



## WE HEARD FROM: Tom Penman TCH 1960



Upon graduating from TCH in 1960, I was playing baseball in Detroit but soon realized I couldn't keep that up while not making any money, so classmate, Bob Mauk and I joined the US Air Force. We were sworn in at Ft. Wayne and the next day were sent by train to Lackland AFB, TX for basic training. After five weeks there I was selected to attend Technical School for Aircraft Maintenance at Amarillo AFB, TX for 13 weeks. My first permanent assignment was 21 months at Clark Air Base, Luzon Island in the Philippines. While there I did some temporary duty time in Taiwan, Viet Nam, and Thailand.

I returned to the states in November 1962 and was assigned to MacDill Air Force Base Tampa FL. where, I worked on the old T-33A again and the brand-new F-4C Phantom II. I met my wife Lori there and we were married on June 26, 1965. In December, I got orders for Cam Rhan Bay, Viet Nam, where I was crew Chief working on F-4C's. and was there for a little less than a year. On June 23, 1966, Lisa Ann, our first daughter was born. I would not see her in person until my return in November 1966. My next assignment was at George Air Force Base, Victorville Ca. Lori, Lisa and I packed up and moved to Victorville for 4 years. While there, our 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter, Lori Ann was born on August 21, 1968.

I then volunteered to go to Europe and was assigned to Hahn AB, in the Mountains of Germany for a four-year tour beginning in November 1970. We enjoyed every minute of our time there. We traveled as much as we could getting to Italy twice. We returned to the USA in August of 1974, and I was assigned to Homestead AFB, FL. That assignment lasted only 15 months and I was assigned to RAF Lakenheath, England where my family and I stayed for three years. I was still on the F-4 Phantom II but transferred them all back to the states and brought in the F-111F. We returned to the states in November 1978 and was assigned to Griffiss AFB, Rome, NY. Man was that cold there. In February the temperature never got above 0 degrees for two weeks. There I maintained KC- 135A and B-52F aircraft. Next assignment was Eglin AFB, FL. We arrived there in April 1983. Later that year we would deploy to Puerto Rico in support of Granada and worked with the F-15A. My next assignment came about in June of 1986 to Langley AFB, VA where I was assigned to the Tactical Air Command IG team for two years and then to the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing as the Maintenance Superintendent responsible for maintaining Huey helicopters, KC-135, Airborne Flying Command Post Aircraft and three squadrons of F-15A/B. I retired from the Air Force August 31, 1990, as a Chief Master Sergeant (E9). After retirement I worked for MetLife and retired after 12 years. Next, I got one of the best Jobs around...working for Colonial Williamsburg at the Golden Horseshoe Golf Course selling beverages and especially hot dogs in the snack bar ...continued on page 2...

...continued from page 1... on the 3rd hole of the golf course. We have lived in the same house we bought in 1986 in Newport News and love it here. Lots of history.

Well...that's our story of my life after TCH. Hope I didn't bore you.

*No Tom, you did not bore us. The Taylor Alumni thanks you for your service to our country and salute you and all the other alumni that have served our country.*

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## Vintage Baseball at Heritage Park!

**The Taylor Historical Society is excited to be hosting some vintage baseball at Heritage Park, Concert Field (off Parking Lot B) when The Franklin Base Ball Club of Detroit is scheduled to play the Wyandotte Stars at 1pm on Saturday, July 22!**

Admission is free. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs, blankets, etc. The Society will be selling concessions (pop, water, and snacks) during the game. One important spectator rule: no parking on the grassy areas. There are many parking lots at the park!



Taylor resident and Historical Society member Dalton Lee plays for the Franklin Base Ball Club. Dalton's mom, Sheila Lee is also a Taylor Historical Society member and Historical Commissioner.

A little Vintage baseball history - "The Franklin Base Ball Club of Detroit" aka "Franklins of Detroit" aka "Franklins" (as they were known by all three names in the papers at the time) was traditionally founded on August 1, 1857. However, they had no activity happening until April 3rd of 1858 when Henry Starkey, city editor of the Free Press, held an informal meeting on the grounds at Beaubien Street. He then held an official meeting at the Congress Hall Saloon, located at 3 Congress Street, six days later where they established executive board positions, rules and bylaws, thus making them the first regulation Base Ball Club in the State of Michigan. The club started with 24 "frequenters" of the Saloon, most being employees of the three Detroit newspapers. The team also had a waiting list well past that. This healthy turn-out was due in part to the Saloon being the local watering hole for the newspapers.

