

**Ribault Senior High School**  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Class of 1967**



**January 2026, No. 22**

## **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**



*Shining in the morning shining bright  
A brand-new year is in our sight!  
Let's sing and dream come join the fun  
Two Thousand Twenty-Six has just begun!*

source: [https://www.lyricsondemand.com/sing\\_nice\\_songs/happy\\_new\\_year\\_2026](https://www.lyricsondemand.com/sing_nice_songs/happy_new_year_2026)

### **RECAP OF 2025**

Here are five of my top highlights from 2025: (1) Florida Gators won Final Four, (2) Tiger Woods turned 50, (3) survived a year of a roller coaster ride with Trump, (4) first American elected Pope and (5) Taylor and Travis got engaged. What are yours?

As for the Class of '67:

We lost another four classmates: Billy Davenport, Nancy Ynclan Moore, Hoyt Lambert and Jannette Hurst Rex. We have just learned that we also lost our classmate Diane King Thomas Messer in 2021.

Many of our classmates lost precious loved ones this year, including Charlene Barrow Catlett (Charlene) who lost her daughter, Cara; Beverly Weeks O'Steen who lost her husband, Irving, and Brenda Budd Russell who lost her husband, Larry; and Debbie Gandy McBride who lost her brother, Scott, and Brenda Cowart Driggers who lost her brother and former Ribault graduate, Johnny.

Many of our classmates attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party of the Class of '68. Those attending were: Pat and Carrie Knezevich, Vanesa Perry Bowden (Vanesa), Jeri Brooker Friend (Jeri), John and Bev Coyner Hadley (Beverly), Dick and Linda Parker Dixon (Linda), Eddie Dedmon, Charlene, and Wayne and Debbie Christopher '68 Williams. All agreed they had a great time but ours was better. LOL!

In our newsletters we featured three of our favorite teachers and their great life stories: Mrs. Marsha Brackett Miller, Mrs. Eloise Spatafora Beyerle and Ms. Linda Wolfe Turner.

Linda Dixon joined the Reunion Committee. She and her husband, Dick, are a tremendous addition. They graciously hosted the Committee's Christmas Party at their home on December 13.

The Reunion Committee worked tirelessly all year long on fundraising. Vanesa will cover this in her article below.

## **REUNION COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **Chairman's Corner**

**By Patrick Knezevich, Chairman**

First, I would like to wish all classmates a Happy and Prosperous New Year! In retrospect the Reunion Committee ended up, after much fundraising, having a very prosperous 2025. We are committed to raising enough money to make our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion as grand and, at the same time, as affordable as we can. In 2026 the Committee will continue to work diligently on the fundraising projects that proved successful in 2025 as well as finding new ones to raise money.

We are still searching for the perfect location and venue for our 60<sup>th</sup> in 2027.

May the new year bless you with health, wealth, and happiness!

Pat



### **State of the Reunion Committee, 2025**

**By Vanesa Perry Bowden, Vice Chairman**

Following our super successful 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party in September 2024, your Reunion Committee took a very brief break to reorganize and begin planning our much anticipated

60<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 2027. New officers were elected and you can see all the smiling faces of committee members below:



Pat Knezevich  
Chairman



Vanesa Perry Bowden  
Vice Chairman



Jeri Brooker Friend  
Secretary



Nancy Pace Ford  
Treasurer



Alice Bartlett Mabry



Beverly Coyner Hadley



Cathy Copps Hillis



Charlene Barrow Catlett



Eddie Dedmon





Laura Munns Barnhart



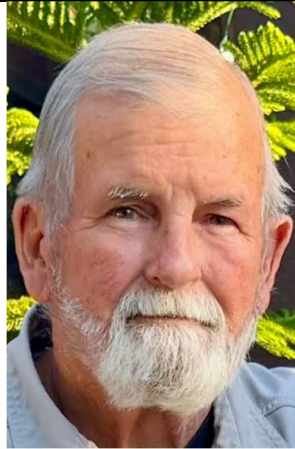
Linda Parker Dixon



Mary Ann Meares Crumley



Mike Key



Ray Godbee



Sharon Lane

Realizing that any well-run organization needs guidelines to conduct business and to comply with our bank's requirements, we set about revising our Bylaws. After considering viewpoints of all committee members and circulating numerous drafts, a final product was signed by Chairman Pat Knezevich (Pat) at a special luncheon at Joseph's Restaurant on Main Street (our old cruising street) in March 2025.



Chairman Pat Knezevich signing the revised Bylaws (Might as well have been the Declaration of Independence.)

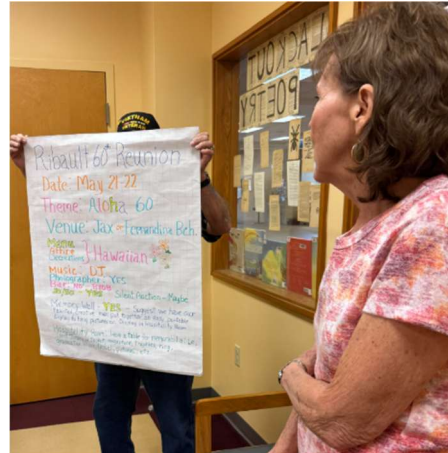


Pat and Carrie Knezevich, Charlene Barrow Catlett, Ken and Elisabeth North Nightingale, Jeri Brooker Friend, Ray and Lucy Godbee, Sharon Lane, and Vanesa Perry Bowden

Next on our agenda were numerous discussions on what type of reunion we would like to have and how to raise funds to help make the reunion not only special but more affordable for all of us. To ensure that all ideas were brought forth, the Event Planning Committee divided our group into subcommittees to brainstorm and present their ideas of what their “ideal” reunion would be. Leaders of those subcommittees were Ken Sellers (Ken), Mary Ann Mears Crumley (Mary Ann) and Beverly (standing in for Charlene after she lost her daughter in April), and they made detailed presentations to the entire committee in May. A theme has been chosen, and some desirable venues are being vetted but we will save that information for a later article. Be sure to read your newsletters and Facebook posts!



