



Joplin Eagles

"JHS Class of '64"

Issue 46

Class Newsletter November 2024

"Our 61st Class Reunion is Around the Corner"

"Hello Classmates, enjoy the read"

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The class reunion committee has done very well organizing and tying up loose ends for the June 6th thru the 8th class reunion.

Our goal from planning the 50th onward has been to keep the attendance affordable for anyone to attend. We accomplish this by doing raffles, having car shows and most importantly is donations from classmates. Our past three reunions cost \$25 to attend and that's all the appetizers at the Meet & Greet as the three-meat banquet. The cost to Holiday Inn is more than that so we buy it down to where \$25 is the cost to attend.

Let me give you this year's cost per person, but before I do an explanation may be needed. We always have 3-Meat Buffet for a reason. We have many like me, just put it out there I'll eat it. Growing up on a farm you learn that. Then we have some Pescatarian's that eat only seafood and then we have a few vegetarians and also some that do not eat beef. Hence the 3-Meat Buffet.

When Holiday Inn gave us the cost of appetizers and buffets, we almost needed help to pick us up off the floor. A one meat, one starch & one veggie was \$35 a person and that's over 50 people or more. If you want to add another meat, starch & veggie that's \$10 a person taking us to \$45. Then with a three-meat starch & veggie buffet, that's another \$10 per person for a grand total of \$55 a person to attend.

Having been involved doing this for many moons with the company I spent 38 years and I knew we needed to put on the old sales hat and get that way down.



After the Holiday Inn Meeting the class reunion met and knowing we didn't have a plethora of money in the class checking account so, our planning of a car show in the spring and a raffle for any give-away that is donated and we have one promised and willing for more and then our ace in the hole is you, our classmates. If you feel it to be feasible and with no strain on everyday life, we would love a donation of \$10, \$20 or whatever so we can keep the attendance at a very reasonable price.

At our last committee meeting we discussed the amount and knowing that our past classmates will still come through with donations and after meeting with Holiday Inn we set the fee to attend at \$30 a person, that's \$5 more than the last three reunions. Attending the Meet & Greet only is \$15.

So, if you have anything that is raffle-worthy please let us know so we can add to our one lonely raffle item. Also, if you dig through the sofa and easy chair and come up with some loose coins, we'll take them.

Next you say, where do I send my check and I have the answer to that.

Donating is a very easy process. You may send a check or money order made out to JHS Class of 64 to our class treasurer Stephanie Everitt at:

2821 Wisconsin
Joplin, MO 64804

What's the game plan? You might ask. Well, living in Kansas City I'll be going down Tuesday afternoon and at this moment in time Dick & Dot Espy will be coming with me and covering the photography so our website guru can add the photos to it. You may visit that at <https://joplinmo64.com/> and see all the 45 newsletters we've done or the several reunions that were captured on video & photos.

Friday late morning we will be setting up for the Meet & Greet and that will be 2:00 to 5:30 and basically a come & go or stay put, it's your choice. Appetizers galore will be available as will a cash bar. Dinner will be on your own and there should be some new down-home meals that can be had.

Saturday morning will be golf and the tee-off spot TBD. If you're not a duffer, the day is all yours until 6:00 p.m. and the banquet will commence also a cash bar will be available as there may be some folks than didn't get to attend the Meet & Greet and may want to spend time chatting before all will move to the banquet room at 6:45p.m. for some updates, announcements of what, when, why, and where.

The buffet will kick off at 7:00 sharp and will proceed by tables to load up your plate and enjoy. We'll see you there.

Dr. Mitch Stinnett Inducted into Joplin Schools Foundation's Hall of Fame

Mitch was one of three honored this year at the October 1st Hall of Fame Dinner. As the cardiac/thoracic surgeon returning to his hometown, he performed 15,000 surgeries from 1981-2002. St. John's was recognized in the top 100 programs in the nation. Hosted by Joplin Schools Foundation, a non-profit organization which created The Joplin Schools Hall of Fame in 2022, this was the third year to recognize and honor the achievements of outstanding alumni. Those inducted have excelled in their careers and lives, leaving behind a lasting legacy from their time in Joplin Schools. Nominations are accepted from the community throughout the year and reviewed by an anonymous committee chosen each year by the JSF Board.

