

GHS CLASS of 1966

NEWSLETTER for DECEMBER 2011

Here we are on the threshold of 2012...doesn't seem possible. We always hear that time flies or time flies when you're having fun, but these days it just flies with or without the fun! As we end 2011, I hope that each of you have had some wonderful experiences and times during this year. I also know that many have experienced other pains of life to go along with the "good times". Without the pains of life, we would not be as appreciative of the joys and good times. I also know that again this year we have many times relied on one another for support, love, and friendship during the difficult times as well as those wonderful times of joy. As we move closer and closer to a FIFTY YEAR REUNION, the times shared with life-long friends becomes more cherished and enjoyable. I hope those of our class who've participated in class events and just a few getting together have truly appreciated these GHS relationships with your classmates and those GHS grads who you knew during our days at Grapevine Public Schools!

Since the September Newsletter we had a "Get Together" at Sammies Bar B-Q again on October 15, 2011. Our numbers were down, but we had about 30 great people show up for some great barbeque and some great fellowship with lots of storytelling (that seems to be a staple of all of our 'Get Togethers') and lots of laughing. I have also noted over the years of our reunions and times together you hear a lot more people saying "What?" or "What did he say?" as our hearing goes the same direction as our memories!

In early October, I received an email from Mary Alering Wiggins that her husband Richard was in need of our prayers. Richard was in Baylor Hospital having chemo treatments for cancer. As Mary's email said, "I have wonderful classmates, so please include him in your prayers!". I know that Richard was still receiving Chemo in Mid-December and that you will all continue to keep Richard and Mary and their family in your prayers.

I received a very nice email from Grace Smith (GHS '63) in October saying that her sister Judy Smith George (GHS '68), would forward our emails and newsletters to her. Grace wanted to tell me (however, I consider that us) how much she enjoys reading and keeping up with things with some of her classmates of GHS. She remembered that they moved to Grapevine when she (Grace) was in the 4th grade and that she graduated with most of those kids who were in her 4th grade class. We talk all the time about how many of us spent most of our 12 years of public schools together, and how we still stay in touch as much as any class to graduate from Grapevine High School. I know that a number of classes, such as 74, 78, 80, 81 and others have a number of their classmates that are close and see one another often as well. However, those classes had significantly more graduates than we did, so from a percentage basis we have a tremendous number who stay in touch on a regular basis. I do want to offer congrats to many of the classes

before us and after us who also have maintained many life-long friendships that started at Grapevine High School.

Jean Giddiens Soderberg's father, C.D. Giddiens turned 85 on Saturday October 22nd! Jean's sister Ginger (Virginia) sent me an email inviting me to attend the celebration. I was unable to go, but I have many fond memories of Mr. Giddiens! Most of those were after we graduated and when he ran the station and convenience store at the corner of Northwest Highway and Dove Rd. I bought gas there, picked up a few groceries there and spent a lot of time visiting with him and my good friend Kerry McCombs (GHS '65) who worked – let me say was employed – there. Jean, your father was a very fine gentleman and truly enjoyed my times visiting with him over the years. Again, I was so sorry that I was unable to attend his Birthday Celebration. I know that Jean, Virginia, Patsy and Judy made it a great day for their dad!

October has the second most birthdays for any month for our class – Roger Hardin, Barbara Ethridge, Gary Cumbie, Joe Lipscomb, James Wilkins, Darrell Faglie, Chris Ashton and David Florence. Not a bad group of October folks. It is still difficult to believe that we lost James Wilkins about a year and a half ago – truly miss James, who I knew years before we started the first grade – probably my first non-relative friend ever. Of course Cumbie – probably the youngest amongst us, only turned 63 as those around him were turning 64!

In November, Bob Stevenson, Linda Murphree Forester, Mary Lynn Millican, and Gus Linthicum had birthdays. In December, Linda Bowden, Wylie Hokett, Marcia Holder, Rick Stacy, and Mildred Hilliard Powers had birthdays. As for December, how many times do you recall seeing Marcia's and Wylie's names on the same list? By the way, a number of us, just the last day or so sent some very nice birthday greetings to Rick. It was noteworthy to notice that many of the greetings mentioned something about him lying in a field of wildflowers – not sure what that was all about. However, if you do know what that was all about (I think it was mentioned by Yancey, Florence, Faglie, Stevenson, Linthicum, Lipscomb, and Box), please let me know!

