



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wouldn't it be a truly happy year if we got rid of COVID in 2022?

TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES HAVE HAD SUCCESSFUL CAREERS



GENO SALAMONE, 23RD DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RETIRES

Geno, a 1973 Graduate of JFK, remembers always wanting to be a lawyer. He enrolled in Wayne State University. To help finance his way, Geno worked afternoon and nights shifts as a custodian while attending day classes. He graduated from Wayne State in 1980 and enrolled in The Detroit College of Law, graduating 4 years later with a Juris Doctorate degree. He was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan in 1984 and practiced labor and public sector law for the next 16 years before becoming a District Court Judge. In addition to serving on the bench, Geno was heavily involved in many projects in the City of Taylor. Some of those projects are Goodwill Gardens in Heritage Park, Taylor

Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Taylor Reading Corps, Taylor Farmers Market, "Court in the Schools Program" and the Downriver Regional Treatment Center.

What will retirement look like for a man of action like the judge? He will continue to have a hand in those many programs, but with a heavy emphasis on family. Geno and Karen have three children.

THE TAYLOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONGRATULATES GENO SALAMONE ON A STELLAR CAREER AND WISHES HIM THE VERY BEST IN HIS RETIREMENT!

WE RECENTLY HEARD FROM—

PENRICKTON The Beginning, As I Remember - *By Jeanette Penman Merrill*

Hi, I am Jeanette (Penman) Merrill, class of '57 TCH, and proud to tell you my maiden name is a part of the Penrickton name. Almost anyone who has ever lived in Taylor has heard of Penrickton Nursery, or, as it is now called, Penrickton Center for the Blind. It has been in existence for 67+ years and is still going strong! I am also proud to say I was there in the beginning.

My sisters, Sandra and Patricia were born 2 ½ months premature. Sandy weighed 2 lbs. 10 oz and Patty weighed in at 2 lbs. 4oz. They were placed in incubators to keep them alive. Unfortunately, this caused the retinas in their eyes to detach, which caused partial blindness in Sandy and total blindness in Patty. They were 3 months old when they weighed enough to come home (that was about 5 lbs. each). Other than that, they were like normal babies! Crying when hungry and crying when wet! (I was 11 years old at the time and learned how to do changing and feeding and hanging out diapers!) As they grew, the twins progressed slowly. Sandy was walking by about 2 years, but not Patty. Doctors told us Patty would never do much of anything, we should put her in an institution!

Lillian Ricker, our next-door neighbor and sometimes babysitter, heard of a school in California where children like this were being taught to do all the things, we take for granted. (Esther Williams, the movie star, and swimmer, taught swimming there.) So, Lillian took a trip to California to observe the school. She came back to Taylor excited and ready to get started. She even put little bells on Patty's shoes so she could hear her feet moving and we got an old sturdy doll carriage and put a cement block in it so Patty could learn how to walk!

We had already heard of many children in the downriver area with the same problems as our twins. One of the first families was Tom and Peggy Wigginton and their daughter Marcia. Reverend Weigle of a local church offered the use of their basement Monday thru Friday. We were even able to give the students a hot lunch!! So now we needed a name. Pen-(Penman)-rick-(Ricker)-ton-(Wigginton) came from a few of the letters of each name of the founding members. The first building was about the size of a two-car garage but today it is huge!!! It has a wonderful director and staff, and visitors are welcome. Many service organizations helped raise funds to build Penrickton. The Lions Club and many Jewish organizations, Girls Club of Ford's Glass Plant and on and on. Someone even donated a station wagon so that we could transport some of the students around. It is because of all these organizations and the continuing support of the community that Penrickton is what it is today! They do not receive any state or federal aid of any kind and never have!

