



## FAREWELL JOHN F KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL



In the winter semester, February of 1965, sophomore and junior students moved to the brand-new John F. Kennedy High School, located off Northline Road, Taylor's second new high school built in the Township; those students came from Taylor Center High School, Taylor's first high school (located on Wick Road). Seniors came later and the first graduating class of John F. Kennedy High School, class of 1966 graduated 399 students. The enrollment for 1965-66 was 1,359 students. From that date forward, over 19,000 students graduated from Kennedy until its final closure in June of 2018. Kennedy had nine principals throughout its history. When Harry S. Truman High School (Taylor's third new high school) opened its doors in 1973, some of the Kennedy High School student population moved to that school along with some of the teaching staff. With the passing of a \$130 million bond in 2021 by Taylor voters, there will be a new high school built on the site of the now closed John F. Kennedy High School. Demolition of Kennedy High School is scheduled to begin early August 2023. As all the memories from the Kennedy High School alumni have been flooding the Alumni Association's Facebook page along with many other Kennedy Facebook groups, many alumni remember going through the same thing as when Taylor Center, our first high school in Taylor, was demolished in 2011. Demolition of Kennedy High School will begin early August 2023 with the new school construction beginning next summer, 2024.

On a very rainy Saturday, July 15, from 2-4pm, members of the Alumni Association along with members of the Taylor Historical Society hosted a final farewell to John F. Kennedy ...continued on page 2...

... continued from page 1... High School. The rain did not keep the Kennedy alumni from coming to see their beloved school one last time. Numerous people purchased used uniforms from the past years of the sports they or a family member may have played in. One alumnus even found his own #33 duffle bag that he used during his basketball years. The Taylor Schools Alumni Association had other items such as Alumni Association directories, alumni mugs, class composites and yearbooks available for purchase. All proceeds from the sale of all items goes directly to the Alumni Association to help continue to provide scholarships to Taylor High School graduating seniors from the Association and for the establishment of the Taylor Schools Alumni Museum which will display memorabilia not only from Kennedy but from Taylor Center High, Truman High School and even some junior high and elementary schools. If anyone is looking for a yearbook or composite, you can email the association at [tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com).

Gerald Thomas (Taylor Life Photography) took a group photo in front of the high school and in the football field bleachers for the Association of all Kennedy alumni and Staff in attendance. The Alumni Association would like to thank Gerald for his time and photos! After the photo on the football field, everyone sang the John F. Kennedy High School Fight Song and the Alma Mater (the Alumni Association had copies of the words just in case but that wasn't necessary as everyone remembered!)

The future Taylor Schools Alumni Museum has been in the works for over 25 years. Items collected have been moved throughout many buildings in the school district with the former Brake/Sixth Grade Academy building being its final home. The building, currently the Board Annex, will house the Board of Education offices, and possibly the Pupil Accounting, Special Education, School Improvement departments, and the TAYLOR SCHOOLS ALUMNI MUSEUM!

If you are a Kennedy alumnus and could not make it to the event on July 15, the Association will be having more events where memorabilia will be for sale. Keep checking the Taylor Michigan Alumni Association on Facebook and their website: [www.tayloralumni.org](http://www.tayloralumni.org) for information. The Taylor Alumni Association works very closely with the Taylor Historical Society. The Taylor Historical Society can be contacted at: [taylorhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:taylorhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or [www.taylormichiganhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.taylormichiganhistoricalsociety.org)

*To all the school memories, you will live forever in our minds.*

***Fight Song (Words, Music, and Arrangement by Roger Craig)***

***WE ARE HERE TO FIGHT FOR KENNEDY FOR THE HONOR OF OUR SCHOOL. WE WILL GIVE THREE GREAT, BIG CHEERS, RAH, RAH, RAH FOR THE RED AND WHITE AND BLUE. TO OUR COLORS, WE WILL LOYAL BE, AS WE MARCH TO VICTORY. WE'RE HERE TO STAND AND SAY, IT'S THE EAGLES ALL THE WAY DEAR OLD JFK.***

***Alma Mater (Music by John Dykes, Arranged by Roger Craig. Words by Cletis Day)***

***O ALMA MATER, WE WILL BE FOREVER TRUE TO COLORS THREE. THE EAGLE SOARING IN THE SKIES DOES BEAR THE NAME THAT NEVER DIES THE LIGHT THAT BURNS FOREVER FREE WE'LL***



## HEARD FROM-

Roger Craig, retired Band Instructor, Principal, Secondary Director of Education and Superintendent. Roger is living in Ann Arbor and just celebrated his 90th Birthday.

## GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

As part of this program, the Taylor Police held a meet-and-greet session with residents. This gathering will be held beginning at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16 at the dead end of Haig and Elm streets, north of Suburban Villas. This was an opportunity for residents to meet and interact with the police officers. Police sought to get a better understanding of the safety concerns in your area.



## History in the Making

The Junior League World Series is the “older brother” of the more famous Little League World Series for 12-year-olds in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The JLWS was founded in Taylor in 1981 and has been hosted by the Metro Detroit city since.

The World Series was originally for 13-year-olds. The first World Series had just four American teams. The Junior division eventually expanded to include 14-year-olds as well, which enabled more nations to compete for regional championships and qualify for the World Series.

This year, 12 teams competed during the weeklong tournament – the most in JLWS history. Teams now come as far away as Australia and the Asia Pacific, but this year Little League International authorized a Michigan District 5 champion to play as a host team to even up the pools at six American teams and six International teams. The Brownstown Township all-stars served as the first host team.

Greg Burza, a retired banker and former Taylor City Councilman, founded the JLWS and remains the director in the event’s 38th year. He credits hundreds of volunteers with making the World Series happen.

## From the JLWS to the Pros

A number of players have gone on from the Junior League World series to play professional baseball and other sports. Former and current pro ball players to play in Taylor have included Freddy Galvis, Dylan Cozens Gary Sheffield, Eric Bedard, Brett Myers, brothers Jose and Javier Valentin, Erubiel Durazo, Chad Hermansen, Derek Bell, Delino DeShields, Shannon Withem, Adam Loewen and Chris Brock. Other JLWS alumni include current pro football quarterbacks Patrick Mahomes II and Matt Cassel (of the Detroit Lions), former National Hockey League players Chris Dingman and Steve Reinprecht and former college football star and current coach Mark “Bo” Pelini.

## Home Run Derby

Tommaso Ardoni, a member of the Europe/Africa regional champions from Emilia Romagna, Italy, won the 2018 JLWS Home Run Derby. The derby had several changes this year. There were two phases, both of which involved coaches pitching to players, as opposed to players hitting off a tee as in the past. The first phase, which started Saturday morning at the senior field at the Taylor South Little League complex, reduced the contenders to five finalists. Those five advanced to the final phase, which was held after the conclusion of the USA championship game on World Series Field. Ardoni emerged as the winner. The other finalists were Stefano Paulucci of Canada and Keelon Danje, Garrett Arias and BJ Rincones of Aruba.



*For more information about the Junior League World Series, visit the website [www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries](http://www.cityoftaylor.com/worldseries). The World Series has an active Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/juniorleagueworldseries](http://www.facebook.com/juniorleagueworldseries). The World Series' Instagram page is active during World Series week. Search *jlws\_taylor*.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TC CLASS OF '65

From Mark Douglas: To all 1965 TCHS classmates, we have completed the planning for the TCHS Gathering. It will be held at Taylor Meadows Golf Course, on the 16th of September. The cost is \$25.00. We need to have 50 classmates at the event. Time from 7 to 11 pm. Cash Bar. Please email me at [Markdouglass65@gmail.com](mailto:Markdouglass65@gmail.com) for more information on how to pay. This also will be posted on Classmates. If you know anyone that is not on FB or classmates to contact me by the email above. Hope we have a great turnout. We must have a count as soon as possible. See you soon.





## **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)
- John Cline, Class of 1975 (passed July 1, 2023)
- Bruno Cappella, Class of 1980 (passed June 25, 2023)

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

- Mark E. Collins, Class of 1975 (passed June 24, 2023)

### **JOHN F KENNEDY**

- Dave Bacon, Class of 1968 (passed June 23, 2015)
- James M. Brown, Class of 1968 (passed April 15, 2022)
- Arthur Baize, Class of 1971 (passed April 1, 2022)
- Jeremy Dicks, Class of 1998 (passed June 27, 2023)

### **STAFF**

- William “Bill” Ickes Retired Maintenance Staff (passed October 19, 2021)

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