



Celebrating 60 Years of Don Brotherhood!

1962

Once a Don, Always a Don

Wish You Were There!

The 60th Reunion of the Dons' Class of 62 delivered emotions similar to your favorite vacation photograph. Where the 50th offered two days of noisy celebration in the cafeteria and the gridiron, the 60th went down like a vintage Cabernet or a smooth aged Scotch.

Sure, there were more people at the 50th, but the 50 of us who gathered in the grand ballroom high atop the DoubleTree hotel near Old Orchard had an evening that we will cherish.



Special thanks to my two amigos, Ray Neihengen and John Zei, who chaired the special evening. These guys are two of our best.

Also, special gratitude for Fr. Joe Landauer who celebrated a beautiful Eucharist with us...and



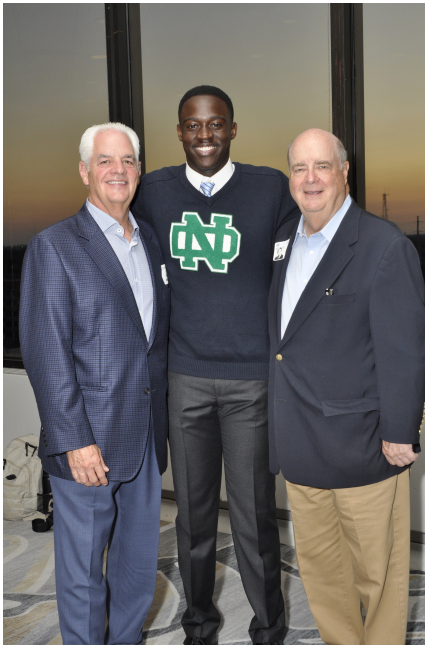
to Jim Starshak for providing us with a 60th t-shirt boasting "*Once a Don... Always a Don.*"

Joining us for the evening were the Tom Andersons, Steve Aufmuths, Jim Blums, Bob Buonincontros, Bill Culkin, Larry Curtins, Ralph DeLugas, Jim Devine, Jerry Erbachs, Tom Frost, Bob Hanson, Pat Kellys, Terry Kiwalas, Chet LaFayettes, Tom Mackeys, John McKay, John Nuccio, Marshall Olech, John

Poschs, Larry Raymonds, Bill Scanlons, Steve Steurer, and Tom Trebats. Retired Army Colonel Jerry Krueger, the highest-ranking and longest-serving Military Don, flew in briefly from his reserve duties in DC. Long-distance travelers included obviously "Star" from Hawaii (4246 miles), but the champ must be Tom Trebat from Rio de Janeiro (5298 miles).



A great turnout, especially considering the Denny Bielinskis, John Devonas, and Bob Schwartzs had to cancel the day before the event. We also lost a couple of our stalwarts like Alan Loboy from Portland OR, Chuck Datz from Austin TX, and Rich Hamill from Kingman AZ who all had heart surgery recently.



During the evening we had the opportunity to hear from Shay Boyle, president of Notre Dame College Prep, Dick Allegretti, Dir. Of Major Gifts, Mary Beth Ficht, Alumni Director, and a wonderful presentation by senior Jonathan Takyi regarding the Class of '62 Legacy scholarship (more on that later).

So, where are we today 60 years and some days since we graduated from NDHS on June 1, 1962? Well, for me, I'm pretty sure that I was the first to pack my bags and leave the Windy City and head for southern California (at 4 a.m. in the morning after graduation). Except for five years at UND, I've been here ever since. After editing and publishing stories of 110 mates for the past five years, I'm absolutely convinced that YOU have created an incredible Legacy for future Dons to follow.

Consider that many of you left the comfort of home and headed to campuses across the nation for four or more years...ND, DePaul, Loyola, Marquette, among many others. And then, after graduating from college, 77 of our 293 graduates served their country in all branches of the services. Sadly, we lost one of our best, Brian Mathison, over Viet Nam.

NO other class of Dons served their country in all branches of the services...check it out on the Military Wall of Honor in the NDCP library. Then read the nearly 200 stories in the 16 quarterly newsletters and you'll understand better the Legacy that I'm suggesting.