GREAT TO HEAR FROM THE FOLLOING GRADS

Tom Penman, TCH Class of 60

Thanks for your generous contribution to the Penrickton School for the Blind. My mom and dad's legacy really makes Jeanette and me proud. I don't know if you knew that Sandy and Patty, my blind sisters, have now both passed away. Sandy in 2003 and Patty on 9/30/2020. Jeanette (Class of 57) and I are the only ones left from the family. Lori and I are doing fine living in Newport News, VA where I retired from Langley AFB after a 30-year Air Force career and where they build submarines and aircraft carriers. We have two daughters. Lisa is a teacher in Hampton VA and Lori Ann is an HR Director for a company here in town. Great to have them both close by. I was working at Colonial Williamsburg selling hot dogs and beer on the Golden Horseshoe Golf Course until recently and am now fully retired...to fish, golf, and play racquetball. Spencer Hammons, Bob Mauk, and I always called each other on our birthdays until Spencer passed away. Now Bob and I talk every year. We go back as far as I can remember.

Alan Dawson TCH 1958 and Sue Pigion Dawson TCH 1961

Susan and I are doing well after 50 years of marriage. We have 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. We get your newsletter monthly. It's enjoyable to reminisce. We live in a villa near 5 Mile and Sheldon. I have a BBA with a major in Industrial Management from Eastern Michigan University and am now retired from Ford management after 35.5 years in Human Resources. Susan is also retired after an 18-year career in the transportation department of Plymouth Schools.

Richard Beckerson, TCH Class of 1964

I saw Richard and his wife Becky Bailey, TCH Class of 1964, at a recent event and during the conversation I asked Rick if he'd been on the nightly news a year or so ago. He responded that he had indeed. He went on to explain that he'd come down with COVID and was sent to St Joe's Hospital where he spent four weeks in ICU on a ventilator. His family was told that he might not make it, but after 122 days he was discharged to his home. He looked great and said he was feeling fine.

Enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District for both the graduates and the school district.

TIME FOR A LITTLE HUMOR



SUCCESS STORY?

I thought I had a great success story when I recently ran into an Alumnus and, during the conversation, asked him what he was doing these days. He replied that he was working on

“Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum, and steel under a constrained environment”.

I was impressed until, upon further inquiry, I learned he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife’s supervision.

Proof that his English teachers in Taylor taught him a great vocabulary!

LOOKING FOR HELP

Dean Sokol, JFK Class of 1978, wrote:

“I am trying to find out if you might have information about Mrs. Clark. I think her first name was Jackie. I believe she was a teacher in Blair Moody and West Jr High. Heard that she was sick but have not been able to find anything out. I would appreciate any information you may have.”

Sorry, Dean, most of the information we have relates to the 3 high schools. However, we have posted your request for information here in hopes that our alumni readership may be of help.

We ask any alumni with pertinent information to please send it to tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District for both the graduates and the school district.



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 we receive deaths from the past that are not listed in our newsletter, they will be posted on the "In Memoriam" section on our website. 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

- ✚ Billie Joyner, Class of 1961 (passed November 3, 2021)
- ✚ Gregory Parks, Class of 1984 (passed February 22, 2021)
- ✚ Terence "Terry" Graves, Class of 1966 (passed November 26, 2021)
- ✚ Edward "Ed" Mayday, Class of 1960 (passed November 28, 2021)
- ✚ Kenneth J Atzinger, Class of 1968 (passed February 28, 2002)
- ✚ Eric Marshall, Class of 1984 (passed November 20, 2021)
- ✚ Ronald Boyer, Class of 1965 (passed August 3, 2021)
- ✚ Harry L Pennington, Class of 1965 (passed September 1, 2020)

JOHN F KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

- ✚ Arnold Ludwig, Class of 1966 (passed February 22, 2018)
- ✚ Sharon Pennington Roberts, Class of 1966 (passed March 13, 2021)

HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

- ✚ Brian Sieloff, Class of 1983 (passed December 9, 2021)
- ✚ Patricia Kaechele, Class of 1983, and retired Principal of West Jr High (passed December 13, 2021)

STAFF

- ✚ Van Kostegian, Teacher and Coach in all 3 high schools (passed November 30, 2021)

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit the alumni website tayloralumni.org and click on "In Memoriam".