Sponsorship donations and community attendance provide funds for student scholarships. A pewter tree installed on the high school's auditorium lobby wall has an engraved leaf for each recipient. Additionally, a monitor allows students and visitors to view a professional video of each honoree's life.

Besides honoring outstanding alumni, the Foundation's goal is to inspire current students to make a difference in their own futures. Students participating in the evening include members of the ROTC Color Guard, players in the Strolling Strings, and servers who are members of the Philanthropic Club.

Glenda Brittenham Austin, '69, and Kyle Craig, '65 were also inducted.

Beyond being a teacher and pianist in churches and MSSU, Glenda was commissioned by Zen-On Music Co. in Tokyo where she has toured Japan and shared her expertise. She has created many compositions heard around the world. During COVID-19, she began broadcasting live performances on Facebook using her iPhone and has reached audiences of thousands.

Kyle Craig, a graduate of Harvard Business School, focused on marketing/executive management as V-P of Burger King then director of S&A which operated Steak & Ale and Bennigan's. Next, came PepsiCo, followed by President of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Joining Boston Market, he launched Einstein Bagel. After retiring, Kyle established his own business, Outlook

Consulting and also serves as adjunct professor in Denver and San Diego.

Mitch's acceptance speech follows. Should anyone have someone they would like to nominate, please send the information to Joplin Schools Foundation, P.O. box 128, Joplin, MO 64802

Phyllis Payne Sapp

Thank you, Brian, and thank all of you for this incredible honor. I'm truly moved to be inducted into the Joplin Schools Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame and stand beside outstanding individuals such as Henry Robertson, Joe Newman, Glenda Austin and Kyle Craig to name a few.

Like many of you, I am a product of the R-8 school district having started my education in kindergarten at Alcott then attended Irving, South Junior, and Joplin Senior High.

I remember wonderful teachers who mentored and encouraged me to pursue my goal of becoming a physician. Teachers like Bill Brill, Mary Wieman, George Volmert. and Coach Russ Kaminsky. I had good coaching. In fact, I still have a Joplin high school basketball record that has never been broken. I was the first to be cut from the basketball team for the most consecutive years. Coach told me that if I could jump a little higher, he could slip a piece of paper under my sneakers.

I'd need to mention George Volmert, who was my guidance counselor and the sponsor of Kiwanis Key Club, Mr. Volmert encouraged me to run for president of the Joplin chapter and then run for governor of the Missouri Arkansas district of Key club. I won that election. I had forgotten this but, a friend reminded me years later that the candidate I beat in that election was none other than Bill Clinton. So, I may be the only person to have ever beat Bill Clinton in an election.

After high school, I went to the University of Missouri for three years. In 1967, I was accepted to Into Baylor College of Medicine. I graduated from Baylor in 1971 and entered the General and Vascular surgery residency of Dr. Michael E. DeBakey.

After two years in that program, I volunteered for the Air Force, trained as a flight surgeon, was assigned to the 56th SOW as an air rescue medic, and was posted in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. The most memorable event during my tour in Southeast Asia was when my friend, Dr. John Clader and I happened to be in the White Rose Hotel in Vientiane, Laos on the day the Pathet Lao led by the genocidal Pol Pot marched down the street on the

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back of Russian tanks. We looked out the window of our hotel and saw them coming, said Holy Feces. We learned that all civilian flights out of Vientiane had been canceled. We hustled to the airport and found a single CIA pilot who was walking towards a four passenger Pilatus short takeoff and landing plane. He said "What the hell are you guys doing here? You better come with me! I'm the last plane out!" He flew us to Korat. We then had to hire a Vietnamese taxi to drive us all night to our base before we were listed AWOL. After completing my tour in the Air Force, I returned to Houston to complete my general and vascular surgery residency. There I met my wife, Deborah. It was truly love at first sight. We were engaged in five weeks and married in five months.

