

## Alumni Association

*Keeping Ties with Our Alumni*



**TAYLOR**  
School District



July 2019 Newsletter

# IN THE NEWS

## TAYLOR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED

By Ken Nelson Chairman of the  
Foundation Scholarship Committee

Thirty-six awards totaling \$36,600 were granted on June 5, 2019 during Taylor High School's Farewell Assembly. The scholarship offering is a function of the Taylor School District Foundation for Educational Excellence.

New awards this year were made honoring Robert Haarala, Rollie Hopgood,

Van Kostegian and John Pantalone.

The scholarship committee had a very successful year in fundraising as \$68,000 was obtained and designated for future distribution. Significantly, \$10,000 has been committed annually for trade school applicants by an anonymous donor in recognition that the college route is not the only path chosen by successful students.

## DONATIONS

This past month donations were received from the

following:

Joan Gebhardt  
to the Taylor Foundation

Sue Landis  
to the Taylor Alumni Association

John Pantalone  
to the Taylor Alumni Association

Ken Renner  
to the Taylor Alumni Association

Thanks to all of you, for your generous contributions.



Taylor Alumni Association  
11501 Beech Daly Road,  
Taylor MI 48180  
[tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org)

## ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Sara Stevenson and Trace Donahey were the recipients of the Taylor Alumni Association Scholarships for 2019.

Sara Stevenson's parents both graduated from Taylor Center 1990. Sara had a 3.9 GPA and was 26th of 352 in her class. She went to Kennedy 9th - 11th before graduating from Taylor High and was involved in cheerleading, basketball, tennis, student council and National Honors Society. Sara did dual enrollment at WCCC in Taylor and has been accepted to Eastern Michigan University. Her plans are to study nursing and her career goal is a degree of Bachelors of Science in Nursing.



Trace Donahey's parents both graduated in 1988, one from Kennedy and the other from Taylor Center. Trace had a 3.8 GPA with dual enrollment at WCCC where he earned college credit in the district's early college program. He also attended Kennedy 9th - 11th before graduating from Taylor High. Trace has been accepted to Saginaw Valley State University where he plans on studying nursing.

---

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“Kind words  
are worth  
much, and  
cost little.”

— George Herbert

@pfgregg

# DOWN MEMORY LANE

The JFK Class of 1969 had the first Homecoming parade that included floats. We marched on a beautiful fall day and attended the football game with Dearborn Lowrey. At half-time we were entertained by the great marching band under the direction of Mr. Roger Crain and with Drum Major Tom Fioritti leading the band in a rendition of Up, Up and Away. The team took care of that with a great 53-12 over the Lowery Bears. The Eagles finished the season with a 7 win 2 loss record. They broke Schafer High Schools 17 game winning streak with a 19-12 win. Rex Baugh, Jim Chapman and Keith Baxter received many honors including "All League" and "All Area" first team awards. Stu Kerr received all those awards and an "All State Honorable Mention.

That was the first of many successes for the class of 69. The Debate Team under the Direction of Mr. Clements were top contenders for the State Title and Dave Egger was the top debater in the district.

The JFK band made a name for themselves performing in many venues including half-time

at a Detroit Lion Football game.

Success for our athletic teams continued with the basketball team posting a 12-4 record under Coach Kosteglan. The record included wins over city rival Taylor Center 52-48 and handing Garden City its only league loss 59-43.

The JFK Gymnasts continued the fine athletic season with a 3rd place in State Competition and Dan Witz was the first JFK athlete to be chosen "All State Performer." Coach Bechtol's team was a league and downriver power.

We all remember Presidential Candidate Hubert Humphry attending a band practice and, after seeing the fine band, told them if he won the Presidential election, he would have them march in the inaugural parade.

Can you believe there were over 20 after school organizations and clubs you could choose to participate in?

Following this article two members of the class of 69 - "Where are they now" add their memories of JFK.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Mike Connelley

1969 JFK High School Graduate

The first thoughts of JFK were instilled when I was at Brake Junior High. We knew that almost all of West Jr. High would be going to JFK, while obviously most if not all of Taylor Jr. High would be going to TCH. But Brake was split down the middle. It was bittersweet, but also fun. Especially if you were in band. There was always a feeling of JFK vs. TCH on every occasion they met. All the junior high school bands were able to perform at the TCH vs. Kennedy football games. Which brings me to my favorite teacher who instilled all of that spirit. Mr. Roger Craig.

