

Carolina Crown Hall of Fame Committee:

It is with great honor that I submit this nomination letter for Corey Futrell into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame, Class of 2023.

I am not sure if it was his intent as he joined the 2001 Carolina Crown as a baritone player, but in a world where some may argue loyalty is not as important as it once was, Corey would fall in love with Carolina Crown and that is where he would stay. Corey was a performing member of the baritone section in 2001 and 2003. On top of that, there is a great story about Corey filling in as drum major for a show due to David Roth having to go home for family reasons ... so we could say that Corey was a substitute drum major in 2003 as well. It certainly says a lot about Corey's character that not only would he put in the time to learn the drum major responsibilities in a short amount of time ... but more importantly that he was chosen and trusted by the staff and members to get the job done in only his 2nd year as a member.

Corey's contribution as a member of the brass line, along with his dependable & loyal character, resulted in him being appointed a member of the Carolina Crown faculty. First, he served as a member of the visual staff in 2004 followed by his appointment to the CrownBRASS staff in 2007, a role in which he continues today. Since being appointed a member of the CrownBRASS staff, he has exceeded all expectations. He has helped lead some of the strongest baritone sections Crown has ever had. Corey has been a vital part in the success of CrownBRASS and although that should be considered for induction into the Crown HOF ... it is not his biggest contribution. Corey doesn't just teach students to play their instruments better, he teaches them to be great human beings. When Corey leads a rehearsal, I often find myself watching the students instead of him. I see him challenge the students and push them, even when most students might not want to be pushed. Corey has the ability to make his students WANT to be pushed while they have a great time. In a society where young men and women want to be on their phones ... Corey has the ability to make them forget phones/social media even exists. Corey has taught the future ... many baritones have gone on to become band directors, professional musicians and drum corps caption heads.

What most may not be aware of is that Corey has had a number of opportunities to run his own drum corps brass section. I am pretty sure I asked him 5 to 8 years in a row if he wanted his own line somewhere. His answer was always ... "Crown is my family – I want to be here with you all." I think his biggest contribution to the corps is his lesson to everyone on how important loyalty and selflessness still is.

In closing, I am hopeful that you give this nomination your full consideration and support as we have an opportunity to induct someone very special to our hall of fame. It is time to recognize Corey Futrell's 18 years of commitment, loyalty, and love for our drum corps.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information or would like to discuss Corey further.

Respectfully,
Matt Harloff
Carolina Crown Brass Caption Head
HOF Class of 2017

Dear Carolina Crown Hall of Fame Committee,

I am writing to express my unwavering support to induct Corey Futrell into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame. I have known Corey for 31 years. Corey is a man of great commitment, passion, and integrity. It is because of Corey that I gained the confidence to audition for my first Drum and Bugle Corps. While that Corps did not make it to the summer season, Corey helped guide me to send an audition to join Carolina Crown so that I could experience the thrill that is Drum and Bugle Corps and find a family I didn't know I had. I spent three years marching in the Baritone and Euphonium section, one alongside my best friend, Corey.

Corey has shown his commitment to our "home team" corps by dedicating countless days in camps and on the road since joining the world-renowned brass staff in 2007. I would venture to say, he is one of the longest tenured members of the Carolina Crown family. He has had opportunities to venture to other Corps, but in the end always chose to stay committed to the Corps that helped grow him into the honorable man he is today.

I do not know anymore more passionate about the things in his life than Corey. Being best friends with him for 31 years, I have seen his passions change and grow. While his passion for his family is the strongest, the passion for music education is clearly number two in his life. I have had the pleasure to work alongside Corey in this field a number of times, always pushing each other to make the students better and give them the best experiences, no matter the "competitive" results. His passion for teaching drives him to continue to learn new ways to give his students the greatest opportunities. For those who know Corey on a personal level, you also know about his passion for all things Disney, the Philadelphia Eagles, and traveling.

Integrity is a powerful word and one that I do not casually use to describe people. Having known Corey as long as I have, I know most of the trials and tribulations that Corey has had to endure. Through them all, Corey has dealt with them with the utmost respect to the situation and never made a rash decision that would benefit himself to the detriment of others. Corey has done everything he can to always lead the brass line and the corps with respect to the members, not intimidation. The only ding to Corey's integrity is his thinking that he legitimately struck me out in little league baseball, when clearly the pitch was low and outside.

I believe that Corey is overdue to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for Carolina Crown, as he exhibits all of the characteristics of a man that I want my children to grow up to be. Corey's commitment to the corps, his passion for teaching the members, and his integrity in upholding the world class standards that Crown has enriched so many lives with.

