Beloved Rockwood School Bus Driver Receives Surprise Retirement Sendoff from Students, Staff

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Many in the Rockwood school community know the name, Roy Bacon. He’s often described as a “legend” although he wouldn’t see it that way.

After 34 years of transporting our most precious cargo to and from Rockwood schools, Bacon has decided to hang up the keys for good and retire. He dropped off his last student on Jan. 31.

“I teared up and almost cried,” Bacon said. “I told my kids I was going to miss them, and I hope they feel the same way about me.”

Before completing his final afternoon routes that Tuesday, Bacon was treated to a surprise farewell celebration at Fairway Elementary, which Principal Dr. Lorinda Krey arranged. He participated in a special breakfast, posed for pictures and shared a few laughs with colleagues, including district bus driver Amy Denny.

At 9:30 a.m., Fairway secretary Nancy Lubinski received the green light from Krey to make an all-school announcement through the intercom. She picked up her phone and kindly asked everyone to step outside their classrooms.

All 383 students and the nearly 60 staff members lined the hallways for a parade as they showered Bacon with cheers, applauses, high-fives and congratulatory cards, balloons and handwritten signs.

Strolling down in what seemed like an endless hallway while donning his new gifted T-shirt that read, “This Legendary School Bus Driver is Now Retired,” Bacon acknowledged the students and staff who greeted him along the way.

“I felt astonished,” Bacon shared. “I didn’t know what to say. I’m going to miss this place. I’m going to miss the teachers and everybody. They are a bunch of great people.”

“As part of our ‘Fairway Five,’ we continually look for ways to model and honor our core values, such as grit, empathy and integrity,” Krey said. “So, when an exceptional human example of these critical attributes comes along and supports our community for 34 years, it’s most definitely cause for a huge celebration. Our Fairway family couldn't be prouder to have learned from and been loved by Mr. Bacon.”

Bacon’s presence and impact will truly be missed. Fourth-grade students Camden Clayton and Penelope Silva, who often rode Mr. Bacon’s Bus 105, described him in their own special way.

“Mr. Bacon is a nice guy,” Silva said, with a smile. “He makes sure you feel welcome when you hop on his bus. He makes you feel safe. I hope he comes back and subs for us sometime.”
“He cares about you,” Clayton added. “Whether it’s at the beginning or end of the day, he would say, ‘have a good day or have a good weekend.’”

The 66-year-old said he will have fond memories of picking up and dropping off students at Fairway, Green Pines Elementary and Wildwood Middle.

"Roy Bacon has been an integral part of our Rockwood family,” said Director of Transportation Mike Heyman. “We appreciate his dedication and service to our students and families for the past 30-plus years. We will miss Mr. Bacon and wish him all the best on his retirement."

**Photo Gallery**