



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXXIII, No. 3

Summer 2017

2017 TAA

Scholarship Winners

The Taft Alumni Association presented three \$1,000 scholarships to members of the 2017 graduating class.

Submitted by **Anne Lunde** (1969)

Receiving the Artisuk scholarship, sponsored by retired Taft chemistry teacher Ruth Artisuk, was **Jessica Cislak**. The scholarship goes to seniors heading for a science-related career.



Alumni Association Scholarship winners **Michelle Gonzalez**, **Jessica Cislak** and **Stephanie Madl** are congratulated by Principal **Mark Grishaber**.

Jessica ranked 28th in her class, carrying a full load of coursework in the International Baccalaureate diploma program. She was vice president of the National Honor Society with the highest number of volunteer points, organizing service events; a tutor/mentor for younger students for two years; an IB Student Leadership team member and a Chicago Scholars Ambassador. Her sports activities at Taft included freshman soccer, varsity lacrosse (three years), junior varsity tennis and, senior year, track and field. She completed 11 years of Polish (language) schools; and took a summer microbiology class at Northwestern University.

The late **Judith Mich**, a member of the June 1960 class, had been a strong advocate of the Alumni Association scholarship for many years, organizing scholarships from classmates and on her own. We were especially blessed, this past year, when Judith passed away, to receive funds for one last scholarship, which we presented in her honor, to **Stephanie Madl**.

Stephanie, ranking 57th in the class, has been very active in extra-curricular work, editing the yearbook, co-

founding service clubs, and serving as an intern in the AVID program, which provides support for students to succeed. Her plan is to major in biology as she defines her career plans.

Her biggest accomplishment has been to step in as student manager for Taft's football program. She helped managing day to day activities in the various levels of football, assisting in record keeping and with games. It was not merely an extra-curricular activity. Several of the new football and athletic coaching staff, alumni themselves, appreciated her help as the programs expanded at Taft. During the graduation ceremonies, where P.E. teacher and Taft alum **Brett Nishibayashi** (1997) was one of the on-stage presenters, he gave her a big hug as she went across the stage.

TAA scholarship recipient **Michelle Gonzalez**, ranking 90 in the class, has two interests: providing child care and being environmentally friendly. Her goal is to operate a child care center that will do both. At Taft she helped to found a Healthy Habits Club, worked hard to be on AVID's honor roll, take AP classes and do service projects. She has worked with a number of organizations, including Environment Club. Key Club and Service Learning Club to help others. She won the Jefferson Park Award of Leadership in 2014 and a Courage Honor Leadership Patriotism Scholarship Service Award in 2013.



Congratulations and welcome to you as Taft Alumni.



Class of June 1959 (58th Reunion!)

Date: October 7-8, 2017

Place: Hilton Garden Inn, Des Plaines

Special Buffet, Casual, Same price, Free parking

Website: www.taftreunion1959.com

Contact: Anne (Fear) McManus - 630-584-9194

annemcmanus@me.com

Classes of January/June 1967 (50 Year Reunion)

Date: September 24, 2017 (Noon – 5 PM)

Place: Hyatt Place Chicago O'Hare – Rosemont IL

Contact: Ed Krzeminski taft67reunion@gmail.com

or Paulette (Zemaitis) English eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Class of 1977 (40 Year Reunion)

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2017

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel – Northbrook IL

Details: Dinner, Dancing & Beer/Wine Happy Hour

Cost: \$80

Contact: Donna (Aquado) Ackerson 630-655-4071,

Rene (Sinclair) Benson 773-960-8665, or

Barb (Latko) Riccardi 303-478-4025

Class of 1968 (50 Year Reunion)

Date: Saturday, September 29, 2018

Time: TBD

Location: Taft High School

Details: School tour/catered reception.

Cost: TBD

Contact: Nancy Warzecha - 1968tafths@gmail.com

or Carolyn (Sykes) Toerpe - Carolyn.Toerpe@gmail.com

Class of 1977 (40 Year Reunion)

Date: October 17, 2017

Venue: TBD

Contact: Donna (Aquado) Ackerson - primadona9@att.net

15th Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic FLORIDA-WEST

Date: March 17 2018 (11:00 am – 3:00 pm)

Place: Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 Harbor Dr. S, Venice, FL

(Meeting in smaller pavilion near parking area)

Pot Luck: a shared dish (+ BYOB – NO GLASS ALLOWED)

Photo shoot: 1:30 pm - **NOTE PLACE & TIME CHANGE**

Donation: \$5 per person, lawn chairs optional

Contacts: Leon Kathan (Jun '56) 863-835-2211

leonkathan@yahoo.com

or Jerry (Beesley) Stephenson (Jun '62)

jerrybloomstephenson@gmail.com

8th Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic ARIZONA

Date: TBD 2018

Place: Stillman Ramada, Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale

Pot Luck: Bring something to share

BYOB: Beer in non-glass containers only

Donation: \$3 per person, bring lawn chairs

Contacts: Paul Frizane, aztaftalumni@yahoo.com - or

Paulette English, eagleemail@taftalumni.org

5th Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Picnic FLORIDA-EAST

Date: TBD 2018

Place: [REDACTED]

(For those unable to attend the Florida west coast affair)

Pot Luck: a food item to share (+ BYOB)

Contacts: [REDACTED]

or Jerry (Beesley) Stephenson (June '62)

jerrybloomstephenson@gmail.com

4th Annual ALL CLASS Reunion Get Together CALIFORNIA

Date: Saturday September 9, 2017 (Noon – 4 PM))

Place: House of Savage, 2372 Recuervo Cove, Del Mar, CA

Details: \$8 for Rosati's pizza and beverages, grandkids free.

Bring side dish, salad or dessert to share. BYOB.

Swimming pool.

Contacts:

Paul Laudicina (June '61) longbeach1942@ gmail.com

Mike Day (June '60) - michael91942@yahoo.com

Jan (Ostromencki) Savage, janhellokitty@hotmail.com

Lost Classmates

Are you looking for old classmates with whom you've lost touch? We will help you in your search by publishing the name(s) in this newsletter. **If that party or another classmate with information on your request responds to us and agrees to share the information, we'll forward that person's name and address to you.**

Send your request and/or response to Taft Alumni Association, c/o Taft High School, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 or e-mail us at eagleemail@taftalumni.org. The suggested donation for this service is \$5 per name.

Apologies To You

We regret any inconvenience you may have experienced by trying to attend the Taft Fine Arts Festival at 4 PM June 3, 2017. Our Taft Alumni Mixed Chorus was to perform then. However, the decision for a time change was made by the organizers in early May to 2 PM for that day. It was inadvertently overlooked to notify the TAA of this change so we could notify people through our web page and Facebook.

Taft Graduates in 2017

Submitted by **Anne Lunde** (1969)

For those of us who remember earlier years when the graduating classes were large, here are some statistics to impress even the jaded old-timers.

Taft's entire senior class graduated in a single ceremony on Sunday, June 11, from the Rosemont Theatre, just west of the Des Plaines River, and not far from the western end of Taft's feeder school area. Taft no longer has January and June classes. It no longer has to squeeze the classes into two nights as they did in the late 1960s in the boys' gym. Families no longer have to commute to Arie Crowne Theatre or the Medinah Temple (now no longer available) or University of Illinois-Circle campus.

It did, however, take a full 20 minutes of "Pomp and Circumstance" to get the graduates into their seats – they filled nearly the whole first floor, with some reserved seats for faculty. The Eagle Singers and the Taft Orchestra provided special music. The orchestra deserves a bonus for playing that long, and director **Brian Lavery**, who read all the graduate names, got special applause.