Now it is almost time to cast your vote for Corey Futrell to the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame. As Corey and I would say on our monthly drives to camps, "wait for it, wait for it...IT'S GO TIME!!!"

Thank you for your time and consideration for my friend.

Trevor Cox
Assistant Principal – Freedom High School
Proud member of Carolina Crown 2000-2002

Crown Hall of Fame Committee

I write today to support Corey Futrell for induction into the Crown Hall of Fame Class of 2023. It's hard to think about Carolina Crown and not consider our amazing CrownBRASS Achievements and Championships. It's true that CrownBRASS put Crown on the Map and since 2001 Corey Futrell was a major part of that dominance. Corey spending 20+ years with Crown was a result of a loyalty to the "family" as he could have gone elsewhere but chose to keep the band together. This kind of loyalty deserves to be recognized! I'm proud to call Corey a friend and even more proud to support his induction into the Crown Hall of Fame Class of 2023. It is time for us to repay his loyalty to us, by making this happen! Please join me by supporting his induction into OUR Hall of Fame!

Sincerely,

Tim Martin
Crown Hall of Fame Class of 2020

Joe Rush
PO Box 313
Pflugerville, TX 78691

Saturday, May 27th, 2023

Carolina Crown Hall of Fame Committee

Dear Committee:

I write to you this evening to recommend **Corey Futrell** a fine candidate for inclusion in the 2023 Class of the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame.

Corey stands out among candidates, educational staff members, and human beings for his longevity in the organization, his relentless efforts in educating his horn line, and personality. As a member under his direction, I learned that it does not matter your profession, as staff members can be an inspiring teacher in the field of the marching arts with courage, drive, and a mind for detail. Corey was a Social Studies teacher when he taught me brass technique in 2009, and I knew from that season that he would go far in the art of music making. It is not surprising to see him now as a Band Director at a highly respected school, with a Masters in Educational Leadership, and continuing to lead alongside the best in the activity.

In my mind, I go to Carolina each time a show recap comes out or video snippet of Crown Brass is released. *This is because of the experience Corey created with his baritone line that I will always remember.* And when there are only two minutes left in a rehearsal block, when others are wrapping up with comments and water, Corey's baritones have four more reps to get in. I have taken this approach of utilizing every minute to get better into my own job as a band director and now administrator. It is largely due to Corey's contributions that Crown Brass is one of the most innovative, jaw-dropping lines in the world.

It is hereby recommended that **Corey Futrell** be inducted into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Rush', written in a cursive style.

Joe Rush, M.Ed.
District Fine Arts Coordinator, Del Valle ISD

I would like to submit this letter of support for Nancy Coates to be inducted into the Crown Hall of Fame class of 2023:

I have known Nancy since we marched together back in the 1970's. I was thrilled when she moved to SC over a decade ago and decided to work with Crown. She is very passionate about drum corps and that passion has shined on Crown since 2010. Nancy has been a key to Crown's success through her tireless volunteer work, incredible organizational skills, and true love for the Crown family. If anyone ever personified Team Crown, it is Nancy Coates.

Please recognize Nancy's contributions, which continue today, by inducting her into the 2023 Hall of Fame.

Bill Loelius
Director Emeritus
Crown HOF Class of 2016

Hall of Fame Support Letter for Nancy Coates

Nancy certainly deserves to be in the Crown Hall of Fame. She has been working with Crown as an office administrator for years to support the daily functions and activities of Carolina Crown. She oversees transportation arrangements, housing arrangements, uniforms, sewing, tours with the corps, and does whatever it takes to ensure the safety and well-being of the Carolina Crown organization and members.

She makes sure the members have paid their fees, have proper health forms, helps with setting up Crownbeat, Nightbeat, Bandbeat, etc. She gives her all and goes the extra mile to ensure the success of Carolina Crown on and off the field. She has painted props, worked food truck and does countless other small things to support Carolina Crown.

I highly recommend Nancy Coates to the Carolina Crown HOF based on years of service and commitment to the organization.

She also supports Jim behind the scenes in his endeavor as Corps Director.

Submitted by Ronald Johnson

Team Crown Member



227-A Main St. • Fort Mill, SC 29715 • cody@carolinacrown.org • www.carolinacrown.org (803).547.2270

May 31, 2023

Re: Hall of Fame Class of 2023

Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this letter of support for Nancy Coates as a candidate for induction into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame. For over a decade, Nancy's service to the organization has enhanced and supported our mission of *Developing Lifelong Excellence*. Through passionate dedication to drum corps, Nancy has helped thousands of young adults achieve excellence at the highest level – both in their performing careers and on their journey in life.

