Ribault Senior High School Jacksonville, Florida

Class of 1967



April 2024, No. 15

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



It's a beautiful morning, ah
I think I'll go outside for a while and just smile

Just take in some clean fresh air, boy

(Ain't) no sense in staying inside

If the weather's fine and you got the time

It's your chance to wake up and plan another brand-new day

The Rascals—A Beautiful Morning https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykLVZR7RG w

Time is flying and hopefully we are all having fun in our retirement years. So much to look forward to this year, especially our 75th Birthday Dinner Dance to be held on **Saturday**, **September 28**, **2024**. Maybe this will be the year the Atlanta Braves win the World Series again, the Georgia Bulldogs are back on top, the Seminoles get a "fair" shake, the Gators learn how to play football again and Taylor and Travis get married.

75TH BIRTHDAY DINNER DANCE

SO HAPPY TOGETHER

The Turtles—Happy Together—1967 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRCe5L1imxg

The Turtles said it so well in their popular song of 1967. Though their lyrics referred to a loved and treasured one (sigh, didn't most of us have someone like that???), the final words "So Happy Together" captured just the feeling we plan to have at our 75th Birthday Dinner Dance on Saturday, September 28, 2024, when we meet at the Jacksonville Beach Community Center to celebrate a landmark 75th collective birthday together.

Here is a glimpse of what your Reunion Committee has in store for you:

- Mixing and mingling with hopefully a record crowd of classmates
- A scrumptious Italian dinner catered by Olive Garden
- Homemade cakes made by some mighty fine classmate bakers
- Setups and mixers provided for those who would like to bring their drink of choice
- "Our" music provided by a special DJ throughout the night
- A dance floor to use as you choose (or if you don't feel like dancing, you can just sing along and reminisce)
- A professional photographer who will take individual souvenir photos for you to take home that night **AND** who will provide a photo booth for your enjoyment
- A silent auction for you to purchase all kinds of goodies for an excellent price
- A 50/50 opportunity for one lucky winner to cash in at the end of the party
- And much, much more

Your Committee is so excited about this event and it can only be made more special by your attendance.

An invitation will be coming by email in the next few weeks with more details and registration information. Please be on the lookout and RSVP as soon as you receive it.

Hope to see you in September!

Vanesa Perry Bowden Event Planning Chair for The Great Class of 1967



THANK YOU TO DEBBIE GANDY MCBRIDE

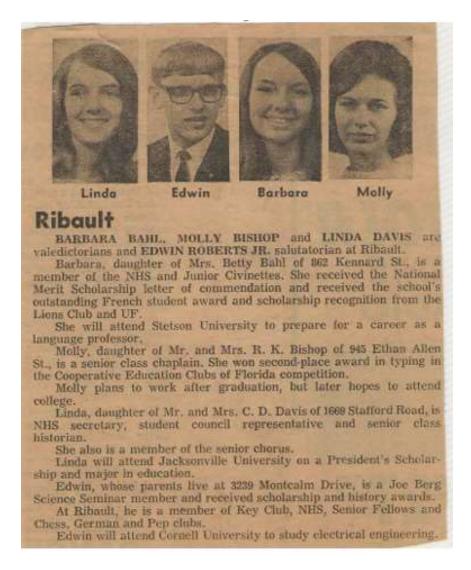




We all want to give our Webmaster Extraordinaire, Debbie Gandy McBride, a huge **THANKS** for taking our website to its highest peak ever. Debbie gave this job her whole heart and soul. She worked tirelessly on keeping it fresh and exciting every day. In particular her pages dedicated to our class veterans and her holiday specific presentations were magnificent. Debbie decided due to family commitments, among other things, that she needed to free herself of the website. Debbie, we will always be so grateful for all the time and effort you gave and the wonderful work you did. I personally loved working alongside you and learning so much.

RECOGNIZING OUR VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIAN 57 YEARS LATER

When the yearbook went to press our senior year, the valedictorian and salutatorian had not been chosen. What a shame that the four classmates receiving the highest honors after four years in high school were not featured in our yearbook. Albeit 57 years later, let's recognize them now.