Mary Hehn and **Bhavin Bhatt** shared honors as valedictorians. **Melinda Week** was salutatorian. **Jocelyn Ortiz** was senior class president.

A special diploma was presented to **Ray Ortiz** (no relation of Jocelyn's). A story about his honor is on page XXXX There were things to celebrate, **Principal Mark Grishaber** was pleased to note. Every member of the senior class was accepted to go to college or a university. By the count in the program, that's 706 new Taft graduates. It also represents over 164 colleges and universities, in 41 states plus England, Ireland and Scotland.

Scholarship money received is up to \$22,536,000, up by more than a million from last year.

Academic achievements include 108 National Honor Society members, 42 Illinois State Scholars, a Posse Scholar, a Golden Apple Scholar, four Chicago Masonic Scholars, a Coca Cola Scholar, two Wentcher Scholars, a Chick Evans Scholar, a University of Illinois CPC Scholar, four Illinois Promise Scholars, a Northwestern Good Neighbor Scholar, four Naval Academy Summer Scholars.

To graduate, the Chicago Public Schools require each student to earn 40 hours of community service. The class of 2017 earned a collective 32,543 service learning hours. Senior **Leslie Lopez** individually earned 1,140 hours.

From the song, "Freebird," he quoted, "If I leave here tomorrow, will you still remember me?" His answer was "yes."

For the most part the seniors had met his challenges, to take responsibility for their education, to be leaders in the school, and to stay focused on their academics. This is Grishaber's third graduating class since he started at Taft, and one of the early classes since the school switched to an International Baccalaureate education model. Some have been at Taft since they joined the Academic Center in seventh grade.

"You are a class that gets things done," he added. He also points out that Taft is now the 15th largest high school in Illinois.

Taft's Eagle Singers took first place last year in a national competition sponsored by Disney. The Taft Marching Band was the only Illinois marching band in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC.

Taft now has 61 sports offered, the most available in the Chicago Public Schools, and a healthy mix of boys' and girls' sports. Taft won conference championships in football, girls' softball girls' basketball, boys' swimming and boys' water polo; and city championships in 16" softball. They were city runners up for cheerleading and pom poms, boys' soccer, boys' and girls' bowling, and wrestling.

"Always remember we Eagles don't judge each other by ... superficial qualities. We look into each other's hearts," Grishaber said as he predicted future reunion gatherings.

"You'll then remember, Taft does throw the best parties. You'll come to the reunion and rekindle old friendships. Those friendships will last your entire life."

Taft Alums - In the News

Don Gloor (Jun '46) has been involved in the Des Plaines Arts Council and served as one of the Board of Directors there since its inception in 1992. His impressive story was told in the February-May 2017 newsletter for the Des Plaines Art Council. Among his many achievements was his career as an Industrial Labor Relations Officer from the Department of Defense after serving as a Staff Sargent in the U.S. Marines. He earned a nomination for Employee of the Year in 1974 for outstanding contributions to the Federal Service.

Many organizations have benefited from his volunteerism over the years, including grade and high school councils, Oakton Community College and Cub/Boy Scouts, where he received the Order of Arrow Award. In 2005, he received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Oakton College. He also works with the Frisbee Senior Center and was honored there in 2006. And, with no intentions of slowing down. Congrats!

*"We The Fans – Section 250" is a TV series found on ESPN3 this year that highlights several loyal Chicago Bears fans. They are long-time season ticket holders who have become friends over the years. Among the fans in the series are Taft alums **Sue (Adams) Hendrix** (1980) and **Sylvia Giacomuzzi** (1980). To view, simply Google the full title, "We the Fans: Section 250 of Soldier Field" and enjoy seeing some Bears fans "behind the scenes".*

Letters to the Editor

To TAA,

I am the sister of **Harold** (Feb '46) and **Roy** (Jun '43) **Quiram**. I lost two husbands – one in 1991 and the other in 2008. I surely enjoy the Taft Alumni Newsletter as both my brothers did. Both were widowed before they died.

Live too far for reunions after my 50th in October 1989. But do not think there are many June 1941 graduates. All I knew have died. I'm going on 94 years old.

Ruth (Quiram) Tomalas Riggs (Jun '41)

[Ruth, you are youthful in spirit, and we thank you for your recent renewal, which extends your membership to the year 2023. Also, a special thank you for your generous donation to the Taft Veterans Memorial. Jerry Stephenson, TAAN Editor]

To TAA,

Enclosed is my donation to the TAA Scholarship Fund in memory of my classmate and my first date in high school, **Marge Eaton** {Jun '58}. She was always a classy lady.

Dennis Duszak (Jun '58)

[Dennis, Thanks so much for your donation to the TAA Scholarship Fund, keeping the spirit of Taft's memories strong. Jerry Stephenson, TAAN Editor]

Hi Paulette and TAA Board of Directors,

Many thanks for all your outstanding efforts in maintaining the Taft Alumni Newsletter, which keeps us Taft Alumni up to date with Taft activities and former Taft students. Really nice to see the many scheduled Taft reunions. I was Reunion Chairperson for 4 class 1946 reunions and co-chairperson for the 6 (1940-1946) class reunions where there was over 400 attendees, and 235 Taft alumni. I still have the 40-inch panoramic picture of the 235 Taft Alumni. I would be glad to give it to Taft if there was a place to hand it at Taft.

I received the first Taft Letter issued by Taft for gymnastics; and my still best friend **Herbert Schirmer** received the 2nd letter in gymnastics.

Herb and I have been best friends since we met at Taft in September 1942. We both joined the US Marines on July 7, 1046. We have been able to get together regularly. Herb told me [today] via phone that it would be nice hearing from our classmates and I should place our names, addresses and phone numbers in the Taft Alumni Newsletter;

Herbert Schirmer	Donald J. Gloor
W1082 Zuther Ave	8801 W Gold Rd., Apt 2C
Rib Lake, WI 54470-9645	Niles, IL 60714-5712
715-427-3216	847-297-8019

Go – Go - Taft

Don Gloor (Jun '46)

[Thanks, Don for your offer to donate your reunion photo from your early 40's. I will pass on this info to the committee who is working with Taft's current Principal Mark Grishaber on Taft memorabilia and how to display the items collected. Jerry Stephenson, TAAN Editor]

To TAA,

All you people are doing a great job!

Patrick Leavy (Jun '64)

Hi Jerry,

I am in poor health and recently I asked my daughter to send in the information needed to be put into the Taft Alumni Newsletter when the time comes to do that. She didn't understand and in the Spring '17 issue of the Taft Alumni Association Newsletter that I recently received, I found the information under Class Notes. I think she thought I needed to pay my membership dues.

I have been a member since I graduated in 1945 and I don't want to lose my membership. I paid my dues the last time they were due. Please let me know if everything is okay or if there is anything I need to do to assure that I will receive the Taft Newsletters in the future. I appreciate your help. Thank you so much.

Margie McBride (Jun '45)

[Hi Margie – With the help of Paulette English, my newsletter assistant, we verified your membership is secure and your dues are paid up through July, 2019. So, sit back and relax! Jerry Stephenson, TAAN Editor]

Jerry,

We had a fun get together at my house [this past March] and all went out to lunch. [See photo below.]

I expect to be moving to West Palm Beach in a year where one of my sons lives. We all turn 90 next year OMG!!
Rah Taft!

Barbara (Lawton) Loeschen (Feb '46)



(clockwise from top, left:
Len Bunge, Barbara (Lawton) Loeschen, Evie (Fisher) Miller and Bonnie (Weidman) Nugent (all from the Taft class of Feb '46)

To TAA,

I look forward to every newsletter, keep up the good work.

