The history of Matignon High School has as one of its founding principles that of service to others. As the first Central Catholic High School in the Archdiocese of Boston, named after one of the first priests to serve the Catholic faithful in Boston and New England, Cardinal Cushing founded the school on the principle that all associated with the school be so imbued with Father Matignon’s “ideals of service that no cry of human need, no syllable of spiritual striving will ever fall unheeded on their ears.”

This ideal of service is epitomized in tonight’s recipient of the Cardinal Cushing Community Service Award, the Late Richard A. McCourt ’64. Richie’s business acumen paved the way for magnificent growth of McCourt Construction during his tenure. But more importantly, Richie used his drive and passion to be a champion for infrastructure improvement, community change, and as an advocate for the many people he came across in his life.

Richie worked at his family’s company, McCourt Construction Company for over 47 years, the final 35 of which he was President and CEO. During his tenure, the company grew to be one of the state’s largest general contractors. Under his leadership, McCourt built such landmarks as the Rose Kennedy Greenway’s North End Park, Granite Links Golf Club, Lechmere Canal Park, Dorchester Heights Monument, the cable TV infrastructure for several cities, and more. Richie was a tireless advocate for infrastructure improvements in Massachusetts and a catalyst for peaceful labor-management relations in the construction industry. In addition to his dedication to Construction, he spent a great deal of time working to improve his community through many important organizations including the McCourt Foundation, the South Boston Neighborhood House, and more.

Richie received many incredible and well deserved honors in his lifetime, but his true passions were his family and friends. He loved his wife, Ginger, and children more than anything in the world. Richard’s advice was sincere, his mentoring was true, and his love of sports was only surpassed by his love for life. The greater Boston community and beyond is truly a better place because of all Richie has done.

The Late Richard A. McCourt ’64
Cardinal Cushing Community Service Award

For nearly 70 years, Matignon High School has served the families of our region, providing an exceptional Catholic, college preparatory education. Our graduates have gone on to exceptional careers in business, government, health care, athletics, service to our Church and virtually every other profession. This exceptionalism is due in large part to the greater Matignon family, our faculty and staff whose commitment to these students know no end and lasts well beyond their time on Matignon Road.

This year’s recipient of the Green and Gold Legacy Award has been affiliated with Matignon High School since he first began his teaching career in the late 1960’s. Edward T. Nedder began as a Latin teacher at Matignon after leaving Washington, DC to return home and care for his ailing father. During his nearly 20 years at Matignon High School, Fr. Nedder created lasting memories and became a lifelong friend and mentor to many Matignon graduates. Father served as chair of the Latin Department for fourteen years, formed the bowling league for the school, took the students out for pizza regularly, and hosted awards ceremonies at his home in Readville. He also held a second job at Sears Roebuck Department Store for fourteen years. In addition, he served as an Auxiliary Police Officer for three years for the town of Dedham.

In 1986 Fr. Nedder decided to continue his long journey to the Priesthood by returning back to the seminary. He was ordained to the Priesthood in June of the following year and celebrated his first liturgy on June 21, 1987, Father’s Day, in memory of his father. In 2006 Bishop Gregory J. Mansour assigned Fr. Nedder as Pastor of Saint George Church in RI. He oversaw the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Church, helped the parish relocate to the former St. Ann’s Church in Cranston, and coordinated more than $1,000,000 in renovations to the parish. With all of this, Fr. Nedder still finds time to regularly travel up to Readville. He also held a second job at Sears Roebuck Department Store for fourteen years. Fr. Nedder created lasting memories and became a lifelong friend and mentor to many Matignon graduates. Father served as chair of the Latin Department for fourteen years, formed the bowling league for the school, took the students out for pizza regularly, and hosted awards ceremonies at his home in Readville. He also held a second job at Sears Roebuck Department Store for fourteen years. In addition, he served as an Auxiliary Police Officer for three years for the town of Dedham.

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Matignon High School’s alumni have a strong history of success in finding their path and carving out special niches in the world. The characteristics of a Matignon graduate have long shadowed the characteristics that made Fr. Francis Matignon a committed and dedicated priest: Good Conduct, Capacities, Fidelity, and Community. The students who have walked through our halls would undoubtedly make Fr. Matignon proud, fulfilling his vision of Catholic education in Boston.

It is our humble honor to present this year, our Distinguished Alumnus Award to Howard “Hap” Redgate ’64, a graduate who fulfills the characteristics of Fr. Matignon and has distinguished himself in his field, his care for others, and his unwavering support of our school.

Hap has served in the investment business industry for nearly 50 years culminating with the founding of his own firm, Andover Equity Associates, Investment Counsel in 1991. A rising star Hap was made Principal at the age of 30 at Kidder, Peabody, and Company. Most recently Hap successfully merged Andover Equity with UBS Financial Services where he serves as Senior Vice President, Wealth Management and Senior Portfolio Manager.

Hap is past president of the Matignon High School Board of Trustees. Joining the Board in 2003, Hap was responsible for an incredible turnaround of the school, including infrastructure work, replacement athletic fields, and the introduction of a new administrative team who returned enrollment to its current numbers. After stepping down as Board President, Hap remained an integral part of the life of school, serving as commencement speaker at the 50th anniversary of his graduation.

In addition to his work with Matignon, Hap serves on the Board of the Haitian Health Foundation, was a long term member of the Board of The Boston Health Care for the Homeless and is past chancellor of the Order of Malta, American Association. Hap currently resides with his wife Susan, also a member of the Class of 1964, in Andover, MA and St. George, UT. Hap and Sue have three children and ten wonderful grandchildren.

Rev. Edward T. Nedder
Green and Gold Legacy Award

Howard “Hap” V. Redgate ’64
Distinguished Alumnus Award