It certainly goes without saying that drum corps isn't easy. Would you believe me if I said that after Finals night, there's no rest for the weary? Before we even finish the summer tour, planning and preparation for the next year's auditions are well underway. When we return home, we start the long, grueling process of unpacking from the summer. Can you imagine how dirty color guard flags are at the end of the tour? We certainly can. And let's not forget the numerous events, fundraisers, programs, and more that happen year-round. No matter the task, Nancy has and continues to be right there in the shadows helping us be successful. Oftentimes at great personal sacrifice, Nancy's support has endured.

For the performers, becoming a member of Carolina Crown will challenge them in ways they've never experienced before. The same is true for parents of our performers. After all, could you imagine letting your child go on a three-month, nationwide performance tour as they are just starting out in life? Maybe – but could you imagine doing it without knowing someone was watching over them? Certainly not. Nancy has been that guardian angel for years. She's supported our performers through their great successes, hardest challenges, illness and injuries and much more. She's supported our parents as they learn how to let their children take one of their first journeys of adult life.

On a personal note, Nancy's care and support as both a colleague and friend over the years has helped shaped me into the person I have become today. Even at those times where I wasn't as grateful as she deserved, Nancy has stood by me and supported everything I set out to accomplish. She has helped me through times of loss, happiness, stubbornness, and just about everything in between. Her impact on my life, and so many others who have come through Carolina Crown, has been immeasurable. We all owe her a great deal of gratitude and appreciation.

Without Nancy's dedication and selfless support of Carolina Crown, our journey to achieve excellence would be much more challenging. I'm grateful for her support, love, and dedication to our team, and humbly offer my support for her induction into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Cody Crawford
Chief Financial & Operating Officer
Carolina Crown, Inc.

I would like to submit my letter of support for Nancy Coates.

Nancy has volunteered and worked with Crown since 2010. She volunteered on the food truck and would help wherever needed on tour (food truck, uniforms etc.). Eventually she moved to Fort Mill and began to work in the office. She has been a strong supporter for the Crown Family and worked hard to make things run smoothly. She is very organized and excelled at managing the daily logistics at spring training and on tour. When in the office she helped unload trucks, fold merchandise, help to load food for weekend camps in addition to her daily office obligations. I believe she exemplifies what it means to be a TEAM player and goes above and beyond in her support of Crown. Please consider inducting Nancy into the 2023 Hall of Fame.

Moe Smith
Crown HOF Class of 2017

Dear Hall of Fame committee,

I would like to submit my letter of support for the nomination of Nancy Coates. She has been a true leader for the corps and Carolina Crown today would not be the same without her and her hard work. She is fully dedicated to the members and will do whatever it takes to give us the best experience possible.

Thank you,
Jasmine Cousineau
Crown Guard 2016-22

Hello,

I am emailing to say that I support the nomination of Nancy Coates to be inducted into the Carolina Crown hall of fame!

Thank you,
Zeth Shirley (2022 member)

To whom it may concern,

I support Nancy Coates' nomination for the Crown Hall of Fame! Her dedication and commitment to the organization, its members, and its mission goes beyond what any outsider could ever see. Crown wouldn't be where it is today without Nancy Coates!

Sincerely,

Korey Craven
Crown Guard Alum/Faculty

Crown Hall of Fame Committee

I am writing today to support Nancy Luckey Coates for induction into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame Class of 2023. In every Drum Corps there is that "ROCK" that holds it all together, Nancy has been that for us at Crown for the past 14 years. Starting as a volunteer and progressing to the leader of the entire performing group, Nancy has done it all! Her daily duties encompassed 20+ hour days at times and she never failed to have a smile when approached. She became the face of Crown to our parents and everybody that needed some direction or question answered. Nancy does belong in the Crown Hall of Fame and now is her time. I ask you to support Nancy Luckey Coates for induction into the Crown HOF class of 2023.

Sincerely,

Tim Martin
Crown Hall of Fame,
Class of 2020

I'm writing to support Tom Frkovic's induction into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame.

I was very new to the sport of drum corps when I came to the admin staff in 2017. I had some college classmates who marched at Crown and other corps who told me all about the great times they had the previous summer. Bright eyed and bushy tailed, I interviewed for the staff position open at Crown. I was prepared for all the amazing performances and experiences when I arrived at Gardner-Webb that summer. I was not prepared for the amount of work, lack of sleep, and overall difficulties I was about to face. I quickly became overwhelmed and found myself seeking asylum with other volunteers who actually knew what they were doing.