Linda Davis Conahan, Valedictorian

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, Linda Conahan is a native Floridian from humble roots. She was the first in her family to attend college. She graduated the University of Florida with high honors and was part of the largest class of female students to ever enter the University of Florida Law School before starting her legal career in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

A loyal and committed partner, Linda practiced at only two firms in her 42-year career. She was the first and only woman attorney at English, McCaughan & O'Bryan ("EMO"), a venerable old Fort Lauderdale firm tracing its roots back to 1925. In 1983 Linda became the first woman partner at EMO. She became the first and only woman to serve on its Board of Directors, the first and only woman to head its litigation department, and the first and only woman to be elected as EMO's managing shareholder.

Later Linda joined Gunster, also a firm established in 1925. Over her time at Gunster, she watched the firm grow from a four-office firm with 80 lawyers to a 200-lawyer AmLaw 200 Florida law firm with 13 offices across the state. At Gunster she became the first woman litigator to make equity shareholder and the first woman to ever serve on Gunster's Board of Directors. She chaired the firm's Ethics Committee for many years and served as Deputy Chair of the Business Litigation Practice Group and helped run the Women's Leadership Forum.

Her achievements in Broward County are many. She became active as a young lawyer in the Broward County Bar Association ("BCBA"). She organized the first Bench-Bar Conference in Broward County and the first Young Lawyers Judicial Reception and both events continue to this day. She co-founded and created Broward Lawyers Care—a private bar partnership with legal aid to provide services beyond what legal aid can accomplish on its own small budget. She was only the second woman president of the BCBA and served as President of the Legal Aid Society of Broward County. She also received the Florida Supreme Court President's Pro Bono Award for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit for her work in creating and building the Broward Lawyers Care project.

Linda has the distinction of being an inaugural member of the Bar Register of AV Rated Preeminent Women Lawyers. She has also been recognized by The Best Lawyers in America® for Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Banking & Finance Litigation and Real Estate Litigation. Her honors also include recognition as one of "100 Outstanding Women" of Broward County, Florida Trend's "Legal Elite," South Florida Legal Guide's Top Lawyers and as a SuperLawyer. She has litigated cases from Broward County court to the United States Supreme Court.

Linda has been active in the community as well. She was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist and served on the Florida Commission on Ethics. She is a proud graduate of Leadership Broward, Class Number III. She is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, was a trustee member of the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Corporate Council who honored her with its Economic Development Leadership Award in 2019.

She was married to Cormac ("Mac") Conahan, her law school sweetheart, for 45 years. She lost Mac in 2022 after an exceptionally long battle with glioblastoma. She retired from the practice of law in March 2020 only days before the pandemic shutdown. She and Mac had planned to travel after retirement. Instead they took daily walks and sat at the beach for as long as he was able. They lived a blessed life. They worked hard, traveled, raised

two beautiful children, Cormac and Caitlin, and enjoyed every minute of their lives together.



Christmas Day 2021 with Linda and her daughter, Caitlin; son, Cormac, Jr.; and her husband, Cormac, Sr., who passed away in 2022.



Molly Sue Bishop Smith, Valedictorian

To my Senior Class friends:

I've been struggling with what to say in this letter. I hope I can, at least halfway, express my thoughts. I think Alice was probably wondering if I was ever going to get this to her. And, I must say, I think it has been good for me, because it has caused me to think back on a lot of things from that time and made me smile.

In our freshman year and senior year, I was Chaplain of the class. This was actually my favorite accomplishment in high school. I can remember preparing devotionals that I hoped would be helpful and uplifting to everyone. I took that job very seriously.

In our sophomore year, I decided to go a little more political ③; I was President of the Sophomore Class, which was somewhat over my head. I think our Senior Sponsor did most of the work, as I recall.

Then, I was one of the THREE Valedictorians. Now, don't get me wrong. I worked very hard for that honor. I studied all the time (my fiancé, Bill, now my very cherished husband of 56 years, was away in the Navy). I cried when I didn't do well on a test. I worried and then studied some more, and I prayed every day that I would be Valedictorian. I really wanted that honor—but I wanted that honor for my mother and father! So, I've always known, my being one of the THREE Valedictorians was an answer to my prayer. Who had ever heard of having THREE valedictorians before? I wasn't that smart—but I did work hard, and God answered my prayer. That is truthfully the way I have always felt about it. I'm still thankful to God for doing that for my precious Mom and Dad.

Now what has happened to me since then?

