

Ribault Senior High School  
Jacksonville, Florida

Class of 1967



October 2024, No. 17

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND FABULOUS FALL!!!

Can it be October already??? Yep, it can! So here we go into the fourth quarter of 2024. Love the chilly weather, the incredible colors of the changing leaves, piping hot chocolate, spicy chili (hold the beans, please) and the warmth of a glowing fireplace. Hope all of you are well . . . and dry! **HURRICANES BEGONE, PLEASE!!!**

Well, Great Ribault Class of '67, we really put this one in the books. Our *Denim and Diamonds 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner Dance* was everything we hoped it would be and more. The best part was the turnout. If counted correctly, we had 51 classmates. Perhaps an all-time record. Thank all of you who came. Just take a look at this best-ever group picture.



Front Row—L to R: Barry Lane, George Diaz, Tim Delrose, Vanesa Perry Bowden, Rita Nichols Canaday, Ann Smith Nowlin and Sharon Lane

Second Row—L to R: Pat Gromer Weyand, Judy Baucom Hunter, LaTrelle Lee LeFevre (behind Judy and Helen), Helen Barnes Lane, Sandra Harwell Blankenship, Charlene Barrow Catlett, Pat Knezevich, Elisabeth North Nightingale and Tommy Smith

Third Row—L to R: Kay Dees McGee, Cathy Copps Hillis, Brenda Budd Russell, Lynda Kabrich Mihalchik (behind Brenda and Laura), Laura Munns Barnhart, Linda Jordan Greene, Beverly Coyner Hadley, Linda Parker Dixon, Ray Godbee, Donna Wallace Bergren, Jeri Brooker Friend, Debbie Gandy McBride and Nancy Pace Ford

Fourth Row—L to R: Pat Jacobs Tschappat, Eddie Dedmon, Lance Hall, Dan Peyton, Betsy Parks Trimble, Ann Long Webb (behind Linda Parker), Larry Waters, Gary Coulliette, Alice Bartlett Mabry and Jerry Nelson

Fifth Row—L to R: Wayne Williams, Mary Ann Meares Crumley, David Byrd, Alan Jones, Rudy Murray (blk. cowboy hat), Doug Webb (blk. cowboy hat), Bill Leary (behind Mike), Mike Key, Buddy Campbell, Bobby Friend, Ken Sellers and Ricky Wheeler

## PARTY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### The Party That Almost Wasn't: The Back Story

**“I LOVE THIS GROUP; THEY ARE SO MUCH FUN.”** That was the comment made by our DJ, John Hollingsworth. I couldn't agree more. The 51 classmates and their guests who attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner Dance for the Great Class of 1967 all appeared to be enjoying themselves and enjoying each other. Some of the highlights of the party, for those who were unable to be there, were:

- Beautifully decorated dining tables with amazing fresh hydrangea arrangements made by **ALICE BARTLETT MABRY** and **JUDY BAUCOM HUNTER**. On those tables were the cutest denim pockets containing silverware and napkins that were lovingly made by **CARRIE KNEZEVICH**, wife of **PAT KNEZEVICH**. A program of the evening's events, beautifully created by **ALICE**, was also featured.
- Special name tags displaying the Denim & Diamonds theme, prepared and donated by **SHARON LANE**.
- Fun decorations, including a lighted “75” and really pretty tablescapes donated and assembled by **MARY ANN MEARES CRUMLEY**.
- Plenty of beverages and ice for mixing the drinks of your choice, provided by **KEN SELLERS**, **EDDIE DEDMON**, **CATHY COPPS HILLIS** and **CHARLENE BARROW CATLETT**. **EDDIE** also assembled and brought to the party a standing ice cooler to make filling our glasses with ice a little easier.
- Souvenir drink cups to take home. **ALICE** did the legwork on this.
- A professional photographer took souvenir pictures that classmates were able to take home with them, as well as fun photobooth pictures.
- A DJ who played the music selections we picked and also led us in a couple of line dances. Our DJ was recommended to us by **BEVERLY COYNER HADLEY** and proved to be an excellent choice.
- Our Senior Class President, **WAYNE WILLIAMS**, made opening remarks.
- A meal catered by Olive Garden and served by **MIKE KEY** and his wife, **SHARON**, **LEEANN WATERS**, wife of **LARRY WATERS**, and **CATHY COPPS HILLIS**. Unfortunately, Olive Garden failed to bring warming trays for the food and many guests had lukewarm or cold food. It should be noted that there were few complaints, another sign of the “classiness” of our Class!
- Homemade Birthday Cakes prepared by several classmates who you will read about below and committee members **LAURA MUNNS BARNHART** and **ELISABETH NORTH NIGHTINGALE**. These cakes were such a hit that a lot of guests helped themselves to dessert long before it was scheduled!
- A Champagne/Sparkling Cider toast by our Junior Class President, **DAVID BYRD**, and **PAT KNEZEVICH**, Vice Chair of the Reunion Committee. A little birdy told us that the Champagne and Sparkling Cider were provided by **NANCY** and **BRUCE FORD** and an anonymous donor. **JUDY BAUCOM HUNTER** also provided her own special pizzazz with her creative ideas for serving in the form of a bow tie and white towel over the arm for every server.

