



1961 UNDEFEATED FOOTBALL TEAM – ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CEREMONY
JIM STARSHAK, RICH GORZYNSKI, TOM LAMBERT, THE LATE PHIL KEMP, MIKE FIELD, DENNY BIELINSKI, BOB BUONINCONTRO, LARRY RAYMOND, CO-CAPTAIN ALAN LOBOY AND RAY NEIHENGEN (SEE STORY BELOW)



**NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS**

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018

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RECENT CONTACTS/HALL OF FAME/
UPCOMING CHICAGO AREA LUNCH

DÉJÀ VU...Big time!

Over 56 years ago, **John Zei** and I were the editors of both newspapers at Notre Dame High School, *Focus* and *Vista* (for the alumni). And here we are today writing and publishing, along with **Ray Neihengen**, a quarterly newsletter for the Dons Class of 1962.

Why are we doing this? I guess that there are a number of potential answers to such a deep, philosophical question, but the simplest one can be found in history. In 2011, Ray and I were attending our 45th anniversary reunion at the University of Notre Dame. Over that weekend we both agreed to co-chair the 50th reunion of the Class of '62 the following year at Notre Dame High School.

The end result was a fantastic reunion of old friends and new stories over two days in October 2012 that was attended by 120+ people including 72 classmates. Many of us had not seen

or heard from each other in 50 years. It was a very special celebration that became the inspiration for this newsletter.

Quoting my fellow editor JZ... Why re-connect? Well at this stage of our lives we don't need power "networking" or angling for the next career move, but rather the memory of friendships shared, even for a short time a long time ago. And these are times when we need friendships.

So, recently the three of us decided to reach out to you. We started with a list from NDHS that was missing lots of contact information. I've talked to so many of you or your spouses over the past six months trying to gather this info. It wasn't easy finding some of you and too often I learned of a classmate's passing. But it was a thrill when I did find you and I'd send an email to Ray & JZ saying "Found another MIA – Alive!" And

those that wouldn't respond to my many voice mails, JZ would send a letter.

So, after many months/years of searching we believe we have as good a list of the Class of '62 as possible. Of the list of 293 graduates, 65 have passed to our knowledge and 19+ are still considered MIAs. Lists of both of these are included in hopes that you can help us find our fellow Dons.

We intend to keep the lines of communication open; so please write or phone us to share your stories that we will include in these quarterly newsletters. Ray & John have also started a "quarterly" luncheon for the guys in the Chicago area which Ray writes about later in this email. Our hope is to also expand these lunches to other locations, such as Florida, where many of you have moved.

So, to some of the stories...

50th Reunion

As I mentioned above, the genesis of this newsletter was ND's 50th reunion. I've known for years that 34 classmates from NDHS '62 were the largest group of men from one high school ever to graduate from the University of Notre Dame. Ray and I have been in regular contact for years and I was hoping to have as many of the 29 living attend the 50th reunions from NDHS as well as ND. I'm proud to say that 20 of them came to the NDHS reunion while 13 made it to ND. Five of the Domers (**Joe Doherty, Bob Courtney, Pete Stahl, Mike Strubel and Jim Tiedge**) unfortunately are among the 65 Dons that have passed.



Jim Starshak, Bob Basche & Bill Culkin check out the bulletin board.

I am the Webmaster of the ND '66 web site and have used the site to tell many interesting stories about your classmates (**Bob Basche, Jim Blum, Terry Casey, John Devona, Joe Doherty, Jerry Erbach, Fr. Mike Geisler, Terry Kiwala, Fr. Joe Landauer, Alan Loboy, Ray Neihengen, Chuck Reali, Ron Schmidt, Jim Starshak, Don Stevens, Tom Trebat**). If you're interested, go to 1966.undclass.org and "Jack's Journeys" to view the stories.



Jim Blum welcomes George Herman

I also have pictures from both reunions if you're interested. Did you know that we have two Opus Dei priests in our class? Fr. Mike Giesler (St. Louis) and Fr. Joe Landauer (Miami) co-celebrated our 50th reunion mass at NDHS.



