and became hooked on the Phantom Regiment from then on. Since our experience was all senior corps, we were amazed at the talent and discipline of those "kids". I have to say though that John and Brian were completely disinterested. They just wanted food from the concession stand. From there, we attended all the local shows and the boys got indoctrinated whether they wanted to be or not. When John was 12 in 1980, Vigs saw an ad in the newspaper that the PR Cadets were accepting new members, ages 12 and up. John had just started middle school with a trumpet in his hand and so he agreed to attend an informational meeting with Vigs. John was on board and Vigs jumped in with both feet, eventually becoming Assistant Director of the PRC under Mike Roherty. Brian wanted in as well and joined the soprano bugle line when he was 10. When the boys moved up to the Regiment, Vigs did too. We also opened our home for many years to out of town members for camps and summer marching seasons. What great memories we all have from that experience. Most of those who lived with us still stay in touch and are considered extended members of our family. Those members gave us new perspective and brought so much wonderful energy to our home. Over the years Vigs served as chaperone, equipment hauling guy, bus driver, mega fan, and member of the board of Directors for several years. He was recognized as PR Volunteer of the Year in 1990. He was also a Purple Knights Bingo worker, worked to establish the Purple Knights and Squires Scholarship Award and was recognized by the Purple Knights and Squires with a Chevron Award in 1995.

Working with the members, staff and families of the PRC and PR marching members and endeavoring to ensure a strong organization for years to come was his life for many years. Always a smile and a friend to all. Thank you Phantom Regiment for being a part of our family for so many years.

Kathy Vigna