



October 2025, No. 21

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



“In the entire circle of the year there are no days so delightful as those of a fine October, when the trees are bare to the mild heavens, and the red leaves bestrew the road, and you can feel the breath of winter, morning and evening—no days so calm, so tenderly solemn, and with such a reverent meekness in the air.” —Alexander Smith

REUNION COMMITTEE NEWS

Chairman's Corner

By Patrick Knezevich, Chairman

The Reunion Committee is working hard on our 60th Reunion. Vanesa Perry Bowden and I have been searching for a venue. We have a few prospects in mind. When we narrow it down, we will announce it to the class.

We are also working on fundraising projects. We have an upcoming yard sale. The Committee and other classmates are gathering items for the sale. Please let Sharon Lane

(guslane35@gmail.com) or Jeri Brooker Friend (jeribcarroll@icloud.com) know if you have items you would like to contribute. We have not set the date for the sale yet, but we are hopeful it will be before the end of the year.

The Knights of Columbus were generous and gave our class **\$800** toward our Reunion from the profits of their latest Bingo Night on September 19.

Please keep checking your email and the class Facebook page for further information about our Reunion and fundraising events coming up.

Backpack Project for the Homeless **By Mary Ann Meares Crumley**

Hello Class of '67! The Committee is thrilled to be collecting donations for Sharon Lane's son, Chris, to distribute to the Homeless of Jacksonville. We participated last year in this project, and it was definitely a worthy cause for our Committee.

At present, we will have enough items to fill 15 new backpacks. Donations from Committee Members have been wonderful. Just to mention a few—15 New Testament Bibles, Dial bar soap, 15 throw blankets, fifteen toothbrushes and toothpaste, socks for adults and box food items.

We will gather at my house on November 15 to pack backpacks and have lunch. I must say what a worthy project this is for us again this year.

The Committee wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

YARD SALE **By Alice Bartlett Mabry**



This is what I get for **not** being able to attend the yard sale in person. I have to write the article for the newsletter. HaHaHa!!!

Sometime before the end of the year, the Reunion Committee is planning to hold a yard sale at a location still to be determined. In the meantime, the Committee is collecting items to sell. At this point in our lives, we all have “shittery” (a Judy Baucom Hunter word)

that we would love to share with someone else. I believe that old saying is “one man’s junk is another man’s treasure.”

If you would like (1) to get rid of some “junk” or (2) acquire some “treasures,” stay tuned for updated information both on our Facebook page and in a class email. Please contact Vanesa Perry Bowden at vpbowden33@gmail.com for pickup information. Ray Godbee has volunteered to drive his truck for pickup.

Jeri Brooker Friend (jeribcarroll@icloud.com) and Sharon Lane (guslane35@gmail.com) are in charge of the Yard Sale. Please contact them for any information other than pickup.

Bingo Night

By Vanesa Perry Bowden, Vice Chairman



Your Reunion Committee assisted the Knights of Columbus at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, where our Chairman Pat Knezevich has a leadership role, in putting on their monthly Bingo Night on September 19. We helped set up, serve food, deliver prizes, and perform anything else needed to make this not only a profitable night, but a fun one as well. Thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus, we profited **\$800** to benefit our 60th Class Reunion!





John Hadley
Dick Cardell &
Linda Wolf Turner
Bobby & Jeri Brooker Friend
Bev Coyner Hadley



Carrie Knezevich
Charlene Barrow Catlett



Linda Parker Dixon &
Dick Dixon
Cathy Copps Hillis
Celeste Budd Evans
Brenda Budd Russell

BONO'S NIGHTS CONTINUE WITH MORE EXCITEMENT THAN EVER!

By Vanesa Perry Bowden



**Bono's
4907 Beach Boulevard
Thursday, October 2, 2025
5:00 p.m.**

It would not be an exaggeration to say that our monthly Ribault Alumni Dinners at the Bono's on Beach Boulevard have sparked a new enthusiasm among all the Class of '67 members that attend on the first Thursday of every month, as well as beginning and nurturing friendships with members of other Ribault classes.

Each month we gather at 5:00 p.m., have a barbecue dinner and socialize with each other. These dinners resulted in our including several other classes in our 75th Birthday Party festivities, as well as invitations from other classes for us to participate in their gatherings.

You may have noticed the recent posting from Class of '65 alumni commenting on what a wonderful time they had at our birthday party a year ago (see picture below).

These special friends also support our fundraising efforts each Bono's night by purchasing 50/50 raffle tickets. Due to their support, we have profited over **\$500** to date to help offset the cost of our 60th Reunion in 2027!



Class of '65

L: Richard Brickey & Janice Hancock Johnson
R: Joyce Bossinger Johnson & Glenn Miller

Last month's winner was none other than our Eddie Dedmon.



*Not sure who is having the best time. Charlene isn't either.
Eddie counting his money or Wayne eating his Texas Toast.*

If you have not yet attended one of these special evenings, you have an opportunity this **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, AT 5:00 P.M.** We look forward to seeing you at the original Bono's located at 4907 Beach Boulevard. Please let me know if you would like to attend so I can make sure enough space is reserved. vpbowden33@gmail.com

By the way, do not forget to bring some spending money (cash) for the 50/50 raffle. You may just end up being a lucky winner like Eddie!

CLASS OF '68 BIRTHDAY PARTY

(They grow up fast—now 75!)