Joyce Baxter (Jan '61)

[Continued on Page 6]

Chick Evans Scholarship



Ursula (left) and John Grud congratulate Kaitlyne Diaz, recipient of a supplemental Chick Evans award presented by Taft alumni who also received Chick Evans scholarships through their caddying work during high school.

If you grew up near a golf course, and spent free time during your high school years working as a caddy, you may be aware of the scholarship program available for college. These days it's not just boys who qualify for these scholarships.

Three Taft graduates who came up through the Chick Evans program themselves, know the benefits of attending college through the programs. Housing is even provided in Evans fraternity buildings at a series of college campuses, but there are always some costs which aren't covered. Resident students have to contribute so much a semester. That's where this supplementary program, supported by **Martin Paluga, John Grud** and **John Chious** (all Taft 1958) comes in.

At the June Local School Council meeting at Taft, senior **Kaitlyne Diaz** was presented a supplemental award to help her with costs. As long as she maintains the grades for her scholarship, the \$250 per semester payment will continue as she completes her degree at University of Illinois.

John Grud and his wife came to make the presentation to Kaitlyne and her parents. Grud had caddied at Glenview Country Club in his day.



Taft High School - 1939

A Diploma for Ray Ortiz

Submitted by Anne Lunde (1969)

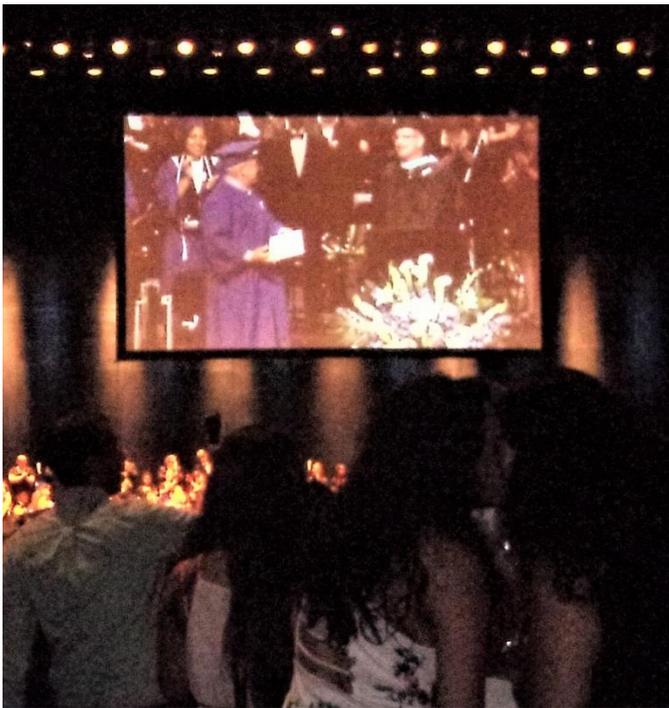


Ray Ortiz (left) and Art Ellingsen

Those of us who grew up during times when the United States was at war often know a classmate who left school early to join up for military service. It was a lot harder coming back, impacted by service overseas that had made them grow up fast. Some went back for their GED later, and others just gave up on getting a diploma and went to work. Maybe they took vocational courses. In some generations the GI Bill helped them get credits toward an associate's degree.

Relatively recent legislation now allows a person who served in the military, was discharged honorably, and never finished high school, to receive a high school diploma now from a high school principal. It takes paperwork. It takes a willing principal, and it takes a special kind of bravery to accept the honor. Veterans who put their lives on the line are not always sure that others understand what happened in their lives, when they were far from home.

Art Ellingsen from Taft's June 1968 class is active in VFW and American Legion activities in the communities northwest of O'Hare, and he's been raising word of the opportunity at regional meetings. It's 47 years since he shipped out to Vietnam, and he's sincere about wanting Veterans to not be forgotten. Most veterans didn't want to pursue getting a late diploma, at least publicly. Taft's principal, **Mark Grishaber**, became excited to offer the opportunity, and a few weeks before Taft's June 11 graduation, Ray Ortiz from Elk Grove Village was in the right Legion meeting when Ellingsen made his presentation. Ortiz had attended Lake View High School in 1960-62. His family had come to Chicago from Puerto Rico, and he found it difficult to get acclimated in a neighborhood where few spoke Spanish. He left high school after two years, enlisted in the Marines, and did a lot of infantry patrol training work. The first two years were in a relatively rural jungle in Hawaii; the rest was in Vietnam. Just as they were due to go home, President Johnson extended all the enlistments. Ortiz returned home in 1964 when the anti-war protests and Civil Rights marches were in full swing.



Ray Ortiz (left) got a big hug and a high school diploma from Taft Principal Mark Grishaber.

So he married his sweetheart, started raising a family, and settled for a series of jobs, most recently in railroad security. He didn't talk about his lack of diploma, but was embarrassed he'd never had the chance to go back. He's commander of the Elk Grove Village Legion Post, but like many who served in 'Nam, he still doesn't feel comfortable talking about specifics about the combat his unit experienced.

With Grishaber's and Ellingsen's help, the paperwork was processed to make it possible for Ortiz to receive his diploma at the Taft 2017 graduation ceremony. Ortiz was seated onstage with the assistant principals, wearing a blue cap and gown. And as Grishaber got up to begin presenting diplomas, he invited the entire graduating class and audience to welcome Ortiz.

As Grishaber gave Ortiz the diploma and a big bear hug, visible on the big screen above the stage, the graduates gave him a standing ovation. It was a big day for Ray Ortiz – graduation came on his 72nd birthday. And he'll carry a little bit of Taft pride for the rest of his life.

The diploma program is not restricted to Chicago or Illinois. If someone you know would qualify to receive a diploma through this program, there is information available at the high school from which he/she graduated. If that doesn't work, contact Taft Alumni Association for additional guidance at eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Letters to the Editor [Continued from Page 4]

To Anyone That Cares,

I am a veteran of WW II. I enlisted in April 1943 while still at Taft. Graduated in June 1943, served 2 years in the Army Air Corp until the war was over and I was discharged on Nov. 2 1945.

There are not many of us left. I will be 92 this year.

Bob Wingfield (Jun '43)

[Hello, Bob, We are happy to hear from one of the "Greatest Generation" and we are thankful for your service. You would have been a classmate of my mother Jane (Jewell) Zemaitis. We wish you all the best. Paulette English, TAAN Asst.]

Hi Paulette:

As my Daughter stated I have been Blind for many years....Being a WWII Veteran I have been to two VA Blind Centersin Northern CA they took me to Stanford University and taught me to play blind golf and now at VA Long Beach Blind Center I train Vets to Putt and Chip then take them to a Navy Course where they can learn or relearn to Drive a golf ball. I also have accommodation for Vets and working on a PAL to PAL concept I developed which take the Blind and Physically Impaired on a par 3 course. Our VA Blind Centers have 24 to 36 private rooms as they are at the Center for 6 to 8 weeks for basic training ...when Virginia went to Heaven ...It was not great ...but the VA was/is great. I Now help Vets ...it is rewarding ...I hold offices in THVA BRC and BVA plus I am the Golf Coach for both.

As my Daughter Paulette, takes care of all mail as I do not read or write letters except by computer which has a program which speaks each letter and each word...then the complete sentence.

I will be 94 this coming Christmas...and Thank God every day. A number of days has passed since I and [my late wife] **Virginia [Herringshaw]** attended Taft.

Regards and Thanks For your Service. I am President of the VA LB Blind Rehab Center.

Howard Payne (Jan '42)

To TAA,

Keep up the good work!!