And in case you haven't saved those gems that we sent you during the past five years, I'm pleased to announce that NDCP has created a '62 Dons link on their web site (niddons.org) which includes all the newsletters, photos from the 50th & 60th reunions, and the opportunity to contribute to the '62 Legacy Scholarship that John Zel will describe later in this newsletter. Enjoy the following stories and photos and go to the Dons web site to view all of them (you can even download them).



Steve & Nancy Aufmuth/
Carol & Terry Kiwala



Betsy & Jim Blum/
George & Lucille Burgett



Bill Culkin/John Nuccio/Marshall Olech



Carol & Jack Gerken/Kathy & Ray Neihengen/Bob Hanson/FrJoe



Chet & Peggy LaFayette/Ralph & Carol DeLuga/Jerry Krueger



Pat & Vicky Kelly



Tom Frost & Tom Anderson



Elsie & Tom Mackey



Mary & Bob Bounincontro
Eileen & Larry Raymond

Tom & Jan Anderson
Kathy & Larry Curtin



Steve Steurer/John McKay/Jim Devine

Legacy Scholarship

Please Contribute Now

Those who attended the 60th Reunion had the opportunity to hear an inspiring presentation from Jonathan Tayki, Class of '23, speak about the positive impact attending NDCP has had on his life. He would not have attended the school without scholarship funding. Creation of a legacy scholarship is the way your classmates decided our class should commemorate our 60th reunion. The scholarship will be awarded annually and announced in this newsletter. Thus far 33 classmates have contributed over \$41,000 to the goal of \$60,000. Please "dig deep" on a one-time basis. Make your donation now by going to the school website and clicking on "Alumni Events/ Reunions" and then on "Class of '62" where you will see a link to the donation page.



Jerry & Fouzia Erbach
Bill & Martha Scanlon

Tom & Margaret Trebat
John Posch & Dodie Carney

Stories...

In Their Own Words

Steve Aufmuth, Park Ridge IL

Following graduation from NDHS, I attended the University of Notre Dame and got my bachelor's degree in English with a sociology minor. I developed an interest in helping children with emotional and behavioral problems. This led me to attend Loyola University's School of Social Work in Chicago. It became clear I needed some real-world experience before I could benefit from further education. So, I worked at Department of Children and Family Services in Chicago for a year before getting my master's degree from Denver University in 1969.

My early career included jobs at Jacksonville State Hospital, then DCFS in Champaign and Danville, Illinois. Eventually, my wife Jane and I decided to move to New Hampshire where I worked in the program for adolescents. We decided to start a family and we decided to move back to the Midwest where our families of origin all lived.

We both got jobs in the St Paul area and enjoyed 45 years of living and working in Minnesota. I had jobs in two different out-patient mental health centers. Our daughter, Elysia, was born in 1977 and she is now a clinical social worker herself working with a variety of children needing therapy and with their families as well. She and her husband, Don,

have two children, Amalia, 8, and Gabriela, 3. They live in Chicago which is why we decided to move to Park Ridge, a suburb 5 miles from them, so we can easily visit.

Over the years, I have enjoyed bowling in a senior league in Minnesota, played pickleball for a few years, and have enjoyed listening to jazz, classical music concerts, and dancing at wedding receptions of my cousins and other relatives. I got into Zumba dance aerobics 10 years ago and continue with it at LA Fitness. I do water aerobics 2-3 times a week at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. I have been active supporting progressive political candidates doing door-to-door canvassing and other jobs. We enjoy being "older" grandparents and like the convenience of our 1900 sq. ft. condo with no maintenance and a nature park next door.

Pat Cain, Columbus OH

Following NDHS, I spent nine arduous years at Loyola - undergraduate, medical school and internship. During medical school I was fortunate to meet Lois Onderick, an attractive young woman from Lorain, Ohio, who was majoring in mathematics at Saint Xavier College.

Immediately following internship, Uncle Sam mandated that my physical presence would be in San Diego CA within thirty days to begin active military service. I thought it prudent not to argue with that fellow. Lois and I hastily arranged our marriage at Saint

Juliana Church in Chicago and the following day were enroute to California.