Among those many great volunteers was Tom. I can literally still hear the exact timbre of his voice saying "ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?" as I would walk up to the Crown fleet. This man had never met me before and yet he genuinely wanted to make sure I was doing well and that I smiled that day. Not only was he handy, there was never a job too big or too small. He took on everything with a smile and contagious laugh. His dedication to Crown was unmatched by anyone that I crossed paths with.

Looking back, it's almost bizarre to think that I only knew Tom within the little bubble of Carolina Crown. I was so saddened by the news of his passing, and I was only around him for a total of 6 months over 2 years. That's the kind of impact Tom made on us. Because of his great heart, he deserves to be forever immortalized in the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Shelly Painter Stewart
Former Crown Admin

Tom is a shining example of perseverance, and quite literally kept the organization on the road at times. Working as an admin with him on the road from 19-22, I can think of many times where his proactive and helpful nature exceeded my own feelings, and looking back I can think of a lot of bad situations where his presence alone made things a whole lot easier, specifically his ability to fix anything as well as his ability to make you laugh. Tom went above and beyond duty as a volunteer, giving us his knowledge, his time, and his love.

Jordan Richardson
Crown Admin

I wanted to submit my letter of support for Tom in his running.

Tom was one of the first people I interacted with in 2017 as a prop crew volunteer. When I had learned he was from the St. Louis area I knew we instantly had a connection. He told me his story, which in short summation left me surprised. He mentions how his son was a member in 2013 and ever since he came back to “help out where he can”, since he was very handy. Dedicating whole summers to being on the road, sleeping short and working long, just to give the kids a fantastic experience. There were long nights and early mornings, us yelling about diesel fuel, watching him drive the gator onto the field at finals wearing something ridiculous, and the ever infamous “are we having fun yet”. These are small instances, and Crown was memorable for many reasons, but the staple volunteer and human being was just another way to talk myself into coming back.

I continued to work with this marvelous human for two more years, until life took me in a different direction. I kept up with Crown as much as I could, and when I heard the news about Tom I stayed ever confident that if anyone could find a way to defeat a terrible disease, it was the man who could never run out of positivity. When it took a turn, I cried. I knew that we were losing a wonderful person, but knew inside that his spirit would live on in everyone he touched.

I took a job in Chicago working in the fight against cancer, and when we talk about our reason “why”, my brain first goes to the man who left such an impact on an entire generation of Crown members.

We should absolutely consider this man for HOF honors, and my small contribution is nothing compared to how many individuals this man moved mountains for.

Thank you,

Luke Jenkins
Former Crown Admin

I am writing this letter in support of one of the most selfless, and Crown-Oriented volunteers that I/we have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Tom never batted an eye at any situation this organization threw at him. He would do what he needed with pride and dignity. Without Tom, the drum corps could not have succeeded in the way it has the last decade.

To changing oil in our vehicles, to keeping the good truck intact, to keeping smiles on students faces. There are many people deserving of the HOF. There are none, who would wear it with the pride that Tom Frkovic would.

Please consider this letter for Tom.

Tanner Gardner
Crown Admin

Dear HOF board members,

I'm happy and excited to be able to write a letter of support for the nomination of Tom Frkovic into the 2023 Crown HOF.

Tom was one of a kind, that rare gem of a human and a golden volunteer that is, in my eyes, irreplaceable.

His attitude, his laugh and his light could brighten the day of anyone on the Crown journey.

He was the fix it man, the errand man, the support guy to all and his heart was always there, in the right place, to bring the organization forward.

I personally have seen Tom stay up all night with me just to keep me company while I sewed last minute projects for the corps. He would also be the one getting out to set up the food truck and whatever needed to be set when the corps arrived at the housing site. And once done, he would proceed to start preparing coffee so that the food truck crew would have a fresh brew cup upon arrival to prepare breakfast.

He loved, LOVED the kids and would have given anything in his power to make sure they had a safe and fun journey.

Sadly, Tom has passed away much too soon. He still had so much more to give. He left a huge positive impact of all of us and his lifted spirit will live on in our hearts forever

It would be such a well-deserved honor to see his name amongst the greats of TeamCROWN.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gisèle Cadieux

Volunteer since 2016

To the Hall of Fame Committee -

I am writing this letter in support of Tom Frkovic's nomination into the Hall of Fame.