Carolyn (Halldorson) Hinds (Jun '53)

TAA,

So sorry I am so late renewing. I read each issue of the newsletter the minute it arrives but never see much about the class of June 1945. I know we are all turning 90 this year so probably not too many of us left anymore, but sure would like to hear from those who are left!

Keep up the good work at keeping Taft alive for us!

Bess (Smith) Roggenbuck (Jun '45)

[Hello, Bess, Thank you for renewing your membership. We're glad you enjoy the newsletter. It may surprise you to know that there is a sizeable number of classmates from the 1940s, even 1945, many of whom are listed in the Email Directory on the TAA website. I hope your message will prompt someone to respond. Paulette English, TAAN Assistant]

[Continued on Page 10]



Class Notes

Your TAA Class Notes includes names of both new TAA members and renewals, when received prior to going to press. If you want to

include other special details, please include that information on your membership form as shown on the inside of the last page of this newsletter.

1940s

- Ruth (Quiram) Rigg** (Jun 1941), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren, lives in Huntington Beach CA, Pierce College, is a retired homemaker.
- George Kasdorf** (Jan 1942), has 3 children, 1 grandchild, 1 great grandchild, lives in Brookfield WI, American Television Tech School 2 years; US Army Air Corp 3 years, is retired after 39 years as a TV engineer.
- Trudy (Strozewski) Gander** (Jun 1942), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Elk Grove Village IL, is a retired Certified Professional Secretary, and both sons are chiropractors.
- Jane (Wildeman) Groves** (Jun 1944), lives in Sacramento CA, U IL BA '48, is retired from federal government work.
- Jean (Cherry) Nelson** (Jun 1944), married **Philip Nelson** (Jun 1944), has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Wauwatosa WI, BA, is retired, although she didn't graduate from Taft, she loves getting the newsletter.
- Bess (Smith) Roggenbuck** (Jun 1945), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Gulf Breeze FL, is a retired gift shop owner, and is so happy to see the Cubs finally make it in her lifetime.
- Gloria (Arnold) Klingaman** (Jan 1948), has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in South Beloit IL, is retired, and meets with 5 Taft friends from Class of '48 for lunch four times a year.
- Shirley (Olsen) Horn** (Jun 1948), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Anoka MN, is retired from office work with the Wisconsin DOT, and enjoyed serving 2 years in the Rhinelander Civil Air Patrol as an observer.
- Red Jackson** (Jun 1948), has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, lives in Big Canoe GA, Illinois State BS '56; US Army 1951-54, is retired from the insurance business.
- Bill McIlvaine** (Jun 1948), has 6 children, 10 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Racine WI, Walton School of Commerce BSA '50, CPA '51, is a retired CPA, and has a 7'1" son who played on 3 NBA teams over 7 years, his 3 great grandchildren live in Hungary, and keeps busy with community volunteer work, golf and community brass band.
- Warren Wellens** (Jun 1948), has 4 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Mead WA, Northwestern U '54 DDS; USAF 1954-56 active duty, 1956-62 active Res. Capt., is a retired dentist owner of Wellens Luscious Fruits, and says Mr. McCalmont was a great chemistry teacher--he and Harry Dobbrunz had great repartee.
- Jack Will** (Jan 1949), married **Jerrie Biver-Squire** (Jan 1949), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Fountain Hills AZ, North Central College BS '53; US Naval officer 1953-57, is the retired president of Magi Color Paint Co., married Jerrie

Jan 28, 2017--they first met in 1942 when they joined the Norwood Park Drum & Bugle Corps.

- Mary (Forsland) Harner** (Jun 1949), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Westmont IL, Northwestern U BS Ed '54, is retired.
- Marvin Weber** (Jun 1949), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Panama City Beach FL, US Air Force 1951-55; MSU BS Bio, MA Counseling, is a retired teacher and counselor, and played on the 1949 City Championship Baseball Team.

1950s

- John Koepke** (Jun 1950), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Mill Valley CA, Northwestern U BS '54; Harvard MBA '59, is retired.
- Jerrie (Biver) Will** (Jun 1950), married **Jack Will** (Jan 1949), has 3 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Fountain Hills AZ, is a retired cosmetologist, hairdresser, and owner of a salon.
- Margaret (Krebs) Grumbine** (Jan 1951), married **Donald Grumbine** (deceased) (Jan 1950), has 4 children, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, lives in Schiller Park IL, is a retired homemaker, and has been a volunteer reading tutor.
- Ronald Betz** (Jun 1951), has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Northbrook IL, is retired.
- Carol (Dehlinger) Doyle** (Jun 1951), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Scottsdale AZ, Illinois State BS Edu '55, Nat'l Coll. of Ed. '82, is a retired teacher and professional retiree, and planned a week in Chicago during the week of the Cubs "craziness"--unable to see spring training due to sellouts.
- Bob Ebenhahn** (Jun 1951), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Saratoga CA, U Iowa BSC '55; US Air Force Capt. 3 years, is a retired airline pilot.
- Joyce (Christensen) Johnson** (Jun 1952), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, lives in Niles IL, Wright Jr College, is a retired receptionist, and both Linda and John Gilmore are Taft graduates.
- Jake Jacobsen** (Jan 1953), has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Leawood KS, BS, is retired from Hallmark Cards, Inc.
- Carolyn (Halldorson) Hinds** (Jun 1953), lives in Centennial CO, NIU BA '57, is a retired teacher.
- Blanche (Reinhardt) Peterson** (Jun 1953), lives in Chicago IL, is a retired nanny.
- Janet (Rebscher) Eastman** (Jan 1954), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Northbrook IL, CMP Certified Meeting Professional, is an event planner, and coping with new technology keeps her hopping--new challenges every day in every way.
- Gail (Shanks) Longmire** (Jan 1954), has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, 1 child, lives in Chicago IL, U IL 1 1/2 years, is a retired tax preparer, and returned to Edison Park 11 years ago, enjoys having lunch with Taft friends.
- Mary (Pastuszka) Sikorski** (Jun 1955), has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, lives in Mundelein IL, Wright Jr College, is a retired homemaker and office manager at Chemplast, and had a great time at the 14th annual all-class reunion picnic at Maxine Park, Florida.
- Ron Moers** (Jan 1956), lives in Chicago, IL, is retired, and he's gay.
- Nancy (Haaning) Johnson** (Jun 1956), lives in Park Ridge IL, and is playing bridge as much as possible.
- Carol (Small) Smalley** (Jun 1956), has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, lives in Wood River IL.

Jay Forbregd (Jan 1957), has 1 child, lives in Phoenix AZ, Wright Jr College, is in sales.

Judith (Neal) Patte (Jan 1957), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Shaver Lake CA, is retired.

Barbara (Vaughn) Wolff (Jan 1957), has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Estero FL, is a retired customer service/travel agent, all her children are Taft graduates, and celebrates 58 years of marriage.

Herb Korff (Jun 1957), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Albuquerque NM, SIU BS Bus Admin, is a retired accountant.

Judith (Sullivan) Sorman (Jun 1957), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Apopka FL, Wright Jr Col; Oakton Comm Col, is retired, and her husband John died of cancer in 2014.

Nancy (Geraci) Trutwin (Jun 1957), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Mt Prospect IL, AA, is a retired senior vice president of a savings and loan.

Priscilla (Deck) Woodworth (Jun 1957), has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Des Plaines IL, NIU, cosmetology school, is a retired cosmetologist and school bus driver.

Donald Gifford (Jan 1958), has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Germantown WI, ISU BSME '63, is retired.

Carole (Hilden) Romor (Jan 1958), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Elk Grove Village IL, is retired from Wal-Mart; was an Avon representative for 27 years.