Being part of the JFK band is what made going to school an absolute delight. I was all in. As a sophomore, we won every first-place trophy in every parade we participated in. We achieved a number one rating at our district band festival in our senior year. We marched twice in the J. L. Hudson Thanksgiving Parade and were twice the featured band performing at Detroit Lions' games, usually an honor reserved for small local colleges.

Academics were also important. Teachers that I will always remember are Mr. Charles

Dickelman, Miss Osadchuk and Mr. Kozik. Additionally, many years after school, I developed business and social relationships with Bob Schnieders and Mr. Jaffke. And, I really enjoyed Mr. Vandette.

Life after JFK did not go according to plan. After receiving a music scholarship to Wayne State University, I fell ill and missed most of my second quarter. I lost my deferment and had a low draft number which prompted me to enlist in the USAF. However, the happy ending is that it all led to a long and successful career in Information Technology. It all led to a wonderful opportunity to do Websites for causes near and dear to me such as Veteran and Pro Troop causes, as well as our Class of 1969 reunion site. It's easier, because all of those sites allow me to use Eagles as part of the mastheads.

Greg Warsow

1969 JFK High School Graduate

I've been asked to share some memories of JFK Teachers. Understand, I was not the most academically involved student. That being said, I personally enjoyed my Business/Typing Class with Mr. Liszewski, my Mechanical/Architectural Drafting Class with Mr. Heidemann and my Biology Class with Mr. Freeman. The knowledge, skills and advice

from these classes and teachers became key in my future. Thank you to all Instructors! My association with Physical Education Instructors and Coaches taught me discipline and they were always there for advice. How I remember Coach Sclater on the football field yelling "Hey Warsaw, Poland is the other way" and running the play until you got it right. Coaches Mr. Heiden, Mr. Vollmar, Mr. Bone, Mr. Gorski, Mr. Bechtol & Mr. Kozik. Thank you!

The Class of 1969 was blessed with so many upper classmates from the Classes of "67" & "68". They welcomed us in our first year at JFK and many became friends and are still friends today. Thank you!

### **Do You Remember**

- ☒ Writing ballots postcards to be sent in to WKNR Contest at Fay Kopczynski's house. I don't think we won but we sent in a load of postcards.
- ☒ Drivers Training
- ☒ Sadie Hawkins Dances - Who did you go with?
- ☒ Homecomings – Who did you go with?
- ☒ Football Games (2nd in the Tri-River League with 7 Wins & 2 Losses)
- ☒ Junior & Senior Proms
- ☒ Basketball Games ( 12 Wins & 4 Losses)(2 Key wins over Garden City West their only

League loss and a win over cross town rival Taylor Center)

- ☒ Detroit Dragway? Northline Dragway?
- ☒ Denton Road Cemetery Road trips
- ☒ Track & Field
- ☒ Gymnastics – (Team 3rd in the State and Dan Witz was first athlete at JFK to become All State)
- ☒ Daly's, Peppy's (I worked there), Little Skipper's, A&W, Pia's and Big Boy's
- ☒ Parties at House

### **Where did this take me?**

My first job out of High School was with Kerr Manufacturing (a division of Sybron Corporation). They manufacture consumable dental products. I quit to go to Monroe Community College where I met my wife Cindy. She was from New Castle, IN., so she wasn't aware of my reputation. Married 48 years we had a daughter Jodie & a son Joshua. We now have 3 grandchildren, Kendall, Ethan & Ashton.



I returned to Kerr in 1972 and grew up in the company holding a number of positions while completing my degree in Dental Technology/Business and Studied Business/Marketing at Sienna Heights University. I started at Kerr as a Quality Control Lab Technician and moved within the



company in various positions, managing the Chemical Production Department, Technical Service Rep., and Marketing Product Manager Amalgam & Infection Control. I also controlled arrangements and contracts for Kerr - Sybron Dental Specialties Trade Shows., Project Manager for New Products Group Romulus Plant, Sales Rep Training and two periods as Human Resources Manager. I retired in 2003.