The Franklins brought the first organized form of baseball, "The New York Game", to the city, rather than the rivaled "Massachusetts Game" as a handful of the club's members had migrated to Detroit from New York. The club was credited by 'The Advertiser' that year for not only taking it from a child's game to an adult sport because of playing with actual rules, but also for providing healthy, manly exercise. At this time in the city of Detroit, billiards and brothels were the main form of male adult entertainment, and the city was glad to see a healthy pastime come in and be so well received by the ...continued on page 3...

...continued from page 2... young men in the city. In their founding years, unfortunately, they had no rival clubs to play against, but with the large number of members they had, they were able to play a handful of scrimmages that year. After the 1858 season ended, the club disbanded and would re-form in the summer of 1859 with some returning members as well as new members, to become “The Early Riser Base Ball Club of Detroit.”



Members of the Early Riser Base Ball Club of Detroit recreated The Franklin Base Ball Club of Detroit in 2016. The purpose of the team is to be a prospect team for The Early Risers or other clubs that are looking to add players to their team. Currently there are 11 players on the team, 10 men and 1 woman. The team is always looking for new players to join, whether you have experience playing baseball or not, anyone is welcome!

Vintage baseball is played on an open field with no fences. Often no gloves are used. Hope to see you all July 22!

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## GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Taylor High School's Symphonic Band received Division I rating, which is the highest rating possible, from all four judges at the Michigan School, Band & Orchestra Association's Band & Orchestra Festival earlier this month. In the last four years attending this festival, no group from Taylor has received a Division I rating, let alone from all four judges as happened this year. “We have been practicing our music since the start of the new semester in January,” says Brian Wieczorek, Taylor High School's Director of Bands. “Students practice often during school and at home. I think they genuinely enjoyed the music, which led them to want to practice more on their own. And it showed.” ...continued on page 4...



...continued from page 3... Along with the students' practicing and preparation, Brian also credits the music the band chose to play at the festival for its success, saying last year they took on music that was a lot more challenging and didn't allow them to really dig deeper into the performance itself.

"We had just the right amount of challenges without making it impossible for students to do well," he said. "Last year, the music was so difficult it didn't allow the students to reach their full potential, which, I believe, is the primary reason we received a Division III rating last year."

This year's focus has been different, too. Which also helped our band reach their full potential.

"One thing I wanted to focus on this year was intonation with the full group," Brian says. "Intonation is basically how well in tune the students are with themselves and each other. Each student has been practicing with a tuner on their stand to help let them know if they are in tune or not. We are using these each day during class, so students are learning more about their instrument tendencies to help our overall group."

Despite having to reschedule the festival due to weather and having a few students who couldn't make it because of the rescheduling conflict, the students who did attend were able to take things in stride, showing how strong Taylor High School's band really is.

"The students achieving straight I's from four judges makes me proud because it really shows that their hard work can pay off," says Brian. "We were a little nervous going into the day of the festival, but I am proud because the students who were able to go stepped up and focused on their goal of giving their best performance."

"Most of all, it shows the students that they have that potential in them," continued Brian. "When they have a bad day in the future, I can remind them that they have that 'Superior' group deep down inside of them and they just need to harness that energy again."

The band will now head to States following this performance. Any group who receives an I rating is eligible for States. They will be performing (tentatively) at the Detroit School of Arts on May 6th for State Band & Orchestra Festival, where they hope to receive another Division I rating.

*Way to go, Band!*

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## GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

MUSIC AT THE BEAUTIFUL TAYLOR CONSERVATORY



**WEDNESDAYS 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

## TRAUMA TRAINING



Taylor School District administration undergo two-day, 10-hour Trauma Practitioner Certification training through Starr Commonwealth.

Administrators from around Taylor School District joined our Resilience team as they partnered with Starr Commonwealth for a 10-hour training focused on bringing resilience education strategies into all our PreK-12 classrooms.

“This training will set the stage for the Resilience-based educational practices that we will begin implementing in the next school years,” says Emily Graham, Resiliency Director at Taylor School District, a newly created position to spearhead this important initiative.

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## DOWN MEMORY LANE

President [Bill Clinton](#) attended the commemoration ceremony for the new Department of Public works building grand opening in 1996.