Judy (Schraffenberger) Thornton (Jan 1958), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren, lives in Sarasota, FL, Professional Dev Inst Ed.S., is a retired senior consultant and deputy superintendent in Forsyth Co. GA, and lives in a golf community, travels extensively.

Denny Pickett (Jun 1958), married **Karen Jensen** (Jan 1960), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in DeKalb IL, BS, MS, is a retired educator.

John Schmidt (Jun 1958), lives in Chicago IL, B.Ed '62; M.Ed '65, is the retired UID Assoc Dir of Admissions.

Tom Croston (Jan 1959), married **Judy Anderson** (deceased) (Jan 1961), has 1 child, lives in Wheeling IL, Coe College BA '63; US Navy Reserve '67-'72, is retired.

Carolyn (Cella) O'Connor (Jan 1959), married **James O'Connor** (deceased) (Jun 1953), has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, lives in Evergreen CO, is retired, and is expecting 3 more great-grandchildren this year.

Dorothy Engels (Jun 1959), lives in Chicago IL, is retired.

1960s

Barbara (Uebel) Kinley (Jan 1960), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Buffalo Grove IL.

Karen (Jensen) Pickett (Jan 1960), married **Dennis Pickett** (Jan 1958), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in DeKalb IL, BS, MS, is a retired educator.

Don Schoenbeck (Jan 1960), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Sandy UT, U of IL Urbana BS, is a management consultant.

Richard Swanson (Jan 1960), has 1 child, lives in Liverpool NY, IIT BS '64, NEIU MAT '68, OSU PhD '72, is a retired author and mathematics education professor, and spends winters in Ocala, Florida.

Marian (Schleede) Busta (Jun 1960), lives in Park Ridge IL, Northwestern U BS, is a retired RN.

Marilyn (Stano) Guillemette (Jun 1960), has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, lives in Chicago IL, is a retired manager and buyer for Hallmark.

Janice (Ross) Johnson (Jun 1960), married **Richard Johnson** (deceased) (Jun 1957), has 4 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Tamarac FL, MA Library and Information Science, is a retired librarian.

Marilyn (Boettcher) Troxell (Jun 1960), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Crossville TN, Augustana Hosp. RN '63; Oklahoma City BS '78.

Paul Verisario (Jun 1960), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Inverness IL, Northwestern U BA '68, Corporal US Army, medic, is in insurance, and is past president of Illinois Independent Insurance Agents State Assoc. 2002-2003.

Joyce Baxter (Jan 1961), lives in New Port Richey FL, some college, is a retired office manager of 20 years, and loves cruises, Florida, retirement and her two cats.

Steve Regopoulos (Jan 1961), has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, lives in Inverness IL, U of IL BS Phys ED/Soc '69, 2 years architecture; Real Estate Inst AA '75, is a real estate developer, and is presently developing Springbrook Senior Living.

Lynn (Anderson) Drost (Jun 1961), married **Rudy Drost** (Jun 1961), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Inverness IL, BA Psych, MA Community Mental Health Counseling, is a psychotherapist.

James Kepner (Jun 1961), has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Normal IL, BS Math '65, MS Math '68, MS Stat '76, PhD Statistics '79, is a retired university professor and research scientist, and ultimately became a biostatistician specializing in clinical trial design and analysis.

Tom Cook (Jan 1962), married **Kathleen Catalano** (deceased) (Jun 1964), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Estero FL, Notre Dame '65; Loyola MD '69; US Navy 1969-74, is a retired MD, and summers in Lake Geneva.

Wendy (Thornton) Davidson (Jan 1962), lives in East Peoria IL, WIU BS Educ '66, is a retired outreach coordinator at Hemophilia Treatment Center.

Madeleine (Rahn) Funk (Jan 1962), lives in Holt MI, is retired.

Lois (Knickerbocker) Boyer (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in South Bend IN, is the owner of "The Mole Hole of South Bend" gift shop.

Arlene (Ratulowski) Harp (Jun 1962), has 2 children, lives in DePere WI, Wright Jr College, is retired, and was widowed in 2015.

David Higgins (Jun 1962), lives in Des Plaines IL.

Robert Johnson (Jun 1962), has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Palatine IL, 2 years college, is a retired letter carrier, and is a volunteer chaplain at Lutheran General Hospital.

Susan (Lucas) Schmid (Jun 1962), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Downers Grove IL, is retired, and after attending Taft for three years, transferred and graduated from Maine East HS.

Ray Setzke (Jun 1962), has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Wimauma FL, US Navy '62-'66, is living in a retirement community, and plays softball and pickle ball six days a week.

Ginny (Sutton) Evert (Jan 1963), has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Chicago IL, is retired.

Eileen (Orosz) Brulle (Jun 1963), has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Chicago IL, BA, MBA, is a retired accounting manager, and will have been married 50 years on June 17, celebrating with friends and family.

Lee Schurter (Jun 1963), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Thousand Oaks CA, is retired.

Patrick Leavy (Jun 1964), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Treasure Island FL, is a retired industrial engraver and mold maker.

Warren Luckner (Jun 1964), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Stillwater MN, Luther College BA '68, U of MD MA Math '70, U KY M Ed '72, is a retired actuary, and professor emeritus at U Nebraska-Lincoln.

Louise (Johanssen) Menter (Jun 1964), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Deerfield IL, Nat'l Louis U BA, is a retired teacher.

Michael Parquette (Jun 1964), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Wonder Lake IL, US Army '65-'67, is a retired field operations manager with Ameritech, and celebrates 50 years of marriage on 07/22/17.

Kris (Warzecha) Tyler (Jun 1964), has 2 children, lives in Des Plaines IL, Northeastern IL U BA '68, National Louis U MA Ed '86, is a retired teacher at River Trails School District 26.

Stuart Weinstein (Jun 1964), has 1 child, lives in Iowa City IA, UI BA Pol Sci, U IA MD, Residency Orthopaedic Surgery, is a pediatric orthopaedic and spine surgeon.

Janet (Clune) Klopp (Jan 1965), lives in Mundelein IL, Northeastern IL U BS Bus Educ '68, MBA '82, is a retired accounting consultant for Allstate Insurance Co.

Wayne Hanslik (Jun 1965), has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Batavia IL, UIC BA, is a retired sales manager, sells Medicare supplement policies for seniors.

Barbara Kalish (Jun 1965), lives in Phoenix AZ, NAU BS '70, GA State MEd '75, ASU M Spec Ed '77, is a retired teacher.

Bill Moody (Jun 1965), has 3 children, lives in Dallas TX, Iowa St BS '70, is in public relations.

Janice (Alberti) Morrison (Jun 1965), has 2 children, lives in Shabbona IL, Northern IL U BA, is a bank teller.

Christine (Motzny) Nelson (Jun 1965), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Elk Grove CA, Loyola BSN '69, is a retired RN.

Linda (Speckmann) Harrett (Jan 1966), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Louisville KY, MA Edu, is a retired teacher.

Judy (Swanson) Stone (Jan 1966), has 3 stepchildren, 6 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, lives in Twin Lakes WI, MA, is a retired teacher.

Gary Andersen (Jun 1966), lives in Palatine IL, NEIU BA; USMC 1968-69 with 4 combat citations, is a retired instructor for the National Safety Council, and is looking forward to more birthdays.

Gail Fransen (Jun 1966), lives in Willowbrook IL, U IL BA '70, Meramec College AS '76, DePaul U MA '90, is retired.

Nancy (Knapp) Greco (Jun 1966), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Schaumburg IL, is retired.

David Hoy (Jun 1966), has 1 child, lives in Elmhurst IL, Elmhurst College BS Bus Admin '77; NIU JD '83, is an attorney.

