

When I think about what Ernest Cutler has meant to Ocracoke School and the community, perhaps my main thought is of someone who used limited resources effectively to improve the education of those who passed his way.

When he entered the education worlds of Beaufort and Hyde Counties, fewer staff persons were available to teach more even students than today. With limited resources he made every box of chalk and every book count.

When he took the tremendous challenge of moving from the Hyde County to Ocracoke, he brought with him the advantage of his many contacts with the entire Hyde County School system. The respect he built from long hard hours of teaching, serving as principal, and being involved with the various mainland communities would prove to be an asset to the Ocracoke School and community.

With limited personnel and resources, Ernest Cutler often found himself sweeping floors, fixing leaking pipes, cutting grass, teaching several classes, driving the bus to basketball games or other activities, cooking hotdogs, cleaning up the gym after basketball games, and many other ways, that, over the years have combined to save the system money, and earn him the respect as a hard working principal and community leader.

His own constant attention to the school's academic and physical needs drew from others a responsibility to care for the facilities.

He understood the community's reliance on the school's resources and believed that people had a better appreciation and understanding of our mission to serve students as a result of their involvement.