- A very successful 50/50 feature which collected over \$1249. **RAY GODBEE** spearheaded this raffle, and his wife, **LUCY**, helped him sell the tickets and keep up with the kitty. **RITA NICHOLS CANADAY** took home \$625 that night and certainly was the envy of everyone in the crowd.
- Singing of our Alma Mater with piano music previously recorded by **DAWN HARMON McCORD** and incorporated into the DJ's playlist.
- A **MEMORY WALL** of pictures of all our classmates who have passed on which brought tears to the eyes of even the crustiest guys in our Class.

This party was a vision that came true for me as Chair of the Event Planning Committee. It must be noted, however, that after planning and working for at least 18 months, **the party almost didn't happen!**

A mere **six** days before the party, Hurricane Helene was barreling toward Jacksonville. Everyone knows that the Beaches usually shut down for a hurricane. Both our venue, Jacksonville Beach Community Center, and our hotel, SpringHill Suites by Marriott, where many of us would be staying, might now be unavailable to us. Some classmates from as far away as California, Utah, Texas, Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi and Ohio were already in town.

Can you imagine the fear in the hearts of all Reunion Committee members during this uncertain time? I can tell you that many prayers, positive thoughts and determination to make the best of the situation happened.

All the Reunion Committee members pictured below, who had enthusiastically worked to make this party the best it could be, determined that the party must go on and we proceeded with all our plans, knowing in our hearts that Helene might prevent the party from happening. Mother Nature would surely have her way with us.

MARY ANN  
CHAIR, RC



VANESA  
CHAIR, EPC



ALICE



BEVERLY



CATHY



CHARLENE



EDDIE



ELISABETH



KEN



LAURA



MIKE



NANCY



PAT



RAY



SHARON



Bright and early Friday morning, before the party on Saturday, many of us arrived at the party venue to decorate, even though most of us had no power when we left our homes. **KEN SELLERS** brought coffee and donuts to sustain us and we got to work.

It was a daunting task. We had learned that before we could set up for our party, we had to take down numerous heavy rectangular tables, put them away and set up all the dining tables and chairs we were going to use. Incredulously, we said, **“What? We’re 75 years old! We won’t be able to get out of bed the next day, let alone feel like partying!”**

**KEN** came to the rescue again, finding some muscular young men to come and do the heavy lifting for us. We all determined that our budget would have to stretch to pay for this much needed help. With everyone working together, we were finished with everything but the last-minute touches by 2:30 p. m. on Friday!

By Friday night, we knew that the worst of Helene was behind us. Many of us gathered that evening around the pool at SpringHill Suites to eat, drink and socialize. Some of the committee members probably headed for their rooms and a comfy bed a little early but we could hear sounds of laughter coming from the pool area long into the night.