Don McKenzie (Jun 1966), has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Topeka KS, KU BA Hist '70, is the retired owner of a music store.

William Ott (Jun 1966), lives in Naperville IL, MBA; US Air Force 4 years, US Navy 30 years, is retired.

Lynne (Lyle) Backer (Jan 1967), lives in Wauconda IL, NIU BA '70, MA '72, MS Educ, is an author and retired teacher, and enjoys travel and volunteering for the USO, fire and police departments and church.

Roberta (Eggers) Kostrow (Jun 1967), has 2 children, lives in Kansas City MO, BS, MSSW, is retired.

Bonnie (Brooks) Lopez (1968), has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Golden CO; is retired.

Gene Petrovits (1968), has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, lives in Plainfield IL, Bradley U BSME '73, Benedictine U MBA, is a retired mechanical engineer.

Michaeline (Tworek) Wong (1968), has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in Silver Springs MD, BS, is retired, and has been happily married to Art for 47 years, enjoys gardening, traveling and spending time with 6 year old granddaughter Jenna.

Randy Adkins (1969), has 1 child, lives in Incline Village NV, WIU CDI, is a construction business owner, and has second homes in Sacramento CA and Ft Myers FL.

Jerry Benson (1969), has 2 children, lives in Elgin IL, NIU BS Acct '73, MBA '76, is retired.

Anne Lunde (1969), lives in Chicago IL, Rockford College BA '73, is a local journalist and editor on Chicago's NW side and surrounding suburbs for close to 40 years, is currently writing for Park Ridge and Rosemont Journal & Times newsletters; community historian for the NW side since 1990; TAA president, TAA board member since 1965; is proud to have been a Taft student, volunteer and writer about Taft for 50+ years.

1970s

Linda (Drakert) Cooper (1970), has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Marshalltown IA, Lutheran General Hosp. RN '73, Grandview BSN, Des Moines MPH, MHA '04, is a nurse coordinator for Federal Occupational Health.

Cathy (Moriarty) Duffy (1970), has 1 child, lives in Merrionette Park IL, Northeastern IL BA Ed '74; is a retired administrative assistant at Northeastern.

John Montgomery (1970), has 2 children, lives in Madison WI; is retired.

Kenneth Naatz (1970), has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Elmhurst IL, UI Champaign BS Acct '74, DePaul U MBA '83, is a retired benefits director.

Frank Berauer (1971), married **Eileen Dunn** (1973), has 3 children, lives in Mt Prospect IL, BS Acct, is an accountant.

Dale Dvorak (1971), married **Jane Krusinski** (1971), has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, lives in Waco TX, West Point BS Engr Mgmt '75; Boston U MSBA Fin '79, is a business owner, and says, "GO CUBS GO".

Ray Rzewnicki (1971), lives in Tempe AZ.

James Davis (1972), lives in Crete IL, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine '86, is an orthopedic surgeon.

Janine (Klich) Klich-Jensen (1972), lives in Chicago IL, JD, is an attorney at law.

Eileen (Dunn) Berauer (1973), married **Frank Berauer** (1970), has 3 children, lives in Mt Prospect IL, a BS in Bus Admin, is an office manager.

Randy Cygan (1973), has 2 children, lives in Albuquerque NM, UICC BS Chem '77; Penn St MS Geochem '80, PhD '83, is a retired research chemist.

Barbara (Sullivan) Kopolovic (1973), has 3 children, lives in Oak Brook IL, U IL BS '77, BSN '80, MD '89.

Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (1974), has 1 child, lives in Del Mar CA, is retired.

Cindy (Clay) Crouse (1975), lives in Crystal Lake, IL, Columbia College BS '91, is the CEO of the Int'l Assoc of Die-cutting and Die-making since 1995, and is an avid gardener and competes in adult figure skating, claiming numerous national amateur titles.

Kathryn (Sullivan) Kostelancik (1975), has 5 children, 3 grandchildren; lives in Algonquin IL; is retired.

Nancy (Szenda) O'Brien (1975), has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, lives in Niles, IL; is in retail office work.

Cindy (Penesis) Fagiano (1976), has 2 children, lives in Chicago IL, Northeastern IL U BS '81, is a retired Chicago firefighter and part time fitness instructor, and is enjoying retirement and some traveling.

Darlene (Klebba) Kodis (1977), has 2 children, lives in Chicago IL; is a retired auction manager.

Karen (Kloda) Stolzman (1977), has 4 children, lives in Lake Forest IL; is self-employed.

Richard Bake (1978), has 2 children, lives in Chicago IL, Northeastern IL u BA Bus Mgmt/Econ '83.

Dawn (Ruscitti) Simmons (1979), has 3 children, lives in Prospect Hts IL; is a realtor.

1980s

Ingrid Tellfors (1981), lives in Chicago IL.

Kati (Graniero) Gleeson (1982), has 2 children, lives in Downers Grove IL, DePaul U MBA; is a treasury manager.

Linda Pempek (1988), lives in Park Ridge IL, is an associate.

Taft Vet Memorial Update

Inputs from the committee organized to establish the Taft Veterans Memorial have been difficult to finalize. As a result, the dedication ceremony has been delayed, with hopes to reset to the fall season, near Veteran's Day, November 11, 2017. The exact date and time will be transmitted to you in our fall issue.

Some of the obstacles they are working on are:

- Finding all who died while serving in the military in conflicts of WW II, Korea (which is ongoing since they never signed the peace treaty), Viet Nam, Grenada, the War on Terrorism (various places).
- Assuming Agent Orange deaths later count for VN.
- Those who served in the military from Taft who have since died. (78 years of grads, what can be called the 10 ft. wall around the campus)
- Those who attended Taft who are not deceased, but served in the military.

Donations towards the costs of the memorial are still being accepted. Send your tax deductible donation by check, payable to: **Taft Veterans Monument**, with "TAA" specified on the memo line, and sent to the Alumni Association, c/o Taft High School, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631-0020.

Any names of Taft Alumni that you know served that are not already included in our listing should be sent to us. Please indicate the: Alum's Name, Taft Class, Branch of Military Service, Years of Service, i.e. ('68-'72), and, when applicable, whether the alumni was KIA or the death was service connected. Send to eagleemail@taftalumni.org or to the address shown above.

Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."

Letters to the Editor [Continued from Page 6]

Hi Judy [Jacobsen],

Correction needed on the notice that **Greg Anderson** (1977) is deceased. I had a good laugh reading this. Greg is alive and well just getting older like all of us. Thanks.

Gail Anderson Iglitz (1970)

To TAA,

Riggio's Pizza & Restaurant on Oakton St. in Niles will close after business on Sunday August 27. It had been in business for 65 years. While going in for a takeout order, I noticed the banner by the front door. The two young cashiers had no idea why.

John Prochaska (Jun '61)

[Thanks, John for this update. I'm sure there are many alums who remember going there on a high school date night. Jerry Stephenson, TAAN Editor]

Greetings,

I just read the Spring newsletter and there was a very large list of class of '67 obituaries. I assume the 50th reunion created a surge in updates from family and friends.

It was eerie seeing some of those names from the past. For instance, I had a US History class with **Tom Watson** and I can still remember him waiting by the door just before the class started. To think he died over 25 years ago. It was nice that the Newsletter remembered **Dan Obermaier** again. He was a neighbor and friend.

Not all Taft Newsletters are created equal - this one packed a punch.

Robert Badgley (Jun '67)

[Hi, Robert, You hit the nail on the head. So often we receive a surge of information from reunion committees keeping us current, as is the case of the Class of '67. Sometimes we see a classmate frozen in time, a snapshot in our memories. I hope the Memorials page brought back good memories to you. We'll see you in Chicago in September. Paulette English, TAAN Editor]

Hi Paulette,

Tried to email the below with regard to the 2017 Taft newsletter, but every email address I tried came back as a permanent error, for some reason.