Following my residency at Baylor, I was offered a spot in Dr. Denton Cooley's training program at the Texas Heart Institute as a resident in cardiac and thoracic surgery. This was truly a remarkable opportunity, and I had the chance to learn not only technical skills but a great deal about patient care and compassion from the best cardiac surgeon in the world.

Once during a particularly complicated and difficult correction surgery on an infant with a heart about the size of a peanut. I asked Dr. Cooley why he had selected me for this position. He said he saw in me traits that would make me an excellent cardiac surgeon. I ask what those were. He said that to be a good heart surgeon you must be strong as an ox and twice as smart and you fit the bill.

After my cardiothoracic residency, I stayed with Dr. Cooley as an associate for a year and looked for a place to begin my own practice. I believed that Joplin was the best opportunity for us as it had a large 19 county population base, and there were no cardio thoracic surgeons in the area I knew that a lot of people from this region were being sent to Kansas City, St. Louis, and Houston to have cardiac surgery. This was an opportunity for me to return to my Deborah was not thrilled about that decision at first, being a Texas girl through and through. I told her that we would get Joe and Cynthia Graham to come up here and join us. She said, "Joe and Cynthia will never leave Texas!". However, the Grahams did come to Joplin & the rest is history.

There was a little hitch as we got closer to opening the program. The cardiologist who had agreed to come and direct the invasive cardiac Cath lab and cardiology program backed out at the last minute. It was very good fortune and providential provision that Dr. Frank Corcoran called about a week later

(Continued)

and asked if we needed a cardiologist in Joplin. Dr. Corcoran was a full captain in the Navy and for many years served as the Director of the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Dr. Corcoran and I came to Joplin in July 1981. We were joined by Dr. Joe Graham and Dr. Tom Moore one year later and the four of us pioneered the program which at its peak was doing 550 open heart surgeries a year and approximately 1500 non-cardiac vascular and thoracic surgeries a year.

In over 35 years of service in Joplin, we all became very good friends and colleagues. Joe, Frank, Tom, and I became "a band of brothers". I have the utmost respect and admiration for each of these men and am so grateful for what they added to my life and to the Joplin community.

As you know, Dr. Joe Graham passed away 12 years ago. I lost my closest friend and colleague, and I still think of him and miss him every day.

I'm reminded that no one takes this journey of life alone, and indeed, I've been supported and helped throughout this journey by many friends, colleagues, and family members. I must also thank God for the many blessings He has given me.

And, I must say that none of this would've been possible without the support of my wife Deborah, my children, Alyson Miller, her husband, Derek Miller, my son, David Stinnett, and his wife, Alison, and my wonderful grandchildren, Luke Miller, Emily and Nathan Carter, Sophie, and John Stinnett. I would like to ask my family to stand. Also, would Dr and Mrs. Corcoran, Dr and Mrs. Moore, and Cynthia Graham please stand. These are the most important people in my life, and I love and appreciate all of them so much.

I had the great good fortune to grow up in a loving home and so I must acknowledge my wonderful parents, Don & Madge Stinnett, who encouraged me to strive for excellence and set a great example of hard work, integrity, and faith.

I must also thank my patients to whom I have striven to provide the best care possible in at every juncture. For an hour or so on the operating table I was totally focused on each of them. For the most part, we were strangers, yet they put their hearts in my hands. While I literally touched their hearts, they also deeply touched mine. Thank you again, for the incredible honor you have given me tonight.