Here are some candid shots taken at the patio party:



Donna Wallace Bergren and Richard Bergren



Mary Ann Meares, Linda Sheffield Shepherd and Nancy Pace Ford



Larry and LeeAnn Waters and Pat and Carrie Knezevich



David Byrd, Dick Dixon (Linda's husband),  
Eddie Dedmon and Cathy Copps Hillis



Cathy Copps Hillis, Linda Parker Dixon,  
Eddie Dedmon and Betsy Parks Trimble

I could not write about the patio party without mentioning how much trouble one of our former math teachers, math teacher extraordinaire Linda Wolf Turner, went to in order to see us. She first went to SpringHill Suites in Fernandina Beach, where we had our 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion, only to learn that we were in Jacksonville Beach. Undaunted, she and her companion took the ferry to reach our gathering site before we all left! As some of her star students were not on the patio that night, she decided to stop by our birthday party on Saturday night to catch up with some of them. All I could think of is what an impression our classmates had made on her for her to go to so much trouble to see them again! I might add that I was never a star math student and did not have Ms. Wolf Turner as a teacher!



Mary Ann and Ms. Wolf Turner



Eddie and Ms. Wolf Turner

The entire weekend proved to be one of the happiest I have had in a long time. Sunday morning we had classmates coming and going to breakfast at our hotel and several of us lingered, having great conversations and catching up after so many years of not seeing each other. Those I was fortunate enough to spend time with were **JERI BROOKER FRIEND, BOBBY FRIEND, JERRY NELSON, DEBBIE GANDY McBRIDE, CHARLENE BARROW CATLETT, SANDRA HARWELL BLANKENSHIP, DONNA WALLACE BERGREN, SHARON LANE, NANCY PACE FORD, RUDY AND PAM MURRAY, ALAN JONES, BILL LEARY, EDDIE DEDMON and CATHY COPPS HILLIS.** I only left when I had to pack for checkout at 11 a. m.

Was the party perfect? No, there were glitches here and there. The good news is that no missteps kept us from remembering how very much we have in common, how very much we care about each other, and the fact that we are **CLASSMATES FOREVER!**

Vanesa Perry Bowden  
Event Planning Chair

**PHOTO LINK TO PHOTOGRAPHER'S PHOTOS**

[https://fotoshare.co/e/vjjRx6anEK\\_wcPAxiO-Iw?fbclid=IwY2xjawF6sFBleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHbMoLrYAnQ5\\_HRxZQ65-SD1RWmnUnA3v5u5lZrEwei4rfot5uJ-xJ\\_kh2w\\_aem\\_qc\\_y1j5mCCMohwTEFqLwJw](https://fotoshare.co/e/vjjRx6anEK_wcPAxiO-Iw?fbclid=IwY2xjawF6sFBleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHbMoLrYAnQ5_HRxZQ65-SD1RWmnUnA3v5u5lZrEwei4rfot5uJ-xJ_kh2w_aem_qc_y1j5mCCMohwTEFqLwJw)

As soon as I get a chance, I will put names to all these photos on the website 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday page. In the meantime, see how many you can figure out for yourself.



## AFTERPARTY MESSAGE FROM BILL LEARY



I want to thank all of you, and several others whose names I struggle to recall, who made my first reunion with the Class of '67 so memorable and fun. Your kindness and welcoming spirit not only relieved my anxieties about reconnecting after 57 years but gave me many fond memories of why those years way back when were so very important. I only regret that my swollen ankle from too long a beach walk kept me off the dance floor and forced me to go back to the hotel early to put it on ice. It was much better the next morning.

A wise person once told me that if you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a leaf. But if you want to touch the future, touch a life. In your reunions you necessarily touch the past and the present. But what was most evident to me in seeing you interact on Friday and Saturday nights is that you truly touch each other's lives through your enduring friendships and support for one another. And in that way you touch the future in their memories of your kindness and friendship. That is a marvelous gift and has led me to be grateful that I have had you, however briefly renewed this weekend, in my own life. Bless you all and the Class of '67!