In the past newsletters, I've not mentioned much about birthdays, but maybe I should – so, let me give you a reminder of those coming in the next few months:

January: Lynette Hoel Johnson (5th), Kent Kennedy (9th), Alice Buford Perkins (21st), Mary Alering Wiggins (22nd), Terry Stephens (24th), and Donna Young Faglie (she really likes me to say Donna "Young" Faglie) (25th).

February: LaVerne Robbins Sutton (6th), Caroline Cason Wilkinson (9th), Cathy White (15th), Sharon Cooper Scott (16th), and Mary Wood Burkett (26th).

March: Larry Robinson (1st), Lavoy Grider (6th), Terri Gregg Spann (17th), Josephine Mitchell Winfield (19th), and Sharon Huffman Smith (30th).

If you get a chance wish these folks a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

I received a note from Sharon Cooper Scott that she needs our prayers for her son whose cancer was believed to have returned. After a number of days and tests, I received some great news on

the Wednesday after Christmas from Sharon that they had gotten a Christmas Miracle – her son's cancer is NOT back, but had something called sarcoidosis, which mimics cancer and is difficult to diagnose. She wanted me to thank everyone for their prayers!

As you who attended may recall, at the 45th Reunion there was a discussion and short (I know that is difficult to believe – that is was short) discussion from classmate Gary Cumbie about the possibility of putting together a 50-year Reunion Cruise of the Hawaiian Islands in 2016, named by Cumbie as Hawaii 5-0. I am glad the television show wasn't Eagle Pass 5-0! Anyway, I promised Gary (our youngest and least mature classmate) that he could be a guest contributor to the Newsletter this month – so below is Mr. Cumbie's contribution – please read it with the same enthusiasm that he utilized in putting it together for you!

We want to determine if there are classmates even interested in this Trip to be a part of our 50th Year Reunion Celebration. We are just trying to determine interest at this time (not asking for anyone to commit) – so, you will be getting an email for you to respond so that we can determine if there is sufficient interest in this Trip for 2016....EMAIL to come later. However, below is some important information for you to consider:

Here's my suggestion for a Hawaii 5-0 Cruise for the Class of 1966 Fiftieth Reunion: The best time to go appears to be late May. It's after the rainy season, and before the summer heat and hurricane season. It's also the off-season for pricing. I recommend using Nowegian Cruise Line and their ship Pride of America. It offers a seven-day cruise that includes five ports on four islands: departure from (and return to) Honolulu (Oahu), with stops at Kahului (Maui), Hilo and Kona (Big Island), and Nawiliwili (Kauai). They are the only major cruise line that offers an all-Hawaii itinerary. As of today, these cruises are priced around \$1200 per person for an inside cabin, and \$1300 for oceanview. FYI, the cruises depart every Saturday evening, and return the following Saturday morning. For planning purposes, let's figure on the cruise for May 21-28, 2016. Also, there is no casino on the ship (but we might find a quiet spot somewhere for a poker game)! More info about the Pride of America can be found here http://www2.ncl.com/cruise-ship/pride_amer/overview

Air fare is the other big-ticket item. Today, American Airlines round-trips to Honolulu for next May are priced about \$800. Who knows what they will be in 2016 (or whether American will be flying). I would expect to use Sue Moody, who planned our 40th reunion cruise to Alaska, or some other travel professional, to make sure we get the best package and pricing, but you can see we're looking at about \$2,000 per person, without figuring excursions or extra days before or after the cruise, or travel insurance and taxes. Look for an email regarding possible interest in the trip.

In closing, as we are entering the year 2012, I hope that this year is filled with wonderful times with friends and family (your classmates qualify for both categories, you know). I hope the economic conditions for all are improved. I hope and pray that our country turns back to God, Mom, and Apple Pie. I hope that the leaders of our cities, states and country take their roles more seriously than they appear to be today. I hope that we learn to gain more respect for each other and abide by the laws that govern us, and have the strength to move this country into the right direction. I hope we have the leadership, strength and stamina to bring back family, citizenship, prayer, and the values that have made this country so great in the past. I challenge each of you to stay in touch with one another, to pray for one another, our leaders, and our country. May 2012 be a wonderful year for each of you and your families, and may God Bless the GHS Class of 1966!

Respectfully,

Larry Oliver