It was the year 2005, engineer and beloved teacher Thomas Galie, or as we like to call him, Mr. G, had the idea to start a FIRST robotics team. As a Navy veteran and career engineer, as well as a physics teacher, his vast knowledge and skills made him the perfect candidate to undertake this task. Starting with only a handful of students, his lab prep room, and his personal toolbox, he began his journey to become a true FRC mentor.

 During the seven years that the Robovikings have been at Archbishop Wood High School, Mr. G has inspired many budding engineers with more than just the technical knowledge they need to succeed; Mr. G structured his team in such a way that its members are heavily trained in leadership and time management. In our team, the seniors design and lead the team as if it were a business. This business model includes a board of directors chaired by Mr. G. Although not every member of the Robovikings enters the field of engineering, they all enter their fields with a huge advantage. This would not be possible without a great mentor like Mr. G guiding them.

 Mr. G has encouraged every member of The Fighting Robovikings. He has shared the knowledge he has gained throughout his career as an engineer with his students. He also goes out of his way to introduce new topics to those he feels may be interested in them. He instructs us as we build our robot, and he helps us learn from our mistakes. He doesn't punish us for what we do wrong, instead he tells us how to avoid messing up in the future. This was best shown when one of our senior members drove our t-shirt robot off of the stage in our school's auditorium. We had all assumed he would be mad, but when we told him what happened, he only laughed, and then he began asking us what we needed to repair.

 Mr. G has worked hard with our school's administration to help spread the ideals of STEM. As the school's physics teacher, he has helped expand the course to make it more available. Physics is a very math-heavy course, yet many of the students taking it have not taken Calculus. For this reason, Mr. G redesigned the course into three smaller classes - one for those who lack an understanding of Mathematics, one for the average student who has taken precalculus, and an AP course for those who are taking Calculus. He has also helped start a number of STEM related courses in our school, including CAD, Introduction to Engineering, Introduction to Robotics, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Flash.

 The last seven years have enabled Mr. G to become the pinnacle of all FIRST robotics mentors the organization by volunteering his time to judge competitions and going out of his way to assist other teams. Always emphasizing that community outreach is just as important and also plays an integral part of the program, ensures that Mr. G has a well-rounded team. He does more than reach out into the community for charity events, . Mr. G inspires us to accomplish our goals as future leaders in our fields by playing a pivotal role in giving us both the technical and social skills to achieve this challenging endeavor.