I've just had a very normal life—I've done nothing special—but I've had a very happy and fulfilled life. I have a wonderful husband, four wonderful children (which includes a daughter-in-law and son-in-law), and four wonderful grandchildren. We've had our ups and downs, just like everyone else; we've disappointed each other and God at times, but the love of God has held us together.

I did get an AA degree, finalizing it after the birth of our first child. After that, the busyness of life kept me from going back. I truly believe the School of Life is the most important learning experience, anyway. I love to read—especially about people/especially historical biographies—and I feel I gain knowledge that way. In my work, I always grabbed every training opportunity available, and I asked a lot of questions (even when people looked at me funny).

I'm still working—I have an at-home auditing job. God put that job in my lap, as I was "retiring." In fact, when I think about it, I can say with certainty "every good and perfect gift comes from God."

One final thing. I remember quoting "If" by Rudyard Kipling at our graduation. I just now read it again, and my thoughts are, "Wow, that's even more appropriate today." I don't know about you, but I want to live that way.

Love you all—Truly,

Molly Sue Bishop Smith—3/16/24

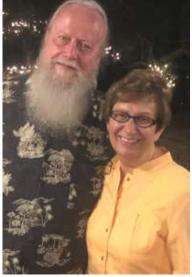
"IF" by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you Are losing theirs and blaming it on you, If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, But make allowance for their doubting too; If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, Or being lied about, don't deal in lies, Or being hated, don't give way to hating, And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master; If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim; If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster And treat those two impostors just the same; If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools, Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken, And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch, If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, If all men count with you, but none too much; If you can fill the unforgiving minute With sixty seconds' worth of distance run, Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

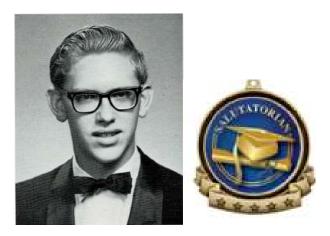


Bill and Molly



Barbara Bahl Salvage, Valedictorian

Although attempts were made to contact Barbara, no response has been received.



Edwin (Ed) Roberts, Salutatorian

After Ribault, I got my degree in electrical engineering and computer science from Cornell. Shortly after finishing my degree, I got married to Mary Ellen Doherty of Milton, Massachusetts. I met her at a mixer at Elmira college in my senior year. We were married on June 10, 1972. I started working in business computing writing and designing programs. After my oldest daughter, Melanie, was born, I had an opportunity to do computing research, but I was already so far into my career doing business computing I couldn't take the pay cut to pursue a more interesting career. I did obtain a Masters in Information Science from Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute around the same time as I decided to stay in business computing.

I tried data processing management at a small company that subsequently went out of business. It provided me with the experience that highlighted my lack of ability with interpersonal relationships. I went to an analyst and it turns out that I have Aspergers. That explained a lot to me and my wife and it makes it easier when I can identify behaviors that can be perplexing. So, my next job was as a database administrator, which I continued in various assignments until retirement. Towards the end of my career, I got a certificate for website creation and management from Three Rivers College, in case I

needed to change jobs. I didn't have to change jobs. I had almost 40 years with General Dynamics and Computer Science Corporation when I retired. I don't miss it.

My second daughter, Wendy, was born about the same time as I began my database assignments. She has subsequently provided me with my only grandchild, Andy. I had lived in Connecticut with my family until retirement, when I moved to the Orlando, Florida area.

I live 45 minutes from Disney and am an annual pass holder. Besides that I enjoy reading fantasy stories. I also play fantasy football with co-workers that we started playing in 1995. I occasionally golf. I still play the piano and I've picked up Ukelele in a group in my retirement community. Also in 1995, I began to follow UConn Women's basketball. I used to have season tickets to attend the home games with my youngest daughter.

Only thing I would want to say is that I'm sorry if I ever offended anyone in high school. I'm still trying to overcome my personality short-comings.

It wouldn't bother me if you left me out of the newsletter as I was only honored because the three women were tied in perfection that easily outperformed me. I probably won't be back in Florida by September 28 [date of the 75th birthday dinner dance]. We have a condo in Connecticut to spend time with my wife's friends and family and to avoid the Florida summer heat and humidity.

Ed



Ed, with his oldest daughter, Melanie, on a family Alaska cruise in July 2018. Melanie got her PHD in neurobiology from the University of Washington and is now a director for science policy and applications.