My military experience was chronicled in the prior military edition of this newsletter, but as a recap, I was assigned the billet of general medical officer for Destroyer Squadron #1, five WWII-era destroyers home-ported and deployed from San Diego. The military experience benefitted me both professionally and personally. I hold the military branches in high esteem and am proud to have served.

Upon discharge virtually all humans thought that Lois and I were certifiably goofy to abandon the San Diego paradise and return to the harsh Midwest. But we did and never regretted the decision.

I was fortunate to be accepted into THE Ohio State University radiology residency program to be followed by a fellowship in interventional radiology. The four years at Ohio State were ideal - extremely academically challenging, fulfilling, and enjoyable. All in all, a great experience.

Radiology Inc., a 55-member radiology group in Columbus, offered me a private practice position and I spent the next 35 years practicing interventional radiology with that organization, 17 years as the group's president. During that time, I was also an adjunct radiology professor at Ohio State.

Following mandatory retirement from the private practice group at age 70, the Columbus Veterans Administration Outpatient Center asked me to assist them with their radiology needs. I have now been employed with the VA for five years and counting. Interacting with the veterans is a pleasure and honor. The VA itself is another story: just one more bloated, ineffectual government bureaucracy. Both disappointing and sad.

Lois and I have 5 children - and since this is an ND-related newsletter - 2 of the 5 are proud graduates of the University of Notre Dame. We enjoy traveling with goals of visiting all 50 states and all 7 continents. Not quite there yet but making progress. To help pass the long winter season, we are avid Ohio State ice hockey fans, attending most home games and traveling to South Bend when the Buckeyes compete against the Irish.

Regarding my NDHS tenure, I did not bond with the institution to the extent that many of you obviously did. Generally, I was academically indifferent and just cruised along on autopilot. I was certainly one of the youngest members of the class, more immature than most, and presumably those factors contributed to my indifference. I did, however, possess an uncanny knack of irritating/offending people – classmates, teachers, you name it - and to those I offended I sincerely apologize.

Wishing the best to all members of our class and the entire NDHS extended family.

**Bob Hanson,
Lake Barrington Shores IL**

Near the end of high school, I did not know what I wanted to do or be. In fact, I was probably the one ND student that had not applied and been accepted at a college. As I recall at our graduation, it was stated that 99.9% of the class had already done so. Maybe if I had perhaps, it would have been a perfect 100%.

I attended night school at Wright Jr. College and DePaul University for a while, but eventually took a job selling advertising for Des Plaines Publishing. There I met Ed Scholl, editor of the Niles and Edison Park/Norwood Park Review newspapers, an acquaintance that would forever change my life.

Her name was Virginia (one of Ed's four sisters), a good Catholic girl that attended St. Pat's for girls in Des Plaines and had been in one of Father Markos' plays at NDHS. Our whirlwind romance led to our marriage on Aug. 28, 1965. (I always teased her that she robbed the cradle as I had just barely turned 21.) Our first child came 9 months later, and they just kept coming so that I had four by 1972: Meg, Jen, Bob, and Erica. All great kids that I am very proud of, and they in turn provided 9 wonderful grandchildren currently ranging in age from 21 to 31. However, no great grandchildren

yet, sorry to say, because I love the little ones.



My newspaper career continued with Paddock Publications, where I became sales manager of the Super Group Network with their newspapers extending from Orland Park to Waukegan. Around 1972 Stu Paddock, owner and publisher, was a major shareholder in a start-up company called U.S. Suburban Press (USSP). USSP was linking similar suburban networks surrounding major cities in the top 50 markets with the purpose of selling national advertising. Stu asked if I might be interested in joining this new firm, I jumped at the chance.

Turned out to be a good decision as I spent the next 20 years at USSP as manager of the Midwest, Eastern, and U.S. Sales, and ultimately as the president. Worked primarily in Manhattan and New Jersey for three years, but eventually consolidated corporate functions in Schaumburg, IL.