Editors Note: I've always had a deep amount of respect for Mitch as a classmate and even more so when I found that he assisted Dr. Moore in my dad's bypass surgery. My first reading of this was just now and I found it very touching as I wiped tears at times. What an honor to know you and appreciate you as a person and doctor. Stand Tall Dr. Stinnett. DK

We still have 15 classmates unaccounted for. If you have any idea where these classmates could be, feel free to share with us so we can update our class directory. The blue font is where they were living when we lost contact with them.

"Please check these names and help find our missing classmates"

Gary M Colvin

Rayma Jean Coy (Tulsa, OK area)

James "Jim" Hilton

Clair Howard

La Donna Miller

Carol Munson (Wrench) (Bell, MO)

Emma Nunn

Judy Osborne (Gardner) (Joplin)

Richard Lee Pearson

Patty Riley (Brewer) (Joplin)

Naomi June Shelton (Possibly Deceased but cannot verify)

Drucilla Short

Robert Joe "Bob" Smith

Jack Sneed

William "Bill" Ray Stow

"If You Change Your Contact Information"

Please help us out. Don't forget to include us on any changes in your contact information. If you should move or change telephone, snail mail address or email address please let us know. It's very easy and you may do so by clicking on the following link joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com, and enter your information, then click "Send".



Remembrances and Sympathy to our Classmates and Family:

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends for the passing of our classmate Carolyn Phillips Pruitt

<https://www.thornhill-dillon.com/obituaries/Carolyn-Sue-Pruett?obId=33602717>

Our sympathy also goes out to the family of our classmate Nancy Sulzer Jennings passing.

<https://www.parkermortuary.com/obituaries/Nancy-J-Jennings?obId=33019481>



How I Learned To Mind My Own Business

I was walking past a mental hospital the other day and all the patients were shouting
13...13...13...13

The fence was too high to see over, but I saw a little gap in the planks, so I looked through to see what was going on.

Some idiot poked me in the eye with a stick, and they all shouted 14...14...14...14..



The longer I live, the more convinced I am that this planet is used by other planets as a lunatic asylum.

- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

PFIZER WARNS A FOURTH BOOSTER SHOT MAY BE NEEDED FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T DIED YET



My body sometimes feels sore, but it works. I don't sleep well most nights, but I do wake up to fight another day. My wallet is not full but my stomach is.