EUROPE'S HAWAII

By Frances Stewart Hanson-Grow





Visiting the Azores wasn't on my bucket list, not even the longest one. I vaguely knew where they were. Then Laura, my daughter, and Austin, her partner, decided to move there after a 2023 vacation when they fell in love with the islands, the food, and - most of all - the people. Barely a vear later, residency

visas in hand, they were ready to fly themselves, two cats, and eight maximum-size bags from Pensacola to Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores, Portugal. With me in tow for an all-expenses-paid weeklong visit. It was breakfast time when we arrived. Flight delays had extended a long travel day into a 20+ hour exhausting one. Still, we were determined to stay awake until as near Azorean bedtime as possible. Antonio, one of our wonderful hosts at the Marina Lounge Guesthouse helped by treating us to pastry delights and strong coffee at the nearby bakery and, later, lunch. In between meals we unpacked and tried to help the cats begin to acclimate. By midafternoon, needing activity to keep from nodding off, we wandered down to the harbor so Laura and Austin could begin my introduction to their new home. Our 30+ hour day finally caught up with us and we were back at the guesthouse and in bed by 8:00. Laura and Austin had the apartment downstairs for a month. My bed and breakfast quarters - bedroom, private bath, and communal sitting/TV room - were two floors up. Antonio fueled my daily adventures with delicious breakfasts of more food than I could possibly eat. And I can eat a lot.

Every morning Laura called me with the plan for the day. I quickly discovered the island offered a variety of interesting features, natural and manmade. I also discovered the Azoreans have a whimsical, artistic sense

of humor. Gnomes perched on branches of the trees in one park. Wall murals are common.







The residential contractor, and sculptural potter, in me were fascinated by the creative use of readily available resources. All but the most modern structures are built with blocks of black basalt. Sometimes the blocks are left natural, but on buildings most of them are skimmed with concrete and painted. The rest become decorative accents, often beautifully carved. Sculptures and statues carved from basalt relate the stories of important events or people. I loved the decorative sidewalks, made from the hardest lava rocks. Some of the patterns were amazing. It's common to see locally made ceramic tiles as street signs on the corners of buildings or as decorations over doorways.



This church can be seen long before you reach the town.



These are all hand cut and laid.



This colorful home has a tile plaque.

Even in winter flowers bloomed, many sub-tropical, thanks to the temperate maritime climate. Most days we were warmer than back home at Pensacola Beach. Once-private gardens, many with plants from all over the world, are now open to the public. Terra Nostra, in Furnas, was one of my

favorites. In addition to wonderful plants, it has a geothermal pool to soak in and sooth old joints. Especially welcome after a morning of sightseeing. São Miguel is hilly. Hard to practice for that in flat Florida, even with the treadmill on max incline.







Natal - Christmas - was in full season. I loved it. Antonio had put up a small tree for Laura and Austin because she had told him that with all she had to do getting ready to move it didn't feel like



Christmas. Nativities of all sizes were everywhere - churches, parks, and windows. Every night we walked along light-canopied streets to the city gates near the harbor for the festival of artisans, food, drink, and entertainment. People we passed smiled and said hello. A car slowed and honked. The driver waved and called out to us. He was our server from the restaurant the day before who had advised us which fresh seafood to try from the ice-filled display case. I felt welcome here.



Although flat, these life-size wisemen looked 3D.



A paint store used their products.







But it was the wild, natural beauty of the island that I loved most. Not surprising since I prefer to vacation in such surroundings. The Azoreans have wisely preserved public access. For an island roughly 40 miles long and 10 miles wide the amount set aside is impressive. Scenic overlooks abound, as do beachfront parks - many with bathhouses and restrooms. Public swimming pools are everywhere - some natural, some manmade, and some a combination of both. Hiking trails dot the tourist map Antonio gave me. Bless him, he had marked every place he thought Laura and Austin should take me, including two potteries. I'd have needed at least twice as many days.



Aptly named elephant rock.



Sea pinnacles and black sand beach. Hawaiiesque.



I watched a man swimming laps in this Atlantic-fed public pool. Laura told me there are ropes across the entrance gap. I told her that's also an exit gap. No way this Florida girl was getting in there.