Cheers,  
Bill  
[leary.bill@yahoo.com](mailto:leary.bill@yahoo.com)

## AFTERPARTY MESSAGE FROM DAVID BYRD



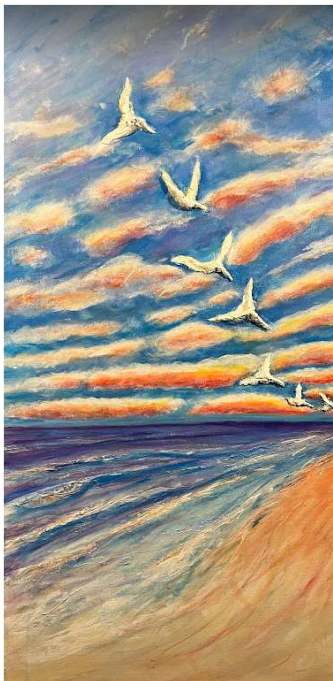
I have decided that I want to dedicate the painting below to all our classmates. The beach scene just reminds me of Jacksonville and the times we all had at the beach growing up there and the recent reunions we have had at the beach. Maybe the painting can be in a silent auction benefiting the reunions and birthday parties.

I title it *Natural Harmony*. A troupe of pelicans in a dive toward the sunset, over calm waters and soft sand, all with the same rhythm.

I had a lot of fun at the party but I want to apologize for my terrible toast. I had so many things planned that I could have said that I think people would have appreciated but I failed at the critical time. *[No apologies necessary—you are a class favorite always and forever.]*

David

[dlbyrd1967@gmail.com](mailto:dlbyrd1967@gmail.com)



## AFTERPARTY MESSAGE FROM TIM DELROSE

First of all I want to thank the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday party committee for all the hard work and passion that went into Saturday night's party. I have to admit, not having gone to any of the last several reunions or birthday parties (somewhere after the 35<sup>th</sup> reunion my name fell off the class membership list), I did not know what to expect. Also, I had not kept in touch over the years with many of the classmates that I knew in school. So I had not seen the changes that occur in each of us through the years as we age. That said I hardly recognized anyone at the party with the exception of a few and had to rely on reviewing the past reunion/party pictures with names located on the website to recognize most. And I'm sure hardly anyone recognized me. I did, however, get to talk to a number of people but I'm sure there were those I would like to have spoken to that I knew in school but did not recognize at the party. For example, I did not get to talk to Ricky Jones, whom I went to elementary school with and knew in high school. And I found it very awkward to stare down at name tags, especially like mine, which was most of the time flipped around to where the name was not visible. I don't mean that as a criticism but to put my money where my mouth is I'm putting together some thoughts on a way that might be fun to help with that. I will submit my suggestion before the next reunion.

*[Note from Alice: Tim, Ricky Jones was not there. I would like to suggest identical name tags that say, "If you don't know me by now, you will never, never know me." LOL!]*

Even though I may not have gotten to speak to everyone I'd have liked to, I think the party was well organized and probably had a record number attending for a non-reunion event. The table decorations were spectacular reflecting the denim and diamond theme, the food was great, photo area exceptional, the venue was great, the homemade cakes wonderful, the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday champagne toast was a nice touch and the DJ was great.

Bottom line, I came away from the party feeling that the team had not only invested a lot of passion and love into planning this event but all of you had done it with "Trojan love." That kind of love that shows the same heart and dedication you all had during our high school years for our class and now leaves a legacy of events celebrating our class that has kept us linked over the years since.

Thank you all again!

Classmates Forever,  
Tim  
[tdelrose@gmail.com](mailto:tdelrose@gmail.com)

**AFTERPARTY MESSAGE FROM GARY COULLIETTE**



Cynthia and I had a great time although we almost didn't come as I had been feeling poorly. It was almost a last-minute decision to go. I am glad we did as we had a great time. I wish I had worked the room more but we had so many great conversations at our table. We sat with George Diaz and his girlfriend and Ricky Wheeler and his wife, Harriet. I was surprised as Ricky remembered some of the crazy things we did in high school. I enjoyed catching up with Jerry Nelson as we were close friends in high school and actually worked together at the RR until Jerry left to finish college. Jerry, Larry and I took a week camping trip in the smokies back in 69. What a blast we had. Cynthia knew many of our classmates and a few from other classes that came. It was a memorable evening for sure! Bless you all for doing such a great job!