## FIRST EDITION OF THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER MAY 2004

Taylor Center Class of '62 will be taking a Hawaiian Cruise! Contact Sandy Kyte for more information. The Cruise was enjoyed by a large number of the class of '62.



## Final Goodbye to John F. Kennedy High School

Caroline Patts



Saturday, July 15 will be the alumni sponsored final goodbye to Kennedy HS. It will be from 2:00pm - 4:00pm. At 3:00pm we will have a photographer there to take a group picture of anyone who wants to be in it. We can email a copy of it to those in the picture. We will have a paper for them to sign if they want one. One picture in front of the school and one in the football field bleachers.

We will have 2 pop up tents with tables of Kennedy uniforms, composites, Kennedy items, and some desks from the building. The maintenance director said it is going to be too hard to take apart the lockers, so we won't be selling them. This will not be a celebration, as that has already happened, just a final goodbye.

[Click here for Facebook Event with more details.](#)

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

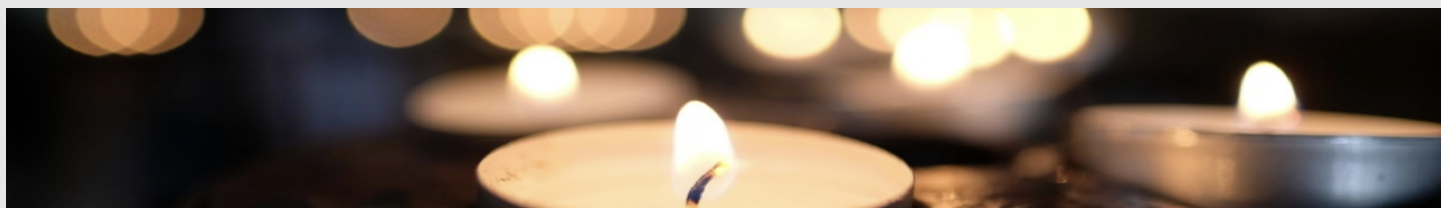


**40 Year REUNION** - HARRY S TRUMAN Class of 1983, September 23, 2023

Contact Lora Coats for more information: [LORA.J.COATS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LORA.J.COATS@GMAIL.COM)

*Note:* Students from the Taylor school district who did or would have graduated high school near the year of 1983 (1980-1985) are welcome to purchase a ticket and attend. They would love to see friends from junior high and elementary as well!





## OBITUARIES

*The Alumni Association members would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the former classmates mentioned below. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers. Please Note: If you know of a deceased graduate that is not listed in the Memoriam section of our website, please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing.*

### **TAYLOR CENTER HIGH SCHOOL**

- David Beauchamp, Class of 1967 (passed May 26, 2023)
- Kord Kostich, Class of 1970 (passed August 13, 2016)
- Eileen Carr, Class of 1973 (passed May 15, 2023)
- Laurel Sherman, Class of 1977 (passed June 27, 2008)
- Susan Dooling, Class of 1977 (passed March 10, 2012)
- John S Kennedy, Class of 1980 (passed July 15, 2022)
- Stacey Atkins Peters, Class of 1983 (passed November 26, 2020)
- Jamie Carlson Kilbourne, Class of 1983 (passed June 14, 2021)
- Gail Schilk Start, Class of 1986 (passed December 5, 2008)
- Sandra Beasley Kujawski, Class of 1987 (passed September 5, 2019)
- Jeffrey Scott Centers, Class of 1988 (passed December 20, 2021)

### **HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

- Shirley Wudarski, Class of 1977 (passed June 9, 2023)
- Vickie Tankersley, Class of 1979 (passed May 15, 2023)
- Michael Johnson, Class of 1983 (passed May 24, 2023)

### **JOHN F KENNEDY**

- Ronald Dowling, Class of 1972 (passed May 10, 2023)
- Lawrence Das, Class of 1974 (passed May 25, 2023)
- Susan Howe Phillips, Class of 1977 (passed May 27, 2023)
- Fernando Joaquin, Class of 1986 (passed June 16, 2023)

### **STAFF**

- Richard Denman, Teacher West and JFK (passed December 27, 2021)
- Carey Lynn Zanotti, Art Teacher (passed May 23, 2023)

***For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit [tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org) and click on "In Memoriam".***