Great newsletter, as always, however, I need to send you a correction. The In Loving Memory section shows that **Michaelene Ann (Skoczynski) Patt**, class of June 1967, died in March 1982. I am a good friend of Mike's and I can guarantee you that she is not deceased!! 😊

Please make the correction in the next newsletter.

Marlene (Porter) Boehler (Jun '68)

[Hi, Marlene, I received your message on Facebook and we appreciate the information. Whenever there's a reunion, we sometimes receive erroneous information. We'll gladly make the correction. You ought to be able to reach us in future at eagleemail@taftalumni.org. Paulette English, TAAN Assistant]

Paulette,

I am amazed at your consistent and excellent commitment to Taft alumni!! Thank you. Great job!

Jim Schroeder (Jun '67)

[Thanks so much, Jim. We do have a seemingly tireless team, and we appreciate your continued support. I hope you'll be at the 50-year reunion in September. Paulette English, TAAN Assistant]

If you learn of a classmate, faculty member or other person affiliated with Taft High School who is deceased, or if any of the information we present

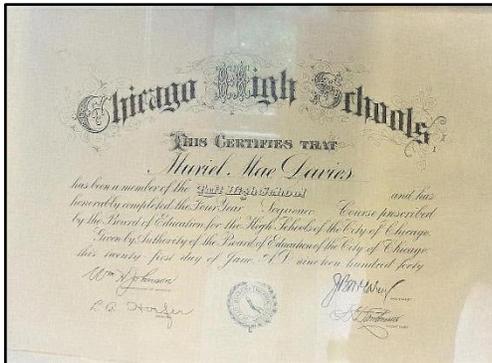
appears to be in error, please contact us so that we can remember them with respect both in the newsletter and on our Memorials page online. This page on our web site now includes, when known, civil or military service and which conflict, if any, the person was associated with.

Thank you to the class of 1977 for sending us their list of deceased classmates that were found during the planning stage of their recent reunion. We have included here the names of those who were not previously acknowledged in past issues. We always appreciate your help in keeping our files up to date.



Paul Reibman, former vocational education teacher at Taft in the 1960s died April 30, 2017. He served in the US Army Reserve, 1960-1966.

Muriel (Davies) Kaminski, class of June 1940, died June 29, 2017. She was **the very first recipient** of a diploma at Taft High School.



Shirley (Jasper) Hollander, class of January '43, died June 6, 2017. She taught grade school students and is sister to Donnalouis Ahlstedt.

Lorraine (Kryzanowski) Ormerod, class of June 1943, died May 30, 2016. She lived in Arlington Heights, IL.

Roy Quiram, class of June 1943, died January 27, 2005. He served in the US Army during WWII. He is brother to the late Harold Quiram (Feb '46) and Ruth (Quiram) Rigg (Jun '41).

Harold George Quiram, class of February 1946, died December 31, 2012 from a stroke; he served in the US Army during WWII and later in the US Air Force. He is brother to Ruth (Quiram) Rigg (Jun '41) and the late Roy Quiram (Jun '43).

Howard Ferdinand Saiger, class of June 1947, passed away November 4, 2016.

Velna Jane (Lewis) Kolodziej, class of June 1950, died May 20, 2017 in Grinnell, Iowa.

Robert Richard Steinmetz, class of June 1950, died April 4, 2017. He played trumpet in the Norwood Park Drum & Bugle Corps and football at Taft. After college he

served in the US Army during the Korean War. He is a brother to the late William Steinmetz (Jun '48).

Barbara Ann (Pelton) Smith, class of January 1951, died April 14, 2001. She is the sister of Margaret Pelton (Schurz), Roger Pelton (Schurz), Richard "Dick" Pelton (Jun '41), Stuart Pelton (class unknown) and Jean (Pelton) Polivka (Jun '47) – all now deceased.

Barbara Ann (Norton) Calkins Rieke, valedictorian of class of January 1953, died May 13, 2017 of Alzheimer's disease. She was the former wife of Harold W. Calkins, Jr (Jan' 51) and was a longtime resident of Olathe, Kansas.

Audrey (Permoda) Lutz, class of June 1953, died June 15, 2017. She was a resident of Rhinebeck New York.

David Harold Schultz, Dr, class of January 1955, died January 26, 2017 after a three-year battle with cancer. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War and was stationed at McArthur AFB with the doctor in training program where he became Captain and surgeon. He later switched to radiology and became a neuro-radiologist in 1983.

Richard Allen Johnson, Dr., class of June 1957, died in June, 2000. He is the husband of Janice (Ross) Johnson (Jun '60).

Lawrence "Larry" Charles Stoneberg, class of January 1962, died August 2, 2016. From Alzheimer's disease. He was a Vietnam vet in the US Navy, and was among the first Swift Boat Commanders. He was awarded two Bronze Stars with Valor as well as the Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Combat Action Ribbon and the Navy Presidential Unit Citation.

David Harvey Dokka, class of June 1963, died May 17, 2017. He is brother to Susan (Dokka) Nelson (Jan '56) and brother-in-law to Roger Nelson (Feb '52).

Ronald Wayne Slaboch, class of June 1964, died April 13, 2016. At Taft, he was on the Track Team, and afterward served in the US Army in Vietnam before becoming a Sales Representative in the plumbing industry. He was married to Marilyn "Martie" Pertle (Jun '65). He is brother to Robert (1969), Roger (1971) and Jeffrey (1976).

Robert Edward Yarris, class of January 1967, died May 29, 2016. Classmates recall he walked to his graduation during the snowstorm of the century. He was a Pv1 in the US Army, serving during the Vietnam War and is buried in the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at Elwood, Illinois.

James Taylor Hamilton, class of June 1967, died on January 9, 2013. He is brother to Gary (Jun '66) and Thomas (1970) Hamilton.

Betty Lou Pappas, class of 1968, died in September 2011 of bladder cancer. She is the sister of Alexis Bernard (1968) and the late Mary Beth (Bernard) Maby.

Cynthia Lynn (Stewart) Wessel, class of 1975, died July 8, 2017.

George William Adamson, class of 1977, died September 7, 2006. He is the husband of Peggy Raiman (1977).

Timothy Andrews, class of 1977, died date unknown.
Thomas Wayne Black, class of 1977, died June 17, 1998.
Jeffrey J. Fligel, class of 1977, died October 18, 1978.
Gregory J. Godzik, class of 1977, died December 12, 1978. He was one of the victims of John Wayne Gacy.
Michael E. Grady, class of 1977, died June 1, 1977.
John Francis Greenan, class of 1977, died July 12, 1978.
David G. Hay, class of 1977, died date unknown.
Jeri Ann Kendzior, class of 1977, died May 15, 1986.
Valerie Meitz, class of 1977, died date unknown.
Denise M. (Muscolino) Cizon, class of 1977, died date unknown.
Darlene Marie Palomar, class of 1977, died July 19, 1980.
Victor S. Rossetti, class of 1977, died July 26, 1987.
Andrea Christine Srednick, class of 1977, died July 11, 1993.



Ruth Heyer (above) died July 7, 2017 after a long illness. Her husband, Frank, is a member emeritus of the Taft Alumni Association Board.

Mark Steven Tadda, class of 1977, died in June 1981.
Teresa (Tarullo) Consago, class of 1977, died date unknown. She is the sister of Mary Tarullo (1978).
Albert H. Witthoft, class of 1977, died January 5, 1990. He served in the Navy (1977-1981).