Larry Raymond and Jack Gerken



University of Notre Dame alumni.

Speaking of priests... during our 50th reunion at ND we visited the Holy Cross Cemetery where all of our priest-teachers are buried. Fr. Mike led a service that included Fr. Leroy Clementich and Fr. Joe Geniesse (since passed) in memory of the men that dedicated their lives to teaching difficult



Tom Anderson and Howie Keating

minors. Some cursing was heard as we laid yellow roses on the graves of our "favorite" teachers. If ever at ND, it's a must visit. By the way, Fr. Clem is active... he's a regular contributor to the Daily Prayer at FaithND (Faith.ND.edu)



50th Reunion

55th Reunion... and, yes, there will be a 60th

For those that missed it, there was a 55th reunion for the class on September 29-30, 2017. The school decided to try an all-class reunion for those class years ending in 2 or 7. The program included a pizza party and football game against Carmel on Friday night (a 41-14 Don victory) and a Mass at the school followed by dinner on Saturday night at the White Eagle in Niles. For those wondering, the White Eagle is alive and well, the food is good, the drinks are well poured. Attendees for either Friday or Saturday or both included: **John Fink**, the late **Phil Kemp**, **John Zei**, **Bob Clarke**, **John Nuncio**, **Jim Devine**, **Tom Mackey**, **Gerry Kruger**, **Denny Bielinski** and **Ray Neihengen**. While it was a very nice event, the turnout was a motivator to put a continuing effort to create a comprehensive class list.

Missing

As I mentioned above, we still have 19 classmates that we haven't been able to locate anywhere. The list includes **Gerald Baldauf**, **John Emerich**, **Jerome Hawkinson**, **Edward Hayes**, **Wayne Heindl**, **Robert Jamieson**, **James Patrick Kelly** (one of my closest friends), **Hugh Lambert**,

Harold Langford, **Eugene Lemieux**, **Charles Miller**, **Robert Miller**, **James Mueller**, **John O'Sullivan**, **Thomas Schrader**, twins **James & John Sterner**, **John Thomas**, and **Nicholas Urlaub**. A more detailed list is attached.

In addition, there's a group of 16 classmates that I think we've found but can't get them to respond to our many voice mails and/or emails. This newsletter will NEVER be a fundraiser for the school; that's their job, not ours. This is about MAKING MEMORIES!

So, if anybody can reach out to **Tom Corcoran** in Philly, **Eugene Dwiggin** in Washington, **Bob Eiter** in Arizona, **John Holstein** in Chicago, **Charles Kalish** in

Colorado, **Bob Mehleck** in Rapids City, **Roger Mulvaney** in Minnesota, **Charles Ottlinger** in

Memphis, **Joe Paladino** of Mt. Prospect, **Roger Portman** in Florida, **Larry Quartaroli** in Vegas, **Bob Sadlowski** in Gurnee, **John Gary Steele** in Colorado, **Frank Tomaszewski** in Des Plaines, **Larry Waugh** in St. Louis OR any of the truly MIAs, please contact us so that we can "Welcome them back!"

Reconnecting?

If there are any classmates you're interested in contacting just send me or John Zei a note and we'll pass along whatever information we have.

Missing with Last Known Address		
Gerald Paul	Baldauf	Culver City, CA
John	Emerich	McHenry, IL
Jerome	Hawkinson	Chicago, IL
Edward J.	Hayes	Crystal Lake, IL
Wayne Michael	Heindl	Van Nuys, CA
John Frederick	Holstein	Prospect Heights, IL
Robert David	Jamieson	
James Patrick	Kelly	Elgin, IL
Hugh Michael	Lambert	Chicago, IL
Harold Wayne	Langford	St. John's, FL
Eugene J.	Lemieux	Summerville, SC
Charles	Miller	
Robert Edward	Miller	Zion, IL
James	Mueller	St. Charles, IL
John M.	O'Sullivan	Chicago, IL
Thomas J.	Schrader	
John G.	Steele	Cordeliera, CO
John Raymond	Sterner	Downers Grove, IL
James Henry	Sterner	Morton Grove, IL
John George	Thomas	Mount Prospect, IL
Nicholas Matthew	Urlaub	Cary, IL

Phone Calls

I've talked to so many classmates and spouses in the past six+ months that the memories are almost a blur...or many it's our age. The ones that were hard to find or that we had given up on are easier to recall. Promise to remember everyone that gets back to us in the future as we won't have 293 names on our plate.