In 1984, I led a successful management buyout of the shareholders of USSP. In the early 1990's, I was approached by

Robert Page, the former publisher of the Chicago Sun Times, who introduced a group who eventually purchased USSP. At the same time this was all going on, I attended the University of Chicago's Executive Program and attained my MBA in 1992.

Since then, I have been president of another company, helped start another business, done some consulting, became a business broker with Sunbelt Business Advisors doing acquisitions and mergers, and eventually went independent.

Sadly in 2017, after 51 years of marriage, Virginia, the love of my life passed away. Although she is gone, she will always be remembered, and our times together will be forever cherished. However, I am happy to report that I met a lovely lady from Lincoln, England over three years ago and now we are in the position of merging 2 homes into our new home in Lake Barrington Shores.

Hoping I live to 100, I am 3 years into the last quarter of my life, and I can say I feel very fortunate because I have had a wonderful life: a loving marriage, a great family, a satisfying and successful career and find myself in great health today as a prostate cancer and triple bypass survivor.

John Posch, Morton Grove IL

After graduation I started to work at the family Posch and Company meat packing business in Chicago. In 1969 the business closed due to

the cost of federal regulations. I then worked at an Ace Hardware in Glenview for 6 years with the intention of purchasing my own store. This plan did not work out and took off 3 years which I refer to as my first retirement.

A dear friend tried to teach me the game of golf – I had more fun going into the tree line looking for golf balls. He then taught me to snow ski which I excelled at. We went to many ski areas locally and far west and I lived and loved skiing. During those 3 years I did window and screen repairs in my garage, did handyman jobs, and invested heavily so I could pay for golf and skiing. My investments did not work out and my friend said this was the best thing to have experienced and that I would come back stronger than ever. I managed two True Value stores for 6-1/2 years while still repairing screens and handyman jobs from home.



Being more aggressive in my career I purchased a Ford high cube box truck in 1985, put my name on it, advertised, and by word of mouth I had many recommendations for work. In 1986 I bought my first of two business buildings in Wheeling. I

named the company, Boom Window and Screen, of which my family said that I was nuts. The business grew and I was extremely busy. I learned on the job and was self-taught and as the business grew, I hired 2 employees. It continued to grow, and my niece joined the company in 2001 to handle calls and invoices. In season we were very successful and worked hard, as many as 60 hours a week. I was always trying to keep up with new products and designs. My niece, along with an employee are now co-owners of the company. We now have 3 working trucks which I consider shops on wheels.

I am now 90% retired. I never married but am sharing my life with a special person who is now retired. We have travelled internationally since 2007 and ocean and river cruises are our favorite. She does all the planning as I don't have the patience for that. We are coming up to our 25th anniversary since dating. I have been actively involved with the Knights of Columbus at Holy Family Catholic Church in Inverness since 2001.

In Passing:

Richard Blake, RIP

It is with great sadness that the family of Richard Foster Blake announces his passing. Rick was born on September 11, 1944, and passed away on July 5, 2022, in Palmetto Bay, Florida.

Rick was born and raised in Chicago IL and, from a young age, exhibited the smarts and work ethic that made him an Eagle Scout and drove his success in life. He attended DePaul where he was president of Phi Kappa Alpha and graduated with honors. It was here that Rick met the love of his life, Fran, who became his wife of 55 years. Rick enjoyed playing cards and billiards, and his skill at both helped pay for their first date and defray the cost of college. Rick went on to graduate school, earning an MBA in marketing from Loyola.

Rick and Fran then moved to Miami as Rick embarked on what would become a long and storied career as an airline executive with Eastern Airlines. After almost 30 years at Eastern, Rick held executive roles at Renaissance Cruises and Northwest Airlines where he was responsible for the modernization of Northwest's airline fleet. He went on to help relaunch PanAm Airways and served on the boards of the Airlines Reporting Corporation, IATA, Bar Harbor Airways, the Caribbean Tourism Organization and served as a guest lecturer at the Royal Aeronautical Society, Oxford England.