By Vanesa Perry Bowden

Through our renewed friendships at our Ribault Alumni Bono's Nights, we were invited to attend the 75th Birthday Party for the Class of '68, which they held at a venue called "Dreamers" on September 20. Their party was almost, but not quite (LOL), as much fun as ours was last September 28.

Their decorations were detailed and fabulous and their country menu was delicious and plentiful, causing all of us to loosen our belts and take extras home. The music provided by a DJ was just our style and we are proud to say that your classmates got things rolling on the dance floor.

Those attending from our class were: Pat & Carrie Knezevich, Vanesa Perry Bowden, Jeri Brooker Friend, John & Bev Coyner Hadley, Dick & Linda Parker Dixon, Eddie Dedmon, Charlene Barrow Catlett, and Wayne & Debbie Williams.





Charlene Barrow Catlett
Debbie & Wayne Williams



Two '68 Classmates
dressed in their "Staying
Alive" theme outfits.



Ron Drury (Linda Drury
Drewery's younger brother)
Vanessa Perry Bowden

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

By Vanessa Perry Bowden

Look what we started! Two veteran scrapbookers gathered with two beloved classmates to enjoy a new hobby. Is there a classmate you would like to reconnect with? Facebook is an excellent way to find that classmate! Pictured from left to right are Linda Parker Dixon (vet), Jeri Brooker Friend, Vanessa Perry Bowden (vet), and Cathy Capps Hillis.



MY NAVY AND AIR FORCE DUTY

By Debbie Gandy McBride

This story of my duty in the Navy is in no way a comparison to the duty of those of our classmates who served in the Vietnam War or other conflicts overseas. However, I felt it was a story worth sharing with our class.

I first served in the Air Force in 1977. Later in early 80s I was able to go into the Navy. I was selected to go in the field of Cryptology which was top secret codes. I was a CRT Morse Code Intercept, nicknamed "Spooks." The Morse Code was my second language. We intercepted military information from potential enemies. We tuned into radio transmissions through the antenna. Mostly I intercepted Russians, Cubans, and other countries of questionable intentions. Russians sent the fastest code speed. Proudly, I won two *Samuel B. Morris* awards for receiving extremely fast codes.

My station was of choice, which was Puerto Rico. This after being in Alaska for the Air Force was a nice change!

The Morse Code was sent and received nationwide by a giant antenna array usually near the coast. I was on duty at the time of the Grenada Invasion. I knew before I arrived that the transport bus (large school bus) that we took from base to the antenna array two years prior was attacked by the Sabana Seca ambush.* They shot up the bus and killed two sailors and wounded another 10.

In the Navy we had our main career, but also extra duties assigned daily or weekly. That could be anything from shore patrol to driving that bus transporting my fellow sailors to work. The thing was the bus that I drove as extra duty at times could not stop for traffic lights or stop signs nor traffic. It was escorted daily by Puerto Rican Police and followed by our Marine comrades in a military vehicle. Somewhat like in the movie *Speed*, the driver of the bus was not to stop or slow down. So here I was, small as I am, driving this exceptionally large school bus to the coastal antenna array that was also guarded by Marines on the outside to prevent enemies breaking into the top-secret facility. While it was exciting, it was also important to keep my fellow sailors safe. As it was, when the Grenada Invasion started, I was on duty when the code started coming in quickly at our facility. We were the first to know.

I am humbled and honored by my service. Both the Air Force and Navy were life changing for me. I had many such happenings in both branches of service, but this one stood out as a good story. [Alice chose this one.]

As Veterans Day comes, we have many honored Vets in our class that served, some of whom we lost in the War.

Below is a picture of the antenna array in Puerto Rico. It is gigantic. These do not exist anymore as technology advanced to other more sophisticated devices. As a side note, my father, Ed Gandy, was in the Normandy Invasion on the USS Texas. He was a Signalman (SMG 1) which was Morse Code. He was 16 years old on D-day.

God Bless our Country!



[*Terrorists in Puerto Rico Ambush Navy Bus, Killing 2 and Injuring 10 - The New York Times](#)

[Note: This link will not open in PDF format. You can copy and paste in your browser to read.]

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the family of our classmate **Jannette Hurst Jett**. Janette passed away on August 14, 2025. She is survived by her husband Rex, whom we often saw at many of our events. Jan and Rex were married 56 years and had two daughters, Christine and Mechelle.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/jannette-jett-obituary?id=59264857>



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 let us know. We promise if you will let us know, we will do our part to keep you well informed.

If you are not already on our “Ribault High School ‘67’ FB Friends” page, please join us. This is our most direct form of communication, and we have over 100 classmates on our page. We have rules that keep our page fun and safe. You must have a connection to our class in order to be approved to join our page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/336958183371434/>

Contacts:

Pat Knezevich, Chairman of the Reunion Committee: knezpd1949@gmail.com

Vanesa Perry Bowden, Vice Chairman of the Reunion Committee:
vpbowden33@gmail.com

Jeri Brooker Friend, Secretary of the Reunion Committee: jeribcarroll@icloud.com

Nancy Pace Ford, Treasurer of the Reunion Committee: npford49@hotmail.com

Alice Bartlett Mabry, Editor of Quarterly Newsletter, Facebook Admin. and Webmaster: abmabry49@gmail.com

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

HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND
DON'T LET THE GHOSTS BITE!!!