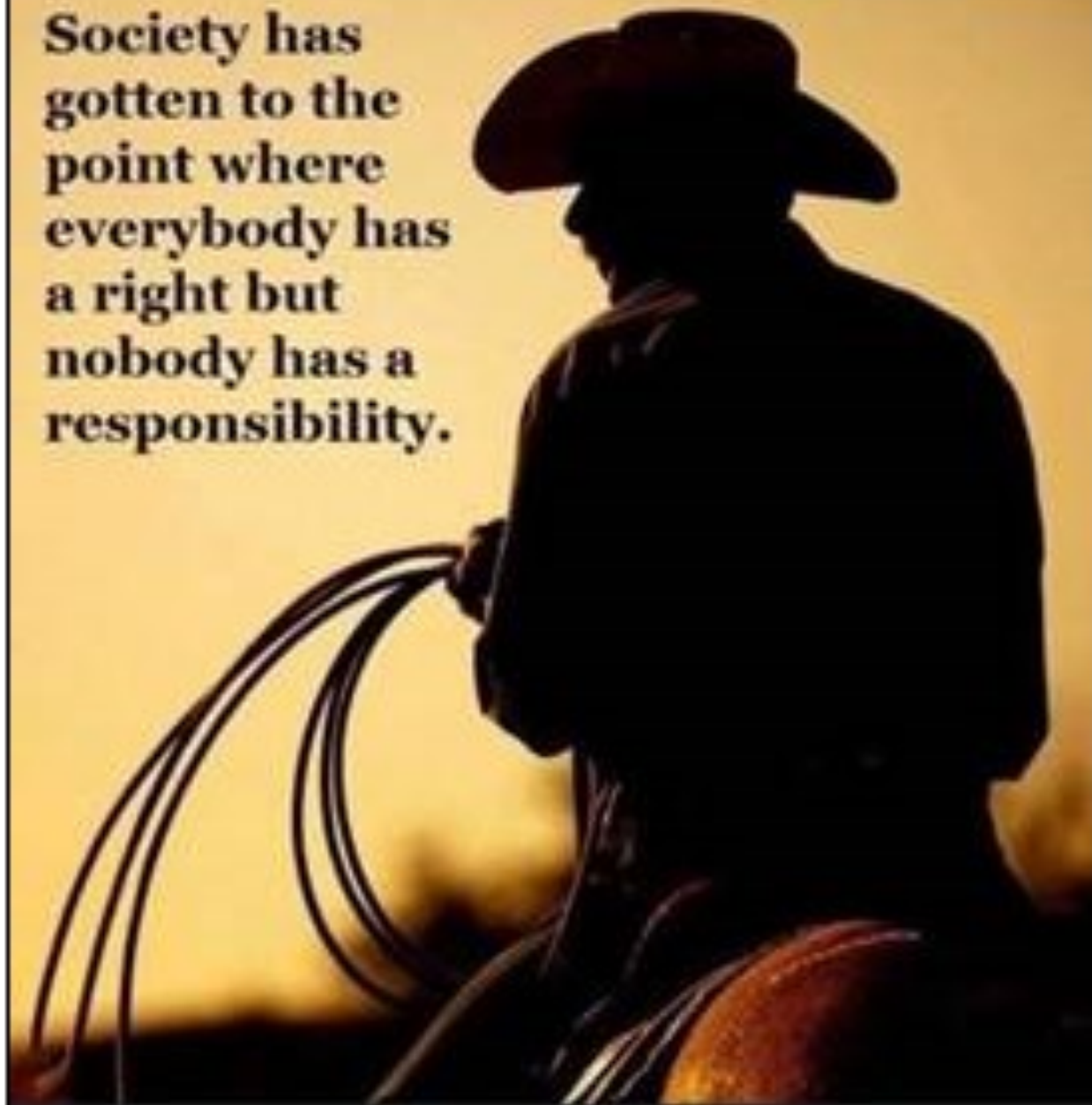
I don't have all the things I ever wanted but I do have everything

I will ever need.

