

## Alumni Association

*Keeping Ties with Our Alumni*



**TAYLOR**  
School District



June 2018 Newsletter

## HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH CLOSING IN JUNE 2018:

### Some Facts about Harry S. Truman

In 1971 plans for a new school were underway and the Taylor School Board voted to name the new building the Harry S Truman Senior High. President Truman wrote a letter to the Board thanking them for the recognition. The Board planned to ask the President to attend the opening of the new high school in September of 1973, but sadly President Truman died December 26, 1972.

Truman was born May 8, 1884 in Lamar, Missouri. He grew up in Independence, Missouri and graduated from high school in that city. Truman did not attend college. At age 33 he volunteered for

service during the First World War. He earned the rank of Captain and was assigned to a Field Artillery regiment. Truman captured the respect and admiration of his men and led them through heavy fighting in the Argonne campaign.

After the war, he returned home and married Elizabeth Wallace. They had one daughter Mary Margaret. He set up a hat shop which failed with the declining economy of the 1920's. In 1926 he ran for Judge and was elected, a position he held until he ran for Senator. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1934. In 1944 President Franklin Delano

Roosevelt was up for re-election and chose Harry Truman to be his running mate as Vice President. On January 20, 1945 he took the oath of office and became Vice President, a position he held for only 82 days before Roosevelt died of a massive stroke. Truman was sworn in as President of the United States on April 12, 1945.

With no prior experience in foreign policy, he was thrust into the role of Commander in Chief and charged with ending a world war. In the first six months of his term, he announced the Germans' surrender, dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki-

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ending World War II and signed the charter ratifying the United Nations.

In 1950 the Korean War broke out and Truman swiftly committed U. S. Troops to the conflict. He believed that North Korea's invasion of South Korea was a challenge from the Soviets, and that, if left unchecked, it could escalate to another world war.

In March of 1952, Truman announced he would not run for reelection. He returned to Independence, Missouri where he wrote his memoirs and oversaw the construction of his presidential library. He is buried next to his wife Bess in the Truman Library courtyard.



Above: Harry S. Truman presidential library and museum, below is his burial site



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

► There is a lot of excitement over the curriculum in the new high school. The Wall to Wall Career Academies will provide an individualized learning experience for every student. The goal is for every student to begin focusing on future career interests and goals.

Utilizing their previous investigations with Career Cruising and Michigan Bright Future, as well as individual interests, all students will select a theme-based academy. The benefit of this type of enrollment is to create an atmosphere that is more personalized for each student. The students will enter an academy where they will gain a sense of belonging by being part of a smaller learning community of students with similar interests. They will be engaged and supported by a core group of teachers within their academy.

The academy experience will be invaluable for all students! It will help make them aware of the importance and relevance of education as they prepare for their future. 📖





## Some Facts about Taylor & The Taylor Schools You May Not Know

Was Taylor a city when you graduated? You might be surprised as there were eleven graduating classes prior to it becoming a city.

The population of Taylor is 61,715 making it the 17th largest city in Michigan and 543rd largest in the USA. In 1847 Taylor Township was organized from 24 square miles of land that was originally part of Ecorse Township. The new Township was named after a national military hero of the 1840's, Zachary Taylor, who was later elected the 12th President of the United States in 1849. It was not until 1968 that the Township became a City. In 1968 the voters approved a charter for the new city and elected Richard Trolley the City's first mayor.

Can you guess how many Mayors Taylor, MI has had? If you came up with 7 or 8 they are both probably right. Richard Trolley, S. Richard Marshall, Don Zub, Kim Priebe JFK 69, Greg Pitoniak JFK 72, Kim Priebe, Jeff Lamarand TCH 87, Rick Sollars TCH 92. Seven different names but Priebe was Mayor twice. Never thought much about it but ran across another statistic...The largest ancestry group in Taylor is of German descent.

### A LITTLE HUMOR

Some people try to turn back their "odometers". Not me. I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

## GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

Taylor  
MI



**Caroline Patts & former U.S. Representative and World War II Veteran John Dingell**

The City of Taylor and the Taylor Veterans Museum presented Armed Forces Remembrance Day on May 12, 2018. Part of the celebration was dedicated to former U.S. Representative, John Dingell who is a World War II veteran. Names of all the Taylor deceased veterans from every war were recited. Truman High School JROTC Color Guard presented the colors and music was provided by the West Middle School Band. Guests were then invited to visit the Taylor Veterans Museum located in City Hall.



## HE TAUGHT AT BOTH JFK AND HST

### THE KEN NELSON STORY

In 1959, after graduating from Northern Michigan University, I interviewed for a teaching position within the Taylor schools. I was hired as a social studies teacher in the soon to open Brake Jr. High and was there for seven years.



In 1967, I transferred to another relatively new school, John F Kennedy High, where I taught social studies to eleventh and twelfth grade students. In the next eight years I had many great experiences in JFK. I had wonderful colleagues, many who became life-long friends, loved my students, and had the opportunity to organize and head a North Central evaluation and a local Government Week.

