

Alumni Association

Keeping Ties with Our Alumni



TAYLOR
School District



September 2018 Newsletter



SCHOOL BOARD AWARDS HONORARY DIPLOMA

MICHAEL COLEMAN completed the 11th grade at Taylor Center High School in 1974. He was dealing with problems outside of school and decided the best thing he could do at the time was to enlist in the Marine Corps for a four-year stint. During his time in the Marine Corps, Michael served in South Korea, Japan, Okinawa and other Pacific areas. After his service in the Marines, Mr. Coleman had a successful career with Office Depot in Florida and Michigan.

All this time he thought of his days in the Taylor Schools and recalled the many teachers who had influenced him. He stated to me that there were too many to mention all, but gave me the names of Mrs. Abercrombie, Mr. Avery, Mr. Gryzbowski and Mr. Oliver. Always wanting to receive a diploma from the Taylor schools he went to the Board Office to inquire as to what he would have to do to receive a diploma. The Superintendents' staff looked into his records and found he only needed two classes. The School Board determined

that his years in the service to our country met the needs for a diploma and graduation. Forty-three years after the class of 1975 graduated, Michael, accompanied by his wife, attended the school board meeting and he was awarded his 1975 high school diploma in a graduation ceremony. Michael was still choked up as he related the event to me. The Taylor Alumni Association extends congratulations to Michael on his becoming a 1975 Taylor Center High School Graduate. 📄

THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR



The City of Taylor has opportunities galore for anyone looking for things to do. We all know the City has one of the greatest parks in the metro area, Heritage Park, outstanding golf courses, walking, running and bike riding with groups, etc. But there is much more and let me share some of those with you.

➤ **Itch-to-Stitch:** Knitters and crocheters gather every Tuesday 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm at the Taylor Community Library. Bring your projects, enjoy company while you work and get help from experienced personnel.

➤ **Coloring for Adults:** Program is offered first Wednesday of each month @ Taylor Community Library. You will be provided materials to experience a wonderful way to unwind from the problems of the day.

➤ **Talking Books:** Second Wednesday of every month 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm. The group discusses books each month. You can listen to one or two books. (For example, Kabul Beauty School and An American Woman Goes Behind The Veil).

➤ **Wind-down Wednesdays:** The Scrap Pack meets September 12, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm @ Taylor Community Library. Scrapbook with friends. Bring your photos, books, and supplies. The Library provides basic materials.

➤ **St Alfred Fall Festival** September 14th at 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm.

➤ **Superstar:** A celebration of the music of the Carpenters – September 29th, 8:00 pm @ Wayne County Community College - Heintz Prechter Auditorium- featuring critically acclaimed vocalist Helen Welch.

This is just a sample--for more check the City of Taylor website www.cityoftaylor.com.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

LYDIA (KILLEBREW) JECHOREK JFK (1971)

I loved my time at Kennedy. Many of my school friends are still friends today.

My favorite classes were art, but I also had a lot of great teachers whose influence has stayed with me all my life. I am so thankful the arts were an important part of the curriculum in the Taylor schools. They gave me a lifelong love of painting and drawing. Art is something that never leaves you and brings you pleasure all your life. "When I say artist, I mean the one who is building things...some with a brush, some with a shovel, some with a musical instrument, some choose a pen." -Jackson Pollock

It was my interest in art that led me to my career in law enforcement. Well, that, and having a Dad who was a detective for the Taylor Police Department. When I was a sophomore, Dad asked me to do a police drawing. That sketch helped catch a killer and I was hooked.

I taught school for 3 years before becoming one of the first female Special Agents recruited through the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time.

My painting got sidelined when I became an agent in 1978 but being able to do composite drawings was a handy skill on the bank robbery/fugitive squad in Chicago. At a

time when there were few women agents it helped me get accepted much faster. When I transferred to Washington, D.C., I was assigned to work counterintelligence (CI) and later counterespionage (CE). Much to my surprise, I did composite drawings there too. I worked with one Russian defector who kept asking me to put more lines around the eyes of the drawings we were doing. He was initially a bit standoffish, so the next day when he asked me to add more wrinkles I joked, "Your people must be really hard on your intelligence officers." It broke the ice and from then on he would point to the eyes and say, "He needs more KGB wrinkles."