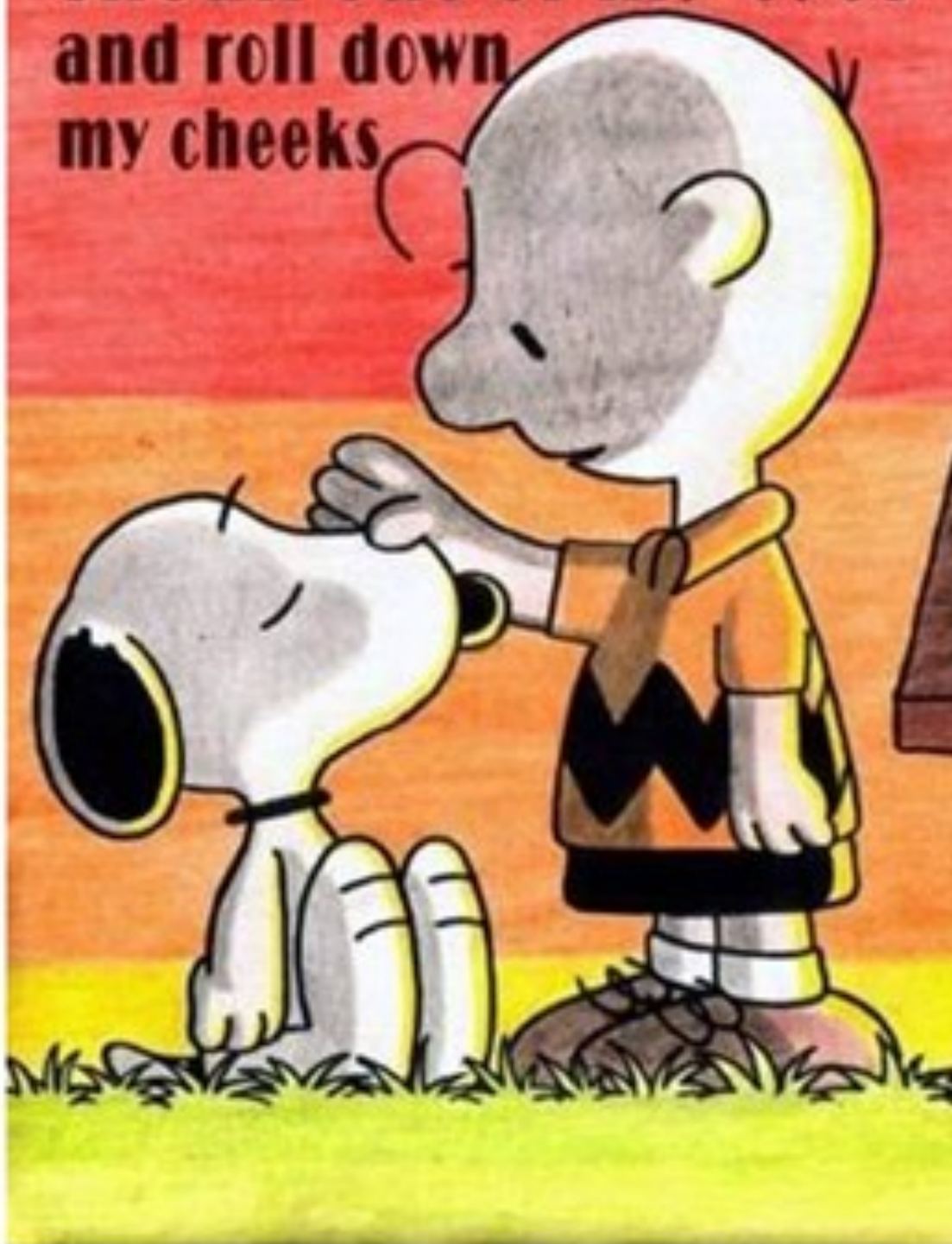
My Life is by no means perfect, but it's my life and I'm happy.



**Society has
gotten to the
point where
everybody has
a right but
nobody has a
responsibility.**

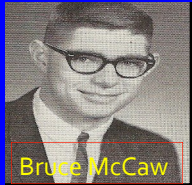


**Sometimes memories
sneak out of my eyes
and roll down
my cheeks**



Mark Twain sayings:

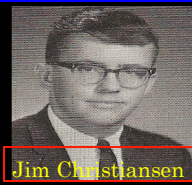
1. Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.
2. Suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of Congress; but I repeat myself.
3. Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.
4. Go to Heaven for the climate, Hell for the company.
5. It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.
6. It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.
7. It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.
8. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
9. Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.
10. If it's your job to eat a frog, it's best to do it first thing in the morning. And if it's your job to eat two frogs, it's best to eat the biggest one first.
11. The secret of getting ahead is getting started.
12. The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.
13. The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.
14. In the first place, God made idiots. That was for practice. Then he made school boards.
15. My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it.
16. A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way.
17. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.
18. Giving up smoking is the easiest thing in the world. I know because I've done it thousands of times.
19. There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.