In 2001 I decided to start a fishing charter service called Fish Wars Charter Service, LLC. I always loved to fish. Acquired my Captain's License & Boat Inspections in 2004. I enjoy teaching people

different ways to fish Detroit River and Lake Erie for Walleye & Perch while supporting my fishing addiction by chartering. I am involved with the Downriver Walleye Federation (DWF) as past President and currently on the Board of Directors. DWF is a non-profit organization dedicated for the purpose of exchanging ideas and information about perhaps the finest walleye fishing in the world. Visit us on Facebook or our website at <http://www.dwfonline.org/>



## **Keep in Touch**

I am still in touch with my best friend Steve Gorski. I still hunt with Steve, his brother Rick and his son Marc. I also enjoy meeting with a group of classmates at Pia's occasionally at our "Get Together's".

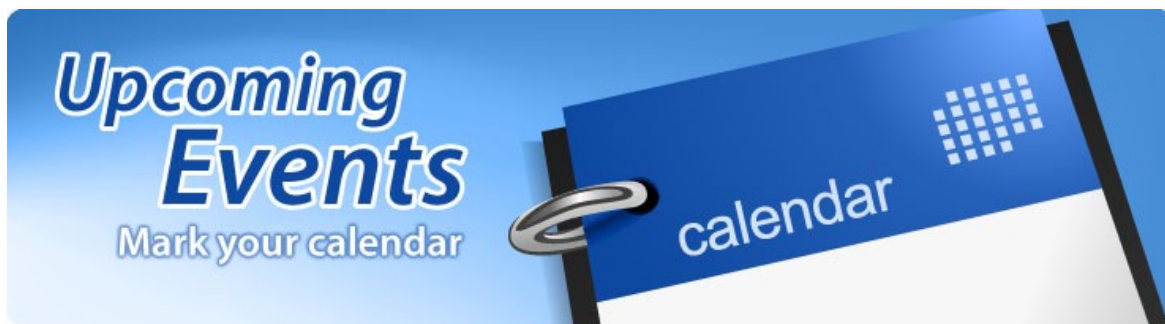
Which Brings us to the Class of 1969's 50th Class Reunion. I volunteered for Reunion Committee Chairman since I had the information from the 45th reunion. Mike Connelly has developed a website where you can purchase tickets. \$40 per person.

<https://www.jfkreunion.com/>

## **The John F Kennedy High School Class of 1969**

*Golden 50th Reunion  
Taylor Meadows Golf Club  
25630 Ecorse Road  
Taylor, MI 48180  
Saturday October 5, 2019  
12:00 noon to 7:00 pm*





- July 3rd Taylor Conservatory — Karen Newman with the Henry Ford College Big Band, Celebration of Independence Day, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm.
- July 9th Taylor Board Office, 6 pm - 8 pm Taylor Alumni Board – all are welcome.
- July 10th Taylor Conservatory — Our own Mary Boss Boonenberg & Girls Night Out, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.
- July 17th Taylor Conservatory — Country Music by Ashley Lynn and the Spurs, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.
- July 24th Taylor Conservatory — Latin Jazz, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.
- July 31st Taylor Conservatory — Eclectic Celtic Vibe, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.
- October 5th JFK CLASS OF 1969 reunion. Taylor Meadows 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- October 12th JFK CLASS OF 1979 reunion. Mallie's Sports Grill & Bar. Rooms are being held. Casual attire – only \$20 per person DJ and more – sounds like a blast -For more information call Steve Meharry 313-551-5159



# 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.*

## **Taylor Center High**

Russell Eichold, class of 1965 (passed May 30, 2019)

Bill Jones, class of 1960 (passed June 8, 2019)

David Gazel, class of 1962 (passed June 21, 2019)

Sheila Cuccaro Lake, class of 1972 (passed June 20, 2019)

## **John F Kennedy High**

Terrie Nicita Moore class of 1971 (passed June 8, 2019)

Gordon Moffatt class of 1972 (passed June 7, 2019)

## **Staff**

Richard Sisco, Teacher in the district for 40 years (passed May 22, 2019)

James "Jim" Loft, Teacher and Principal (passed June 5, 2019)

Emory Smith, Director of Transportation (passed June 19, 2019)

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