Btw, the memory wall was wonderful and it was good to see their pictures and reminisce.

Gary  
[gcoulliette3@gmail.com](mailto:gcoulliette3@gmail.com)

**AFTERPARTY MESSAGE FROM TOMMY SMITH**



Venesa,

Good evening to you, my fellow classmate.

Wow what a wonderful evening. Thanks for reaching out to me and encouraging me to attend.

The event brought back so many memories. The program was well prepared, the food excellent (especially the homemade cakes) and the seeing of many fellow students heartwarming. I was really surprised at how many fellow students I remembered their names.

You did a fantastic job. I am now on the list and will attend any future event.

What really brought a lot of emotions was seeing the wall that you put together. I could not believe how many of the students I remembered. A few were personal as we were good friends.

There was one lady and her husband that sat across from me. I can't remember her name right now, but we also went to elementary school together. She lives in Atlanta (Sandy Springs) and I would like to reach out to her and her husband. Do you remember her name?

*[Tommy, that was me, Alice Bartlett Mabry. [abmabry49@gmail.com](mailto:abmabry49@gmail.com)]*

Thanks again for all your leadership and for making the event happen.

Blessings,  
Tommy  
[tls49@hotmail.com](mailto:tls49@hotmail.com)

### **MEMORY WALL**

Vanesa worked her heart and soul out on the Memory Wall. We sadly have now lost 96 classmates (that we are aware of). Vanesa carefully framed a picture of each and added their name and date of death. Vanesa could not have displayed all of these pictures so perfectly without you, Ray Godbee! Vanesa's thought was that anytime we gather we should have with us those that have gone before us. Below is a video Eddie Dedmon made of the Memory Wall. The pictures are arranged in alphabetical order by last name.



IMG-0225 (1).mov

**Memory Wall video taken by Eddie Dedmon.**

## THE CAKE LADIES

Without a doubt one of the most “scrumptious” things about our party was our homemade cakes. I must confess that two of us, Judy and I, who had to travel, did not make our cakes but were thankful to *Nothing Bundt Cakes* and *Piece of Cake* for making ours for us. We have some wonderful bakers in our class and you can bet we will call on them again going forward for their incredible desserts. Thanks so much to all of you!!!

LINDA SHEFFIELD  
SHEPHERD



Pound Cake with  
Amaretto Glaze

JUDY BAUCOM  
HUNTER



White Chocolate Raspberry  
Bundt Cake

ELISABETH NORTH  
NIGHTINGALE



Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

LAURA MUNN'S  
BARNHART



Chocolate Kahlúa Cake  
with Coffee Ice Cream

ALICE BARTLETT  
MABRY



*Caramel Layer Cake*

LINDA JORDAN  
GREENE



*Lemon Blueberry Cake*  
(Because of a near car accident on the way to the party, Linda's cake didn't make it--it crashed to the floorboard.)

SUSAN CRAUSE  
SPALDING



*Apple Walnut Cake*  
(Due to Don's fall, Susan was not able to travel to Jacksonville and bring her cake for our party.)

JERI BROOKER  
FRIEND



*Hershey Chocolate with Cream  
Cheese Filling and  
Chocolate Buttercream Icing  
and a  
Coconut Cake*

**CLASSMATES FROM ANOTHER CLASS**

Thanks to our first Thursday of the month alumni dinners at Bono's, we have met several other Ribault classmates from other classes. They got excited hearing us talk about our forthcoming party and asked if they could come. We were delighted they wanted to attend and we welcomed them. Below is a picture of their table. Also from another class, the Class of '68, was Claude Revels, who asked if he could come. Look at him in his high school letter sweater looking cute as a button!!!

BTW, don't forget that the first Thursday night of the month at 5:30 p.m. is a Ribault alumni dinner at the original Bono's on Beach Boulevard.