One of Antonio's suggestions, with which Laura and Austin agreed, was the Rocha de Relva (Grass Rock) trial. The 6.6-mile (round trip) hike put my year-and-half-old replacement knee to the test with 1040ft of elevation loss/gain from the parking area to the small seaside settlement far below. On one side, the changing geologic formations along the sea cliff revealed the volcanic activity that formed this part of the island. On the other, waves crashed ashore frosting the deep blue Atlantic with lacy white foam. The mercurial Azorean weather changed as we hiked, from hazy skies to full sun. Thank goodness we knew all about dressing in layers. Back at the top I paused at the small shrine to thank God for a safe hike, and my orthopedic surgeon for a pain-free one.



Our destination.



Reminds me of Utah sandstone.



The really hard way down.



Someone carried this "gate" down.



Almost there. In summer there's a little café/bar open.





Suddenly it was my last day. Since my flight didn't leave until almost 6:00pm, Laura and I decided to enjoy the beautiful, sunny weather. Leaving Austin with the still-recovering cats, Laura and I walked to the home and gardens of the President of the Autonomous Region of Azores. The Azores are a part of Portugal but have their own government. It cost Laura a whopping 2 € for entry. I paid only 1 €. Being a golden oldie

has perks in the Azores, too. I was surprised we were allowed to walk that close to the Sant'Ana Palace. The Nativity scenes here were constructed from waste products from the garden. A lot of the Nativities were equally creative with the materials they used.

For 49 years Laura had never lived more than 15 minutes





from me so telling her and Austin goodbye at the airport was hard. But I did it with a better understanding of their decision. Life on São Miguel took me back to when I grew up. A slower-

paced, safer, and friendlier time - a time when glass bottles of cold milk were delivered to our door. Here they also hang bags of just baked bread from the doorknobs. And a pick-up truck, loaded with colorful fresh produce, rolls slowly through the narrow streets, stops, and with a honk calls customers to come outside.

Waiting on the tarmac to board my plane, I wished I didn't have to overnight in Boston. I was ready to get home to my husband. Besides just wanting to see Tom, I was eager to show him my photos and tell him all about the places I'd been, and things I'd done, that I knew he would enjoy. In other words, I was ready to start planning my next trip to what Laura calls, "a small bit of volcanic rock in the middle of the Atlantic." This time with Tom in tow, all-expenses-paid.

volcanic rock in the middle of the Atlantic." This time with Tom in tow, all-expenses-paid.



Tom and Frances

THE FLIP

Recently, Vanesa posted this question on our Facebook page:

Who remembers what the most popular hairstyle was for the ladies in our class? And the most popular hairstyle was:



Lynda D. Adams



Judy A. Baucom



Carolyn Allen



Molly Sue Bishop



Linda L. Andrews



Darlene Church



Barbara A. Bahl



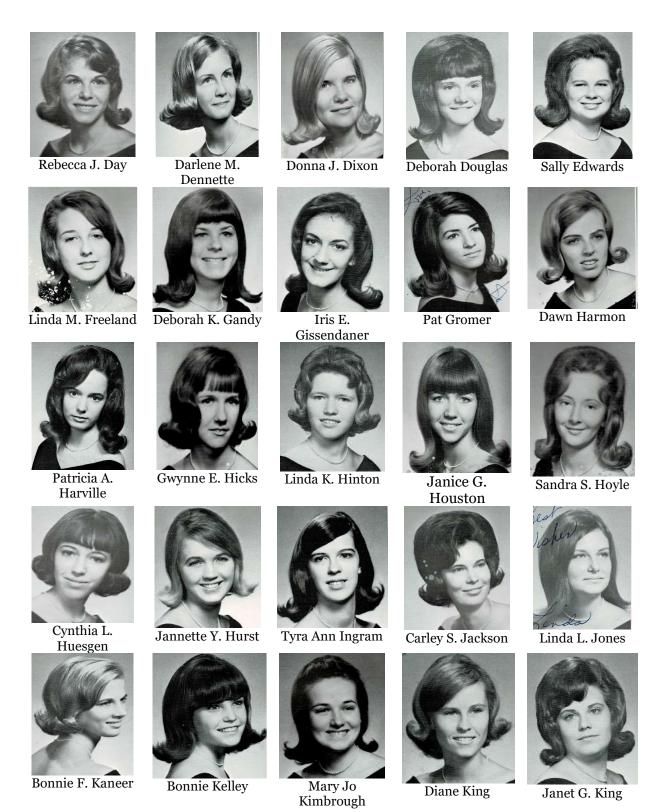
June E. Crow

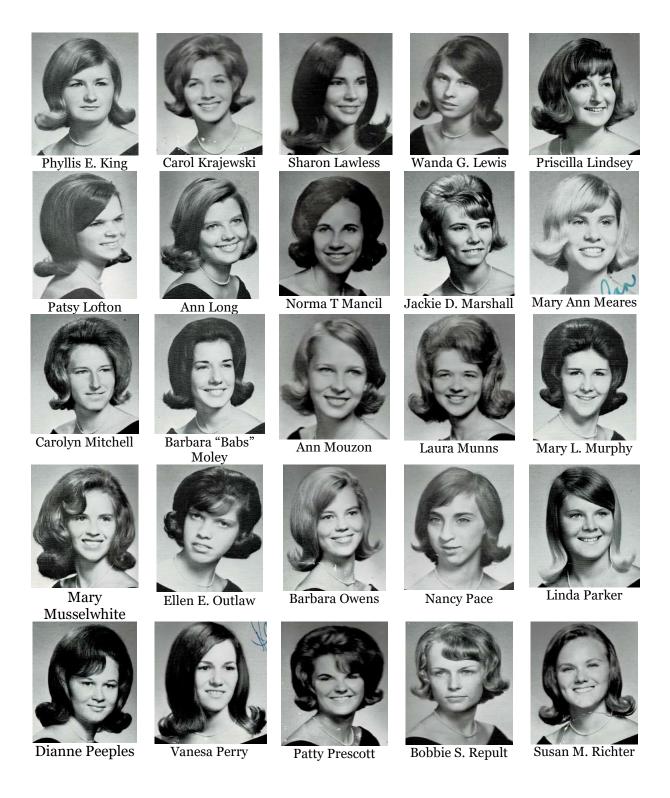


Alice I. Bartlett



Linda A Davis







Teresa K. Roberts



M. Diane Sherrill



Dorothy F. Shivers



Marsha G. Sponholtz



Frances E. Stewart



Kathy Van Stewart



Karen M. Suggs



Janice C. Tokarz



Lessie Ann Turner



Patricia "Linda" Vaughan



Mary L. Walker



Charmaine Weaver



Marsha M. Wills



Judith L. Wilson



Sherryl A. Wilson



Nancy Ynclan



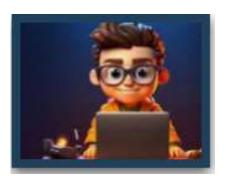
Linda K. Groth



Martha J. Leggett

WEBMASTER NEEDED

I am only the "interim" webmaster holding down the fort until we have a volunteer step up to take over Debbie's job as class webmaster. I do not have all the technical skills required nor the time, passion or interest, to become the webmaster. If you have the technical skills and interest, please let us know. I would love to continue to assist in editing, proofreading and contributing.



TWO CLASS FACEBOOK PAGES



Ribault High School "67" FB Friends

Darlene Church Friend (RIP) and Sharon Lane began a Facebook page years ago. Terry Gentry Morefield came along later and began one as well, not knowing a class Facebook page already existed. Going forward please use our Facebook page located at "Ribault High School "67" FB Friends."

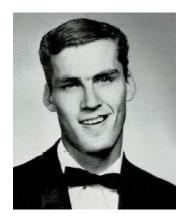
PRAYER REQUESTS

For the Family of **Herman Hansen**

Tim Delrose let us know that Herman Hansen passed away on January 31, 2024 after a long battle with cancer. Below are links to Herman's obituary and a slide show tribute.

http://www.rhrfh.com/herman-edwin-hansen/

https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/BL6YWJPLF8BR989N



Tim shared that he did not know Herman all that well in high school but did get to know Herman and his wife, Kathy, in later years. They attended together the First Baptist Church of Middleburg. They were even in Sunday School together.

PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU

There is no way we can know about every illness or death or when your email address changes unless you tell us. We promise if you will let us know, we will do our part to keep you well informed. abmabry49@gmail.com

Mary Ann Meares Crumbly, Reunion Committee Chairman: tcrum07@comcast.net
Alice Bartlett Mabry, Editor of Quarterly Newsletter and Interim Webmaster: abmabry49@gmail.com

Terry Gentry Morefield, Class Facebook Chief Admin.: terrymorefield@comcast.net



The Happenings 1966—See You In September https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JQS6H2AXdM