Rick and Fran built a happy life in South Florida where free time was spent with their three sons on the water boating, fishing, lobstering, and snorkeling. They enjoyed sunny days at Elliot Key and never missed the first day of lobster sportfishing season, always on the reef before sunrise. Rick was happiest at the helm of his

boat, the Bald Eagle, motoring across Biscayne Bay with family and friends. Rick's career also afforded him and Fran the opportunity to travel and scuba dive around the world together, and gave his kids amazing memories of trips abroad.

His work as an executive for Cayman Airlines also led to a period of living in the Cayman Islands, where he was able to further indulge in his passion for scuba diving and underwater photography.

Rick's life was enriched by his love for his family, music, and travel. He played guitar in a bluegrass band and loved singing and performing -whether at festivals or around a campfire with friends and family. He had a quick wit and was an entertaining storyteller - regaling many with humorous stories, often at his expense. Later in life, Rick rekindled his passion for golf and cherished his weekly rounds with friends. He loved being a grandfather and made sure he was present for all his grandkid's birth days.

John Thomas, RIP

John "JT" Thomas of Des Plaines IL passed away Oct. 11, 2019, leaving behind Kathleen, his wife of 52 years, his sons Jim and Patrick, daughter Kristen, and five grandchildren.

John grew up in Glen Oaks Acres of Glenview, attended Notre Dame High School and received a degree in Business Administration from Marquette University.

Following graduation, he served in the Navy. John made his career in the flooring industry, owning Thomas Interior Supply, from which he retired in 2010.



John spent recent years living with Alzheimer's disease with few words but the memories he created for his family remain strong and fondly remembered. He loved fishing and shore lunches. He loved photography, the Bears, and his trusty dog, Rugs. His kids recall riding in the back of his van, hoping to sit in the wheel well instead of a roll of carpet, listening to his favorites Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, and Eddie Rabbit. Countless summer days were spent at Grandma's pool where John would do his famous jackknife dive to the delight of the kids.

Our thanks to John Posch for finding one of our MIAs; ten are still missing.

And One Final Note

This will be the last regular quarterly newsletter. In the future look for a more occasional Newsletter or announcement about class news, awarding the Class of '62 Legacy Scholarship and local events. As always contact any of us with important news so we can pass it along. Ray Neihengen and John Zei will be resuming the Chicago area lunches after the Covid shut down and will keep you notified of dates and venues. A 65th Reunion? Keep it in mind, we will check with everyone in 2026.

The Last Words

Remember on this one thing, said Badger. The stories people tell have a way of taking care of them. If stories come to you, care for them. And learn to give them away where they are needed. Sometimes a person needs a story more than food to stay alive. That is why we put these stories in each other's memories. This is how people care for themselves.

Crow and Weasel

The above was written by Barry Lopez, an award-winning author and classmate of mine at UND... and it's the main reason that I've been writing these stories for the past few years. I've ended the newsletters with a *Last Word*. Today, I offer the **Last Words!**

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will

never forget how you made them feel. Maya Angelou

People say that what we're all seeking is a meaning for life. I don't think that's what we're really seeking. I think that what we're seeking is an experience of being alive. Joseph Campbell

Seeing. One could say that the whole of life lies in seeing. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. Kahlil Gibran
Giraffe Blessing: Stand Tall. Fearlessly stick your neck out. Reach for new Heights. Dress with flair. Listen with your heart. Terry Hershey

Tell me, I'll forget. Show me, I'll remember. Touch me, I'll understand. Terry Hershey

Sometimes we don't have to go anywhere. We just need to stop. And pay attention. Terry Hershey

Everything has already been given. What we need is to live into it. Thomas Merton

Instructions for life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it. Mary Oliver

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? Mary Oliver

Wherever you stand, be the soul of that place. Rumi

Sell your cleverness and buy bewilderment. Rumi

The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace. Carlos Santana

One of the reasons we don't have peace in this world is that we have forgotten that we belong to one another. Mother Teresa

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love. Mother Teresa

No one has ever become poor by giving. Mother Teresa

If you judge people, you have no time to love them. Mother Teresa

Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant? Henry David Thoreau

The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be. Henry David Thoreau

And my favorite... ***We're all just walking each other home.*** Ram Dass



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