Bruce McCaw



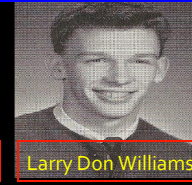
Mardell Thomas



Jim Christiansen



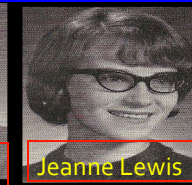
Sharon Peters



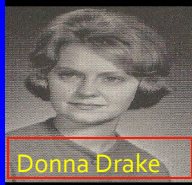
Larry Don Williams



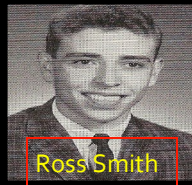
Stephanie White



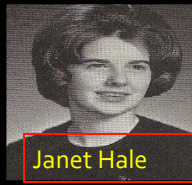
Jeanne Lewis



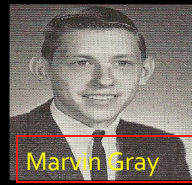
Donna Drake



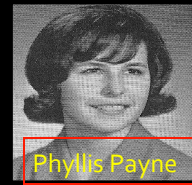
Ross Smith



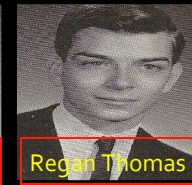
Janet Hale



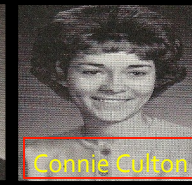
Marvin Gray



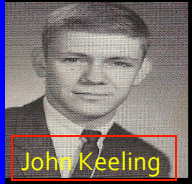
Phyllis Payne



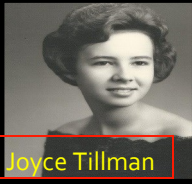
Regan Thomas



Connie Clifton



John Keeling



Joyce Tillman



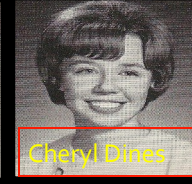
Mitch Sunnett



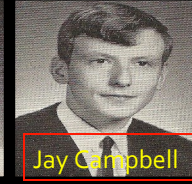
Sheryl Reese



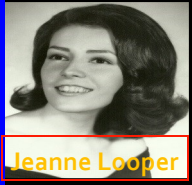
Mike Mullenix



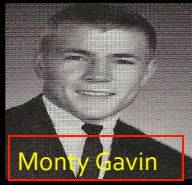
Cheryl Dines



Jay Campbell



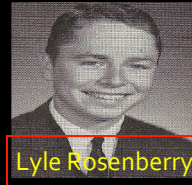
Jeanne Looper



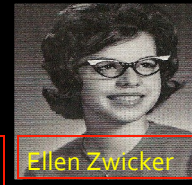
Monty Gavin



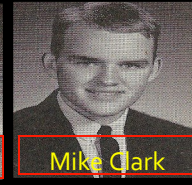
Carol Corbin



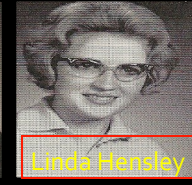
Lyle Rosenberry



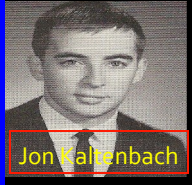
Ellen Zwicker



Mike Clark



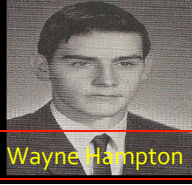
Linda Hendley



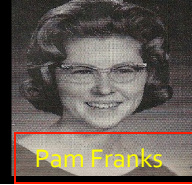
Jon Waltenbach



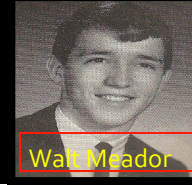
Jeanne Lind



Wayne Hampton



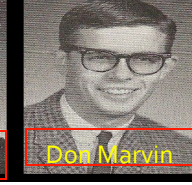
Pam Franks



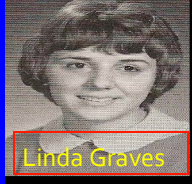
Walt Meador



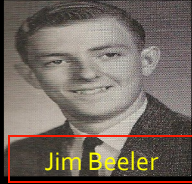
Karen Trenary



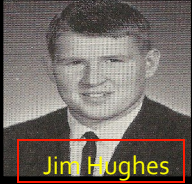
Don Marvin



Linda Graves



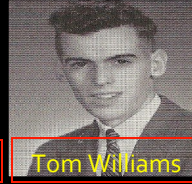
Jim Beeler



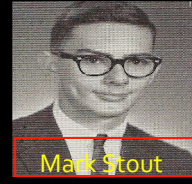
Jim Hughes



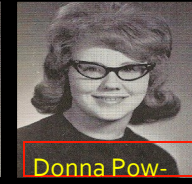
Sharon Harrison



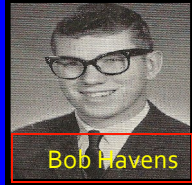
Tom Williams



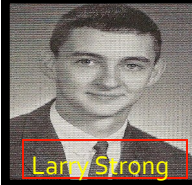
Mark Stout



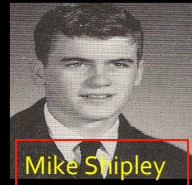
Donna Pow-



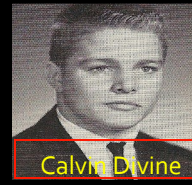
Bob Havens



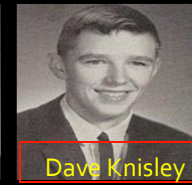
Larry Strong



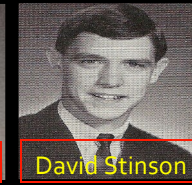
Mike Shipley



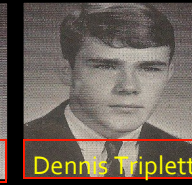
Calvin Divine



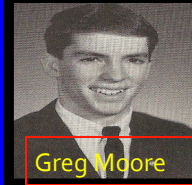
Dave Knisley



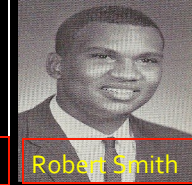
David Stinson



Dennis Triplett



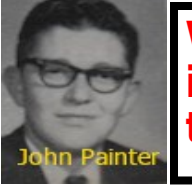
Greg Moore



Robert Smith



Billie Lenger



John Painter