Mary Ann's vision presentation



Beverly's vision presentation

Once a theme had been chosen and some goals established, our Fundraising Committee, chaired by Ken, met with numerous strategies for raising money to help fund our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Ken later had to resign from the Reunion Committee and Jeri stepped up to take the Chair for fundraising. And then the work began:

We were privileged to assist the Knights of Columbus at Pat's church, Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, in conducting two of their monthly Bingo nights. They generously shared their profits with us and elevated our bank account considerably.



Linda and husband Dick Dixon, Cathy Copps Hillis, and Brenda Budd Russell and her sister Celeste '69.



Beverly and husband John Hadley, Ms. Wolfe and her friend Dick Cardell, and Bobby and Jeri Friend

We began selling 50/50 raffle tickets at our monthly Ribault Alumni Bono's meetups and have been supported in the most amazing way by other Ribault classes. Not only have we made a tidy profit, but everyone looks forward to winning half of the proceeds.

### AND THE WINNERS WERE. . .



Pat and Carrie Knezevich  
("Hmm, you know that's not all yours, buddy.")



Dick and Linda Dixon  
("Well, Dick, aren't you something?")





Marie Bailey Lindsey '64  
("Will you just take a look at me.")



Eddie Dedmon  
("Ha! Ha! Ha! Damn right I cheated!")



Janice Johnson '65 and Richard Brickey '65  
("You lucky dog.")

We embarked on a very ambitious project when we began soliciting donations for a yard sale. Mary Ann generously shared her garage and driveway for the sale, and we made much more money than we anticipated. We did find, however, that we enjoyed purchasing items donated by our fellow committee members and most of us ended up taking home more "treasures" than we needed! Special thanks go to the entire committee for their donations and participation but especially to those who set up, priced, and worked the sale: Beverly and John Hadley, Linda and Dick Dixon, Pat Knezevich, Jeri and Vanesa.



John and Beverly Hadley, Pat Knezevich and Mary Ann Crumley

We ended the year by selling raffle tickets for an HP Laptop Computer and a Printer. Each committee member was asked to contact classmates to give them first chance to win one of these prizes and be able to present someone with a nice Christmas gift. The drawing was held at our December Bono's meetup and conducted by Sharon Lane (Sharon), who chaired this event. There were two lucky winners: Sean Abbey, son of Vanesa, won the laptop, and Buddy Campbell won the printer. In true Class of '67 style, Buddy later donated the printer to Sean so he could have a matched set! It should also be noted that this venture proved to be much more profitable than we imagined it would be. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets!

It has been a wonderful year of team building and camaraderie and we are all looking forward to a successful and prosperous New Year in 2026. If you think that it has been all about making money, we would like to share that your Reunion Committee started a new tradition in 2024 which we continued this year, wherein we donated backpacks stuffed with basic necessities to be distributed to the homeless in our town. Sharon brought this project to us and this year Mary Ann chaired the event, culminating with lunch at her house to prepare the backpacks for distribution.



Charlene Catlett and  
Sharon Lane



Mary Ann Crumley



Charlene Catlett and Linda  
and Dick Dixon

As we seek to continue our efforts to promote goodwill among all Ribault Alumni and renew friendships and connections with our amazing Class, please know that we always welcome your suggestions and ideas and appreciate your constant support more than you can know. And, as my friend Alice Bartlett Mabry likes to say, we are “Classmates Forever!”

[Note from Alice: I stole that from Jack Kelly. Hi Jack, Classmates Forever!!!]

### **BONO’S NIGHTS CONTINUE WITH MORE EXCITEMENT THAN EVER!**



**Bono's  
4907 Beach Boulevard  
Thursday, January 8, 2026  
4 p.m.**

If you have not attended one of these special evenings, you have an opportunity on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, at 4 p.m.** We look forward to seeing you at the original Bono's located at 4907 Beach Boulevard. Please let Vanesa know if you would like to attend so she can make sure enough space is reserved. [vpbowden33@gmail.com](mailto:vpbowden33@gmail.com)



By the way, do not forget to bring some spending money (cash) for the 50/50 raffle. The pot has grown with the increase of attendance of many Ribault graduates, not just Class of '67.



Vanesa "Statue of Liberty" Bowden, Linda and Dick Dixon, and Nancy Pace Ford



LeCheron Perry Olson (Vanesa's niece) and her mother, Paulette Perry Hendry, and Carrie Knezevich and Jeri Friend looking over Linda Dixon's shoulder.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please let's keep in our prayers Bobby Friend, Pat Knezevich, Ken Sellers, Kay Dees McGee and Judy Baucom Hunter's husband, Wally, as they recover from **major** heart procedures and/or open-heart surgeries this past year. We are so thankful that they are still with us.

Our hearts go out to all of you!!! ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

### **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/>

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# *HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026*

## *AUDE LANG SYNE*

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And the days of auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet  
For the sake of auld lang syne*

*And surely you will buy your cup  
And surely I'll buy mine!  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
For the sake of auld lang syne*

*We two have paddled in the stream  
From morning sun till night  
The seas between us Lord and swell  
Since the days of auld lang syne*

*For old acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind  
Should old acquaintance be forgot  
For the sake of auld lang syne?*

*For old acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind  
Should old acquaintance be forgot  
In the days of auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet  
For the sake of auld lang syne*

**Author Robert Burns**



♪♪Vanesa, Jeri and Alice♪♪