

Ribault Senior High School
Jacksonville, Florida

Class of 1967



June 2021, No. 3

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Can you believe half of this year is almost over? Hopefully all who wanted to have received their covid vaccinations and were able to enjoy Memorial Day weekend without a mask. Ladies, back to makeup. No 72 year old lady should be without her lipstick!!!

OUR VETERANS

Thank you for the responses received after our last newsletter updating information on our veterans. Some of the information below was included in Newsletter No. 2 but worth repeating.

First, let us remember our classmates, McKinley Rice, Wayne Roberts and Joseph "Freddie" Smith who died in the performance of their military duties while serving in Vietnam. Yesterday was Memorial Day which is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Second, let us recognize our classmates who were veterans and have died since: Ken Davies, Bobby McLean, Jack Weatherly, James Warren, Ron Kozieracki, Dwight Loadholtes, Michael Adams, Frankie Cribbs, Kerry Page, Glenn Daniels, John Hardy, Butch James and Donald Kelley.

Third, let us thank our classmates for their service who are thankfully still with us: Debbie Gandy McBride, Karl Holliman, Jerry Nelson, Larry Nelson, Terry Leachman, Buddy Campbell, Gerald "Jerry" Pember, Ray Godbee, Bobby Friend and Larry Waters. If you are a veteran and not listed here, thank you for your service and please send me your name.

55th CLASS REUNION (2022) SURVEY RESULTS

On April 23 a reunion survey was emailed to the class. A follow-up email was sent on May 2. Here are the current results from the feedback:

Responses	33
Three-Day Event	17
One-Day Event	12
Spring	20
Summer	6
Fall	7
Venue	Near Water
Activities	Plenty of visiting time Golf Deep sea fishing Yard games Dancing
Saturday Night Event	Nice dinner Picnic Barbecue/cook out
Theme Suggestions	Back to the Future If You Don't Know Me By Now Can't Drive 55 Blast from the Past w/the Class Hawaiian Holiday 70s Rock N Roll 55 is Mighty Fine

It is not too late to respond. However, by 2022 folks will be out and about again and securing a hotel and Saturday night venue will need to be done soon. The committee has begun making plans. If you have not already done so, please take a minute **right now** to fill out your survey and email it to Sharon Lane guslane35@gmail.com. Email Alice Bartlett Mabry abmabry49@gmail.com if you need another copy of the survey. Let's get this show on the road!

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION—Adult Child Moving Back Home

Many have found themselves in the position of an adult child moving back home, whether it be for a short time or an extended time with no end in sight. As much as we love our children dearly, it is not easy when one comes back home as an adult to live. If this has been the case for you, please share some pointers on how you found it best to deal with this situation. Please send your thoughts to Alice abmabry49@gmail.com. All information will be kept anonymous.

SKIP LEWIS—IN REMEMBRANCE (by Ann Smith Nowlin)

As we are beginning to prepare for another reunion, I was having thoughts about some that are no longer with us. Sometimes people have a rough start but find redemption and a purpose mid-life.

I have thought that of Skip Lewis. Attending his funeral, I learned a lot more about his generosity of both time and finances. There were a number of men giving testimony to the help he offered them and their respective families His work with AA, particularly making himself available at any and all hours for a struggling fellow soul, was stated over and over again, with some in tears. They thanked his wife for the time he had given them and apologized for the interruptions they had caused in their family's life.

Skippy showed up at a reunion committee meeting many years ago, thanked us for all the efforts over the years and promptly wrote us a check to kick off the next event.

We may start slow and may finish poorly. But sometimes there is redemption in a period of our better humanity worth remembering.

Note: Please send to Alice Bartlett Mabry abmabry49@gmail.com your story of a fellow classmate you would like to pay tribute.

CAREER/RETIRMENT/MILITARY SERVICE

Debbie Gandy McBride did a tour of service in the US Air Force as an AGE Mechanic and the US Navy as Cryptologist (post-Vietnam era). She retired from the State of Florida as a Computer Network Analyst. After retirement, she worked for the Fernandina Beach Police as a Dispatcher/911 Communication Officer. She is now working at White Oak Conservation as security part time and just passed her FCC technician ham radio license test. Debbie says "life is interesting." She encourages all to continue to learn and explore life as we live on an amazing planet.