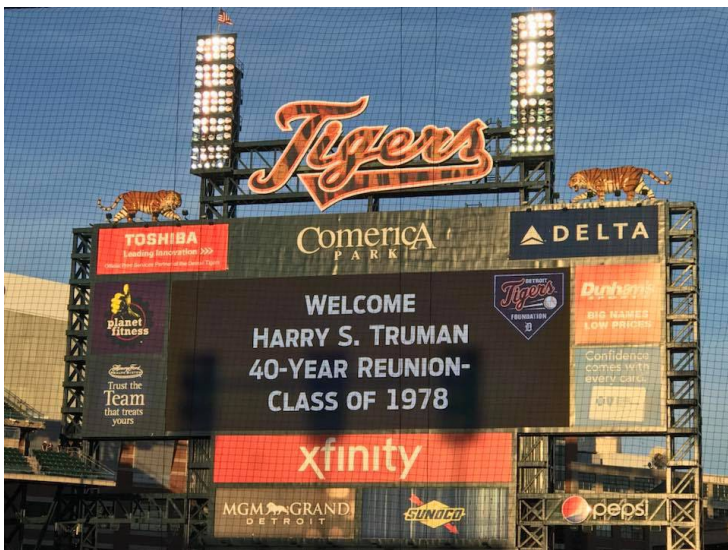


I retired after 25 years as a Special Agent, which included time as a CE supervisor. A few months after I retired, I was asked to return as a contractor and mentor new CE Supervisors and personnel at FBI Headquarters in Washington D.C. In an interesting twist in life, I went full circle and transferred from FBI Headquarters to the FBI Academy as an instructor in the CI Center and teaching again.

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HARRY S TRUMAN CLASS OF 1978 40TH REUNION, AUGUST 10TH & 11TH

The weekend began with a gathering Friday night at Nemo's in Detroit, then on to Comerica Park for the Detroit Tigers game. Great weather and a firework display at the end of the game made for an evening of fun. Our classmate, Mark Szubezcak, who is the executive chef for Comerica Park, arranged for a class welcome on the scoreboard.



Saturday evening's reunion was held at the beautiful Taylor Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Taylor MI. It was a great evening for old friends to gather and reminisce about their days at Truman and even middle and elementary school. Alumni traveled from as far away as Alaska, California and Washington State to dine, relive old times, and dance to 70's tunes under the stars. Many expressed how wonderful it was and how they are looking forward to the next reunion.



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JOHN F KENNEDY CLASS 1978 40TH REUNION, AUGUST 18TH & 19TH

Saturday night at the Masonic Lodge in Taylor, a full house enjoyed a great meal, beverages, dancing and once again meeting up with fellow classmates. Mr. Kozik and Mr. Pantalone were invited as staff members and truly enjoyed talking with the graduates. A yearbook, donated by Mr. Dickelman, was auctioned off.

The high bidder was Ron Dezi with a bid of \$140 that will go into the Alumni Association Scholarship fund. Graduates from as far as Florida and California were in attendance. Plaudits to Kathryn Quie-Davis and her committee for putting together a great reunion.





Image from: lydiajechorek.blogspot.com

Now I'm back to painting. I'm in an art gallery in Northern Virginia and participate in local art shows.

I worked in an interesting world cloaked in secrecy. There were cases I couldn't even discuss with my husband, who was also an FBI Agent. Even more exciting was being sent all over the world to places I never dreamed I'd ever get a chance to see. I worked on many high-profile espionage cases including that of Navy civilian Jonathan Pollard who spied for Israel, and Brian Regan (retired U.S. Air Force) who attempted to spy for a number of countries. I was the case agent on the former and the Supervisor on the latter. In 2015, Pollard was released after 30 years in prison and Regan is serving a life sentence.