I began my career in administration as assistant principal of Truman Junior High in 1974 and remained there until 1983 when I transferred to assistant principal of Truman High School. In 1983, I was proud to become principal of West Jr High where I had great students who had good parental support.

During my years in administration, together with another administrator, John Pantalone, we formed a consultant company, Summit Consultants, which conducted seminars promoting human resource motivation and educational practices and management. We presented to civic and educational groups and ultimately brought our "Dog and Pony Show" to Eastern Michigan University where it was made a credit class for graduate students. Those years and good times created many wonderful memories.

I retired in 1998 but have continued my relationship with the community of Taylor. I have served on the Total Community Credit Union Board for 36 years and have been a member of the Taylor Public School Foundation for five years serving as chairman of the Scholarship Committee which has afforded me wonderful contacts with graduating seniors.

If you pick the right occupation, you never regret going to work. I picked the right occupation.

In closing, I ask my former students...Do you remember the "Nelsonian Creed"?



June 6th Truman High School Farewell Assembly 8:20 am

June 7th Truman High School Graduation 7 pm at Taylor Sportsplex.  
Kennedy High School Farewell Assembly 8 am.

June 8th Kennedy High School Graduation 7 pm at Taylor Sportsplex



August 11th Truman High School Class of 1978 will be celebrating their 40 year reunion at the Taylor Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, 22314 Northline Road, Taylor, MI 48180 from 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM EDT. All classes are welcome to attend. The cost is \$50 and includes: Appetizers, Dinner & Dessert from Alvi's BBQ, Music, Bonfire & Tons of Reconnecting, Reminiscing and Fun. 1978-era Music and Dance Floor. \$\$ Cash Bar \$\$\$. Please wear comfortable attire for an outdoor garden party. Note - heels may be challenging in the grass. Purchase tickets via the Eventbrite link, click [here](#).

Friday, June 22nd **FINAL FAREWELL**...A group of JFK Graduates have been busy planning a "Final Farewell" event. The event is to be three days in length. On Friday, "A Gathering of Eagles" – A chance to meet other graduates from all over the country in a casual atmosphere - Taylor American Legion from 6 -11 pm. Former JFK Teachers and Staff will also be attending.

Saturday, June 23rd "JFK Farewell Fair" will be held inside and on the grounds of JFK. Live music, food trucks, car/bike show, dance, tours of part of the building 3 pm - 10 pm.

Sunday, June 24th "Pancake Breakfast" - At noon the band will play the Alma Mater as we say good-bye for the last time to JFK High.

August 18th JFK Class of 1978 40th reunion. Masonic Hall 23263 Goddard Road. Dinner and Dancing followed by a picnic in the park on Sunday, August 19th. The cost is \$35, please send check to "JFK Class Reunion" c/o Kathy Davis 11141 Westpoint, Taylor Mi 48180. For more info email [Kathrynquiel2017@gmail.com](mailto:Kathrynquiel2017@gmail.com).

October 6th JFK Class of 1968's 50th Reunion will be held at the Taylor Meadows Golf Course, 25360 Ecorse Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 from 6:30 pm to 11:30 pm. If planning to attend the cost is \$40 per person for dinner and dancing and must be paid by June 30, 2018. There will be a cash bar. Please make checks payable to John F Kennedy Class Reunion and mail to Mary Burgraph Baugh, 8320 Stephenson Rd., Ousted, MI 49265. We have a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline, Southgate, MI, 734-283-4400 (please mention JFK Reunion). Rooms cost \$99.99 king bed or \$109.99 for two beds. Please direct questions to Nancy McVay Strong at 734-654-8395, Mary Burgraph Baugh 734-512-7272, or Lynn Carson Boughton at 517-902-4406. headcount is needed please email [nmcstrong@charter.net](mailto:nmcstrong@charter.net) if you plan to attend.

## ALUMNI NEWS!

### Retirees

The Taylor Alumni Association thanks the following for their years of service to the students of Taylor. We wish you well in your retirement years.

Dana Bailey, Carole Chapman, Cheryl Cunningham, Ted Doumanian, Diane Hecht, Lisa Merwin, Deborah

O'Connor, Gary Ostrowski, Karen Ostrowski, Stacy Scarpace, Richard Schmolt, and Michelle Woolford.

### Would Appreciate Your Help

We encourage you to become reporters for the monthly Alumni News Letter. It would be most helpful if you would consider contributing

information about yourselves or other graduates, important events in your life, memories of Taylor and Taylor Schools. We look forward to hearing from you.



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## 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

Paul Cummings, Jr., class of 1967 (passed May 16, 2018)

Mae Louise Ruhlman Jacques, class of 1958 (passed May 17, 2018)

### John F Kennedy High

Mary Webster, class of 1977 (passed May 11, 2018). Can be seen on the Alumni's [Facebook](#) page.

Robin Nutt Cloutier, class of 1970 (passed away May 22, 2018). Robin was a school employee as cashier/lay personnel for many years at Randall Elementary School.

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