We are still patiently waiting for your bio to be added to the wall of fame.

There is plenty of room to add folks to the bio section, how about joining in?

The big Holidays are just around the corner, on Thursday, November 28th we would like to wish all a very Happy Thanksgiving. May we also wish you a Merry Christmas on Wednesday December 25th and Happy Hanukkah 25th thru January 2nd and a very Happy New Year to all on January 1st. That will take us to 5 months when we will kick off our class reunion that we are looking forward to getting together.

We are in the process of updating our class directory that will be passed out at the reunion. If you've had any changes in the last three years to your contact information it would be nice to hear from you so we can be current when we got to print.

We have talked about the host hotel being the Holiday Inn and was also given a direct booking link. It looks like the link is only good for so long and will have to be reissued so, Maddison will do that at a later date. However, the main phone number 417-624-9000 and ask for registration and the \$119 a night booking code is Joplin Class of 64. The rate includes a hot breakfast.

Again, the event will take place June 6th thru the 8th of next year. We will kick off on Friday with our Meet & Greet at 2:00 until 5:30 with appetizers galore accompanied by an open bar. Friday evening you are on your own to do what comes naturally and if that's reliving the good old days and spending time down at Shoal Creek watching the submarines dock, go for it. I usually hit Fred & Reds one time during my stay and make sure I get a couple or three maple bars from Dude's.

Then Saturday morning the golfers will be at it and Jim Christiansen will be the head guru and will finalize at a later date where you will be able to rent a cart and a caddy if need be. The afternoon is all yours until about 6:00 when we will gather in the banquet room area for a chat with those that may not have made the Meet & Greet. We will have few announcements before and after dinner as we have high hopes of a great amount of raffle items to share. Any ideas from classmates will be considered, so feel free to drop us a suggestion, your input will be more than appreciated. Just click on the link below.

64joplinmo@gmail.com

For donations, please make check or money order made out to JHS Class of 64 and it may be sent to Stephanie Everitt at:

2821 Wisconsin
Joplin, MO 64804

We sure hope you can join us it's very heartwarming time.



Dave Knisley