A great career and another success story that started with education in the Taylor Schools. The instructor whom Lydia credits with sparking her interest in art is Tom Gotts. Mr. Gotts is now retired and residing in Elk Rapids, Mi. The Taylor Alumni Association congratulates Lydia on her very successful career and wishes her well in the years to come.

A LITTLE HUMOR

Due to the positive response to last month's "Not So Smart Headlines, we offer the following: More Real "Headlines" that make you wonder what was the editor thinking.

- "Homicide Victims Rarely Talk to Police"
- Bridges Help People Cross Rivers
- Man with 8 DUI'S blames drinking problem

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT MICHIGAN



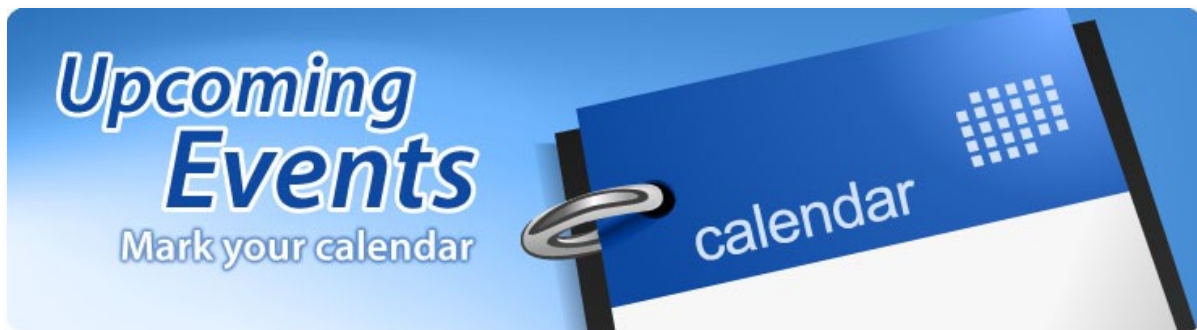
► Michigan is the nation's second largest grower of Christmas trees.

► Michigan has around 150 lighthouses, the most for any U.S. state.

► The soda beverage "Vernors" (a ginger flavored soda) was invented in Michigan. It is claimed by many Michigan natives as the unofficial state beverage, due to its wide use to

ease common illnesses such as an upset stomach and sore throat.





The Taylor Community High School's First Football Schedule - Home Games

September 7th Wyandotte
 September 14th Southgate
 September 28th Lincoln Park
 October 19th Allen Park



September 21st

All Schools-All Classes-Get Together. Great opportunity to meet with classmates, teachers, and friends. No admission fee...food and drinks available for purchase. The Taylor Alumni Association will be holding a September 21st, 2018 get together from 6:00 pm until at the alumni-owned Sneakys Sports Bar and Grill located at 22301 Allen Road in Woodhaven. We will be selling t-shirts from TCH, Kennedy and Truman, some past high school senior class composites and yearbooks from Kennedy only. Also, the Alumni Association would appreciate any old yearbooks from all schools in Taylor that you would be willing to donate to the Alumni Museum that we will be opening in the near future. You can email me at marusnak@yahoo.com. The next alumni meeting is on Tuesday, September 11th, 2018 6:00 pm at the Taylor Board Office 23033 Northline. Hope to see you at the get together! -Mary (Swartout) Rusnak, President JFK class of 1972

October 6th

JKF 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. Dinner, dancing and a cash bar. 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. A head count is needed, please email nmcstrong@charter.net if you plan to attend.

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 Staff

Long, David, Retired Teacher, (passed August 12, 2018)

John F Kennedy High

Ernie Quiel Class of 1971 (passed August 19, 2018) he is survived by Sisters Carolyn JFK 1970, Joyce JFK 1975, Kathy JFK 1978, Brothers Ray JFK 1973 and Clifford, JFK 1980.

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