Judy Sontag is still working in the Philadelphia area as a travel agent. She moved to the north eight years ago to enjoy her grandchildren. Judy now has seven grands and three great grands.

Hank "Corky" Powell, as he put it, jetted around European capitals running finance for a big American computer company and retired young, after managing a venture capital firm in West Palm Beach, to a horse-breeding farm in the Hudson Valley. Corky found after a while he was working for the farm and the farm wasn't working for him anymore, so the family moved to the beach in Branford, Connecticut to recapture the "waves" feeling. Corky and his wife have since moved to an antique house in Queens to care for their new grandson while their daughter pursues her career as an artist. Corky and his wife also have a son. Both children graduated from Bard and live in the "Big Apple."

Terry Leachman retired from the Xerox Corporation. He is currently caring for his wife, Marilyn Carroll (Jackson '71) of 46 years, and enjoying being a full time musician in a Rock n Roll band, Bob Dylan Tribute band and a Blue Grass band.

Larry Waters shared his amazing military service. He wanted to make it very clear that not all Vietnam veterans served on the ground in Vietnam and whatever decorations and awards they may have received for their involvement in no way compared to those engaged in combat missions nor those that shed blood or died while serving there. His permanent duty station during the Vietnam conflict was in Thailand, not in Vietnam. However, he was sent on many temporary duty assignments all over Southeast Asia due to his AFSC and training in specialized fields prior to arriving, most of which were anywhere from secret to top-secret. Some were classified bombs and other munitions, while others were CBR (Chemical, Biological, Radiological) materials since he was a qualified Technical Escort. Even though they were not supposed to be in either Laos or Cambodia, he was and was eligible to be sent anywhere at the military's discretion. His activities were in direct support of those stationed "in country" who benefited greatly from the missions they were assigned. He was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal & Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal while there. By virtue of his service, Larry is also a lifetime member of the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars). After returning from SE Asia, he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, which was one of only two in his squadron.

Dwight Loadholtes (Posthumously). We lost Dwight in June 2006. He served during the Vietnam-era in the USAF SAC Unit from 1967 to 1971. During that time he was stationed at Minot, North Dakota, which is a nuclear missile base equipped with intercontinental ballistic missiles. Sergeant Loadholtes' responsibilities included spending many hours monitoring situations with the missiles underground and he was equipped with the firing codes in a case strapped to his wrist the whole time. Those missiles are there to protect this Country 24/7—365 against an attack from anywhere in the world, so the importance of their existence cannot be overstated nor the mission of the military there. RIP, Dwight, and thank you for your remarkable service. This information was provided by classmates Larry Waters and Elisabeth North Nightingale, who was Dwight's cousin but thought of him as a brother.

PRAYERS

For the Family of Donna L. Branham. Donna passed away on April 29, 2021. Her Celebration of Life Service was held on May 3, 2021 in Lugoff, South Carolina. One of Donna's surviving sisters, Blanche Branham Cribbs, was married to our classmate Frankie Cribbs. Frankie passed away in 2007.

<https://powersfuneralhome.net/tribute/details/3484/Donna-Branham/obituary.html>.

Edwina Millican Richards had hip replacement surgery on May 10. Trooper that she is, Edwina is home recovering well. Edwina's email address is edwinapottery@gmail.com.

Joan Kilpatrick Stallworth lost her beloved husband, Barney Stallworth, on May 13, 2021. Joan's email address is jstallworth@gmail.com.
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tallahassee/obituary.aspx?pid=198691985>

Sharon Dewberry Lord's husband, Mark "Rocky" Lord (Class of '68) is undergoing knee replacement on June 1. Sharon's email address is smlord53@comcast.net.

THANK YOU, JUDY

Our Webmaster Extraordinaire, Judy Baucom Hunter, is now ready to turn over the reins. No class has had a better website than the Ribault Class of '67. Judy spent month after month over the past 14 years maintaining it. We owe her a huge **THANK YOU** for her labor of love. Judy and her husband, Wally, live in Cape Coral and are enjoying a wonderful life. Judy stays busy redecorating her beautiful home and entertaining, among other things. She is an excellent cook and baker and she can throw a party unlike any other. She does everything from the invitations to the food to the flowers to the decorations and is the most beautiful hostess you have ever seen. Before Covid, they were avid travelers and they are now looking forward to traveling again.

CORRECTION

Jerry Pember's correct email address is gfgap@comcast.net.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter. Please keep the news coming.