Starting with Glenn Miller ('65) in the hat and going left from there: Joyce Bossinger Johnson ('65), Connie Brookins, Thomas Stowers ('62), Richard Brickey ('65), Janice Hancock Johnson ('65), Sharon Hickman Brown ('66) and Floyd Brown ('65)

Claude Revels ('68)

### **CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT**

It was just recently learned that Jerry Nelson has been creating and presenting achievement certificates to individual classmates for the past 20-25 years for their particular special service to the class prior to a birthday party or reunion. With the help of Eddie Dedmon, Jerry chose a classmate he felt was deserving of a certificate and then would make it and present it to that recipient privately sometime during the event.

This year Eddie thought it would be a great idea to turn the tables on Jerry and that Jerry should be the recipient of an achievement certificate. In the process, it turned out that both Vanesa and I were going to be the latest recipients of Jerry's achievement certificates. Vanesa and I knew about ours but Jerry did not know about his.

Jerry received his certificate for his tireless efforts, unwavering support and dedication to our class.

Vanesa received her certificate for all her incredible work planning and organizing our awesome 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party.

I received mine for my communication efforts over the years since our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

Below are pictures of each of us holding our respective certificates.







### PRAYER REQUESTS

For Don Spalding, husband of **Susan Crause Spalding**. Don took a serious fall on September 19 and was hospitalized until September 21, when he was moved to a rehab facility. On September 30 he returned to the hospital and was placed in ICU on a ventilator with pneumonia. He is now off the ventilator but continues on oxygen with the hope he may be discharged from the hospital to go home this coming week. I know Susan would appreciate all of our prayers and hearing from us. Her email address is: [donsusan14@comcast.net](mailto:donsusan14@comcast.net). I am happy to furnish her mailing address upon request.



For **Sharon Lane** who took an awful fall on Sunday afternoon, October 13. She was headed out the door to walk the dog when her slipper caught in the dog's leash and she fell face first to the floor. She suffered a broken nasal bone (that will heal on its own) and a fractured knee cap. She will need surgery to repair her knee. Sharon will probably be going to a rehab facility for a little while after leaving the hospital. As Sharon said, "So that's the scoop!" Have to admire her amazing attitude under some really tough circumstances.



[guslane35@gmail.com](mailto:guslane35@gmail.com)

I am happy to furnish Sharon's mailing address upon request.

For the family of **Theresa Ann Costango**. Theresa passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2024.



<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/orange-park-fl/theresa-costango-11797>

For the family of **Raymond J. Allen**. Raymond passed away of May 21, 2024.



<https://www.jonesgallagherfh.com/obituaries/Raymond-Allen-13/#!/Obituary>

For the family of **Pat Jacobs Tschappat**. Pat lost her older brother, Troy, who passed away on October 12, 2024. Troy was a member of the Class of '66 and the basketball team.

[tschappatp1949@gmail.com](mailto:tschappatp1949@gmail.com)

Since the July 2024 newsletter, we learned of the deaths of three more classmates who passed away more than a year ago. Those classmates were Penny Dundon Gibson (Penny moved our senior year to Miami) (12.14.2018), Barbara Jo Harvey Howard (12.23.2021) and James A. Canady (7.6.2023).

### **WEBMASTER UPDATE**

Our former Webmaster, Debbie Gandy McBride, has agreed to assist on the website, as much as time will allow. She is in the process of getting her mother's home ready for sale and in the process of fully recovering from recent surgery.

### **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. We have rules that keep our page fun and safe. In order to join our page, you have to have a connection to our class.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/336958183371434/>

**Mary Ann Meares Crumley**, Chairman of the Reunion Committee:  
[tcrum07@comcast.net](mailto:tcrum07@comcast.net)

**Vanesa Perry Bowden**, Chairman of Event Planning Committee:  
[vpbowden33@gmail.com](mailto:vpbowden33@gmail.com)

**Alice Bartlett Mabry**, Editor of Quarterly Newsletter, FB Admin. and Interim  
Webmaster: [abmabry49@gmail.com](mailto:abmabry49@gmail.com)

**Terry Gentry Morefield**, Class Facebook Chief Admin.: [terrymorefield@comcast.net](mailto:terrymorefield@comcast.net)

## HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND FABULOUS FALL!!!