The Taft Alumni Mixed Chorus

"Many Generations...One Chorus"

Submitted by **David Barth** (Jun '62)



It's hard to believe, but this fall, the Taft Alumni Mixed Chorus is beginning our third year of singing.

*At the June 3rd concert, we sang a medley of songs from the hit Broadway Show and Hollywood film "Grease," honoring Taft alum and creator **Jim Jacobs** (Jun '60); an original piece by member **Diane Hannibal** entitled "Song of the Earth;" and closed with our traditional singing of "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the musical Carousel.*

The Chorus is pleased to announce that several recent alumni with outstanding voices have joined us. What an honor and thrill it is to direct talented voices from Taft's great choral history!

If you're thinking about being part of our successful Chorus...and we hope you are...you can contact me...David Barth '62... at davidabarth@comcast.net. Send along your phone number and I'll give you a call. I'll be happy to follow up your interest with ours! And remember, so as not to split up families, The Chorus is also open to non-alumni singing spouses and family members.

For those looking to join The Chorus, our procedure remains the same, that being we'll email you the music scores, plus performance and parts recordings so that you can spend time on your own becoming acquainted with the selections. Then we'll hold two full rehearsals on Saturday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 9th from 1:00 until 3:30. The rehearsal location will be announced later but know we are looking at the possibility of rehearsing at Taft.

The Winter Holiday Concert date is Saturday, December 16th at 2:00PM. I know that's a little hard to think about right now when many of us are experiencing temperatures in the 80's, 90's and above, but it also gives you the opportunity to get the date on your calendar

*As always, The Chorus wishes to thank **Principal Mark Grishaber** and Performing Arts Chair **Brian Lavery** for their outstanding dedication and support in making The Chorus the success it has become!*

Enjoy your summer and we hope to see you in fall!

Honoring Jeff Komada



Three years ago Taft's Italian Club started collecting pennies, but wasn't quite sure what to do with them. In April 2016, when Taft's technology director, **Jeffrey Komada**, died in a tragic traffic accident, club members decided to make a piece of art in his memory. The result, unveiled at the June Local School Council meeting, is a solid, three-dimensional montage of pennies, glued together to create this Taft Eagle with an I.B. (International Baccalaureate) sweater. Principal **Mark Grishaber** accepted it on behalf of the school.



Spring Luncheon - Class of June 1959

On Friday, 28 April, 25 members and guests from the Class of June 1959 held their Annual Spring Luncheon at the Des Plaines Hilton Garden Inn. A good time of reminiscing and reconnecting was had by all. The day included good food, the awarding of special donated door prizes, and ended with the traditional singing of the "TAFT Fight Song."

The Class plans to have their 58th Annual Reunion/ Dinner on Saturday night, 7 October at the same location. All are encouraged to attend. *[Photo provided by Larry Marsh].*



2017 All-Class Reunion - Florida East

L-R are: Jens and Barb (Stendahl) Berhens (Jan '53), Jerry (Beesley) Stephenson (Jun '62), Jone (Morley) Dusak (Jan '48), Ursula Grud, Harry Martin, Lynn (Morley) Martin (Jun '57) and John Grud (Jun '58).

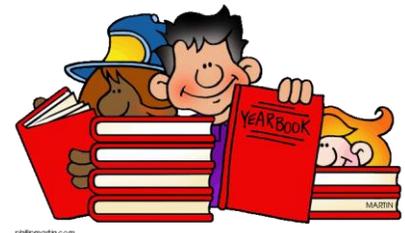
The 4th annual gathering of Taft alums on the east coast of Florida again met at the lovely home of Harry and Lynn (Morley) Martin. As seen above, they held up the new Taft promotional banner, but stayed inside, as the temps were a bit too warm for comfort. The pot-luck affair was an excellent balance to the Italian beef sandwiches (Chicago-style, of course!) provided by our hostess. *{Photo submitted by Ron Stephenson}.*

Taft Alumni Association Merchandise

Qty	Item	Specifics	Price Each	Total Price
	Windbreaker—blue nylon, drawstring bottom printed with white TAA logo	Medium Only	\$25.00	\$
	Baseball Cap—blue embroidered “Taft Alumni” with full-color eagle	One Size Fits All	\$15.00	\$
	Car Sticker—clear printed in blue/gray “You Can’t Hide That Eagle Pride”	----	\$ 3.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Medium	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	X-Large	\$10.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	T-Shirt—gray cotton printed with blue TAA logo	XXX-Large	\$12.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece – embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	Medium	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	X-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	XX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Jacket , Fleece - embroidered Taft Alumni Logo	XXX-Large	\$40.00	\$
	Taft Yearbook (be sure to state year)	Year:	\$30.00	\$
Shipping and Handling: Stickers only = \$1.00, all other orders = \$6.00				\$
Total			Remitted	\$
Name (please print): _____		Grad Month/Year: _____		
Address: _____				
City/State/ZIP: _____		Phone: () _____		
<p>Send check or money order (no cash please) with completed order form to: Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631 Please use a separate order form for separate addresses.</p>				

Yearbook Inventory

A complete audit of our yearbook inventory is currently underway. The updated list will be available, hopefully by the next issue of our newsletter. We are unable to fill any requests for yearbook purchase until this audit is completed. Thank you for your patience.



Time to Renew?!!

Thanks to all who read our plea about keeping current with your membership. If you receive the newsletter electronically, you’ll find an emailed reminder in your inbox when you are about to or have lapsed. If you receive the newsletter by post, check your address label for your year of graduation above the eagle logo on the back page. Is it correct? Also, check the expiration date of your current membership with the Taft Alumni Association located just below the graduation date.

If your expiration date is close, we urge you to sit down NOW, complete the membership form on the next page and write out a check for \$15 or just \$20 for husband/wife graduates at the same address. You’ll receive **TWO** full years of newsletters filled with opportunities to learn about classmates, reunions, school events and alumni programs. Be sure to use the application on the following page to share with us the latest updates in your life.

Thanks to all who have opted to receive their newsletter electronically. It has made a difference in our printing, mailing and handling newsletter costs. Bottom line, it gives us more opportunity to use our funds for other important TAA projects for Taft.

Taft Alumni Association Membership Application			
Please tell us as much about yourself as you like so that we can share your news in the <i>Class Notes</i> . Only fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required for membership. We will not publish your address or phone number.			
About You			
*First Name (PLEASE PRINT)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
Primary Phone	Email Address	List in Email Directory <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children _____ Children, _____ Grandchildren, _____ Great Grandchildren, _____ Great Greats?		
Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Elementary School	
Other news you'd like to share?			<input type="checkbox"/> Do not publish my information in the Class Notes
About Your Taft Graduate Spouse			
*First Name	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name	
*Month/Year Spouse Graduated	Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years		
Occupation	Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Elementary School	
Other news you'd like to share?			
Enclosed is a check or money order for:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 2-year single membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 2-year alumni couples membership <input type="checkbox"/> Donation in the amount of \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter online <input type="checkbox"/> Send newsletter by mail <input type="checkbox"/> Send both by mail and online	
Please mail application and funds to:			Summer 2017
Taft Alumni Association, 6530 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631			

Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Taft Alumni Newsletter www.taftalumni.org

The TAA publishes the *Taft Alumni Newsletter* quarterly.

Please address general correspondence and changes to:

Taft Alumni Association
 6530 West Bryn Mawr Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60631
or email eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Send photographs and articles for the next issue to:

Jerry Bloom Stephenson
 542 Tacoma Bean Rd., Apt 22
 Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235
or email newsletter@taftalumni.org

eNewsletter Signup: eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Submission Deadline for the Autumn Issue:
September 30, 2017

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