Still looking for Tom Corcoran. Figured we had lost him. Last known address was Philly but none of his contact info worked. Read somewhere that he was the COB of Delaware River Warfront Group. Called them, talked to his ex-secretary who said that he just retired and was out of the country on vacation. Still waiting for Tom to return my VM. I'll let him tell you about the DRWG in the next newsletter.

Eugene Dwiggin. Can't you still remember Fr. Tallarida yelling "Dwiggin, where the hell is Dwiggin?" Well, luckily his daughter-in-law called me back and said he also was out of the country on vacation. He also hasn't called me back from Devall WA.

Bruce Gielow. That's a person I've been searching for a long time. He was the first person I met at NDHS. Gerken/Gielow...get it, sitting next to each other in Room 108 of Fr. Tallarida's World History class. Talking after the bell rang. Those of you who had Fr. Tom know what happened next. Was ready to declare him MIA and found him in Wheaton. Promises to come to the next quarterly luncheon in Chicago and share his story.

James Howie of New Kingston NY was one of the last found. Longtime NYC resident retired to way out in the sticks near Rochester acc. to his wife.

Steve Lochen of Paso Robles CA was the most recent of the 'smart' Dons to move to God's country. I was the first at 4 a.m. the morning after NDHS graduation when I moved to southern California. Others out here include Terry Casey in Malibu, **Tom Cole** in Cathedral City, deceased Joe Doherty in Santa Ynez, **Jim Frantz** in San Diego, **Tom Gorman** in Santa Maria, **John Haas** in San Carlos, **George Pysors** in Carmel, and **George "Huey Cobra" Risher** in Santa Maria.

John McNally of Boca Raton FL. Thrilled to be found and looking forward to hosting a Miami-area luncheon in South Florida.

John McShane. Another one difficult to find. Always impressed that his address was Harvard. Thought there must be a great story. Professor of Irish literature? Naw, his daughter begrudgingly gave him up and you'll be hopefully hearing from him soon.

Denis Paluch of Chicago. JZ and I remember Denny well. His family used to publish the *Focus* and *Vista* newspapers at NDHS. Denny and his family are still in the business.

Bob Wilhelm of Rio Verde AZ (and Vail CO). Bob was at the 50th but thought that we lost him. Turns out he got a late start in life moving to southern climes. Now

spends the summer 5 months in Vail and the rest of the year in the Phoenix area. Big help in finding four of our missing classmates. Hope that you can help as well.

Stories (in Your Own Words):

Ray Neihengen

As Jack mentioned, I was one of the crowd who ended up at Notre Dame. President Kennedy had just announced married men would not be drafted so, given a brief examination of my love interests, I decided I would be drafted and, given that prospect, signed up for ROTC. I also got hooked on economics, received a deferment after graduation and picked up an MBA in finance at Northwestern before reporting for active duty. That degree flagged me as a finance type and I spent my army career in DC buying helicopters. That background led me to a New York bank that was a national leader in lending money to airlines and aerospace companies. I left New York in 1980 and returned to Chicago, switched banks in 1983 and retired in 2000. I quickly discovered I could not play golf 24/7 and reinvented myself as a consultant to borrowers struggling to keep their bankers at bay and have been having fun doing that ever since. So, my lack of love interests in the early '60's shaped my entire career. That theme does, however, have a happy ending in my wife Kathy of 46 years, four great kids and five super grandchildren ranging in age from 19 to 19 months. That leaves me attending college soccer games, playing peak-a-boo and, despite two artificial hips, playing golf.