Tom was a true expert in his field and was our first person to turn to when we had any mechanical issues. His expertise and donated time has likely saved Crown on labor and other vehicle services in excess of thousands of dollars. Whether it was a freezer repair on the food truck or simply me not knowing how to unlock the steering wheel in Jim's Lincoln, Tom was always nearby to keep things running. The tool trailer was definitely his domain, and it was something we all viewed as "his" trailer moreso than ours! However, he kept the chaos controlled and organized all of the corps's things, so that when merchandise, prop crew, or anyone else needed resources, we could all find and share them. In an ever changing activity with a new challenge every day, he was always willing to lend an ear, a suggestion or two, and to jump right in to give something a try.

All that said, as many know, Tom's greatest contributions to the organization were not of the mechanical variety, but those of the heart. Tom had such a bright spirit that was infectious and is something that is not only so necessary in this activity, but so rare. His loud laughter and cheerful heckling were mainstays of the soundtrack at the food truck, and you just couldn't maintain a bad mood through a meal break without him asking to see you smile instead. Tom dearly loved his family, and we would enjoy visits from his wife and dogs on tour, too. Witnessing the love they all have for each other (and the love his family must feel for us, to have let us borrow him for so long!) was so uplifting and inspiring, and it truly made me feel like we in Team Crown were enveloped in that love as well.

This type of unconditional care and camaraderie is the absolute ideal for a member of Team Crown. I admire him so much for his joy and composure. He embodied esprit de corps; something you truly cannot buy with any amount of money, cannot teach in a workshop, and cannot win with a medal. It's something that he shared with us from within, something that lasted for a decade back when he joined us, and the soul of which that will linger for decades more.

Tom Frkovic's role at Crown was just as difficult and sweat-inducing as anyone's, yet he was always able to smile. He constantly expressed how grateful he was to be here. I'm of the opinion that it was us who should have been most grateful to have *him*. An award is the smallest thing we could ever do to repay his service, but it's a start. His name - and his legacy - on the Hall of Fame will serve as a beacon of happiness, selfless service, and true Lifelong Excellence, for all who share any part in our great organization.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Corcoran
Team Crown 2019-present

Taylor Womack

Subject: Nomination for Tom Frkovic's Induction into the Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps Hall of Fame

Dear Carolina Crown Hall of Fame Committee,

I am writing to express my heartfelt support for the nomination of Tom Frkovic into the Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps Hall of Fame. As a dear friend and dedicated volunteer, Tom has left an indelible mark on the Carolina Crown community, embodying the spirit and values that define this exceptional organization.

One cannot speak of Tom Frkovic without immediately recalling his catchphrase, "Are you having fun yet?" These simple words encapsulate the essence of his unwavering dedication and passion for the drum corps. Tom's unwavering commitment to ensuring that everyone in the Carolina Crown family found joy and fulfillment in their experiences is truly commendable. He tirelessly worked to foster an environment of positivity and camaraderie, leaving an impact on each member, staff, and volunteer he encountered.

While many may associate the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame with extraordinary musicians and instructors, it is vital to recognize the significant role that Tom played as a remarkable handyman within the organization. He selflessly volunteered his time and expertise to fix and maintain countless vehicles, equipment, and anything that needed a quick fix. His meticulous attention to detail and unwavering dedication ensured that the drum corps could perform at the highest level. Tom's invaluable contributions behind the scenes allowed others to shine on the field, making him an unsung hero within the Carolina Crown family.

Beyond his technical skills, Tom's warm and compassionate nature endeared him to all who crossed his path. He approached every interaction with genuine care, lending a listening ear, offering words of encouragement, and supporting individuals in times of need. He became a mentor and confidant to many, always ready to offer guidance and inspire those around him. Tom's genuine kindness and unwavering support have created a lasting legacy within the Carolina Crown community.

It is with a heavy heart that I mention that Tom passed away last summer, leaving a void that can never be filled. However, his memory lives on in the countless lives he touched and the lasting impact he made on the Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps. It is only fitting that we honor his legacy by inducting him into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame, ensuring that future generations are aware of the extraordinary contributions he made to this incredible organization.

Considering Tom Frkovic's remarkable dedication, selflessness, and invaluable contributions to the Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps, I wholeheartedly endorse his nomination for induction into the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame. His exemplary service, along with his catchphrase "Are you having fun yet?", have become synonymous with the spirit of Carolina Crown.

I kindly request the Carolina Crown Hall of Fame Committee to consider Tom Frkovic's nomination with utmost care and recognition of the profound impact he has had on the organization. His induction would not only honor an extraordinary volunteer but also serve as an inspiration for future generations to embrace the values that Tom so authentically embodied.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to preserving the legacy of Carolina Crown. I trust that the Committee will recognize Tom's significant contributions and bestow upon him the honor he so deserves.

With deep appreciation and warm regards,

Taylor Womack