Hall of Fame

Old news, but for those who may have missed it, the 1961 Notre Dame Dons football team was inducted into the Athletic Wall of Fame on February 3, 2017. This team was the first undefeated football team in the school's history. Coached by the late Joe Yonto, the team won the Suburban Catholic Conference and was ranked 8th by the Springfield Gazette, 7th by the Chicago Tribune and 4th by the Chicago Sun-Times.

Members of the class of '62 attending the ceremony included **Jim Starshak, Rich Gorzynski, Tom Lambert, the late Phil Kemp, Mike Field, Denny Bielinski, Bob Buonincontro, Larry Raymond, Co-Captain Alan Loboy and Ray Neihengen.** **John Zei**, head cheerleader, also attended the ceremony. Other class of '62 members on the team included **Jim Prash, Neil Morris, Co-Captain George Risher and Steve Lochen.**

During the ceremony Loboy recounted some of the team statistics. "We gained 3,224 yards to our opponents 1,500; rushed for 2,493 yards with 449 attempts for a 5.57 average, while allowing only a 2.27 a try average against our defense. ND averaged 57 plays per game against 44 plays for our opponents; averaging 326 yards per game versus 150 yards per game and scoring 28 points per game to our opponents 6."

Next time you are at the school look for the team picture hanging proudly on the wall outside the gym!



Golf Tournament

Larry Raymond, Ray Neihengen, Jim Blum and John Zei held up the honor of '62 at the annual Ray Gorzynski NDCP golf outing. No trophies when you hit from the "Senior Tees", but a creditable performance. The same group, with the addition of **Tom Anderson**, plays several times each summer at various area courses. If you're interested in joining contact Ray Neihengen or John Zei.

School Update

The school continues to provide a top-quality education with over 98% of the graduates going to college. There are 175 incoming freshmen for 2018 from the same parishes and neighborhoods where we grew up. Nearly 50% of the incoming freshmen will receive some scholarship assistance. Notre Dame College Prep is now the largest all-boys school in Illinois. The school has stabilized its finances, put a strong board of directors in place and affiliated with the Holy Cross Brothers. It continues to emphasize academics with an excellent 1:13 faculty student ratio, and athletics where last year's football team received a state playoff berth.

Upcoming Events

September 21 Homecoming
 October 13 Burke Scholar Event
 October 17 First Responders Mass
 November 3 Hall of Honor Event

Prayers for Classmates

If any of you has a special prayer request, please do not hesitate to contact us. We're hoping to have a mechanism for prayers/masses for your special intentions created through the high school.

I won't mention his name, but I searched for a classmate for nearly 10 years and only "found" him recently dying of cancer in a small apartment near O'Hare. No family. Wanted no contact. Just wanted to die. We can't allow this to happen. Another reason for the newsletter

In Passing

As I mentioned above, we've lost at least 65 of our 293 classmates (22%). I say at least as I'm

rightfully concerned about the 19 MIAs. Like the prayers/masses for special intentions, we hope to have a mechanism in place re deaths in the family. Our committee was actually four until May of this year when we lost **Phil Kemp** in Chicago. Fortunately, our email list was almost complete and we were able to notify all Chicago-area classmates of Phil's vigil and funeral service.

Second Chicago Area Lunch – Oct 9th

In June, the first informal class lunch was held at the Ram in Schaumburg. Attendees included: **Joe Aiello, Tom Anderson,**

Denny Bielinski, Bob Buonincontro, Larry Curtin, John Devona, Don Kurtz, Howie Kaeding, Larry Kamin, Bill McInerney, Ray Neihengen, John Nuccio, Larry Raymond, and John Zei.

Everyone had a great time and so we have scheduled another lunch on Tuesday, October 9, at the Ram (1901 McConnor Pkwy, Schaumburg (847) 517-8791). We are again targeting a \$20 per head cost including a non-alcoholic drink. Look for your invitation. A number of you indicated you would have made it but for conflicts. Clear your calendars!

P.S. Please call, email or write about any updates on class mates and especially your story.

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