



NEWSLETTER

4TH QUARTER DECEMBER 2025

“Where are they now?”

Memories of School Life

Fred Phail, John F. Kennedy Class of 1966

I was so proud to be in the first graduating class at JFK! The new school was so impressive compared with TCH. I really liked the teachers, coaches, administrative staff, and especially my classmates. I was pretty much a nerdy kid who loved cars and electronics (TVs, radios, tape recorders, and phonographs). In my senior year, Ruth Marl and I were “selected” as the most studious. I know that meant nerdy for me. My classmates also elected me Treasurer of the senior class. They knew I was good with numbers! In a non-nerdy action, I teamed up with Pat Nager and John Moore to write the Senior Variety Show called Blunderfinger. It was a spoof on Goldfinger and lots of fun! Our audience really enjoyed it. A very fond memory for me is attending the 50th graduating JFK class in 2016. What a privilege and honor!

My love for electronics led me to the University of Michigan, where I earned a BS in Electrical Engineering in 1970. My love for cars led me to interview for a job at Ford, GM, and Chrysler. I chose the offer from Ford and started in January of 1971, working in a carburetor group (4 barrel), which eventually led to my working on electronic fuel injection and ignition projects.

Ford was very good at supporting and paying for further education, and I enrolled in a Master of Engineering program at U of M Dearborn, taking classes after work, and I earned my MS in electrical engineering in May 1973. I met my future wife, Nancy, at a St Patty’s Day party in March 1973 that was hosted by my good friend & Ford technician. Nancy was a Buffalo girl working in Detroit, and we got married in May 1974 at the

Martha Mary Chapel in Greenfield Village. Well, nerdy me decided that I wanted to continue my education, and so I started attending U of M business classes in their Dearborn facilities in the evenings. Nancy was very supportive and eventually quit her job as she gave birth to our son, Paul, in September 1976 and daughter Marlene in October 1978. We also bought our first house in Dearborn Heights. I would take semesters off to help with the kids, but Nancy did a great job raising Paul and Marlene.

During the next 7 chaotic years, we moved to a new home in Canton Township, and I started working with Intel Corporation on electronic engine controls. They supplied microcontrollers and a custom microprocessor for Ford’s fourth-generation electronic engine controller. I liked the people I worked with at Intel and knew that they were moving their automotive group from California to Chandler, Arizona. I interviewed and accepted a marketing position with them in May 1981 after receiving my MBA in 1980. We moved to Arizona and bought a home in Tempe. Nancy was pleased with the move as she had developed asthma in late 1979 and needed a warmer climate for her health.

Delt was difficult to leave Ford after 10 years. I remember my dad (who worked at Ford as a tool and die maker) asking me why I would leave Ford. There were not many people who knew Intel at that time. I told him I really liked the opportunity for me and my family. Years later, my dad asked if he could buy Intel stock options – nope – only employees. He knew then it was a good move. Intel also initiated a sabbatical

program for employees with 8 weeks off after every seven years. As a family, we took full advantage of these, as I held various mid-level management positions for 21 years before "retiring".

During those 21 years, Intel encouraged employees to become involved in community programs, such as with non profits. I served for many years on the board of directors for an agency that was initially called Family Emergency Service Center. This organization, based in Mesa, Arizona, merged with and became a very large non profit now called A New Leaf. I served several times as president of the board and also served on the Finance and Donations Committees. After my early retirement, Nancy and I wanted to travel, which we did, but we also both wanted to use our time as volunteers. We were ushers at local Art Centers that had Broadway shows and other entertainment. Nancy also helped out at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport as a "Navigator," answering questions for travelers. She is still doing this. I chose an additional role as a volunteer in the Tempe VITA program (Volunteers in Tax

Assistance). This helped many people, as well as my nerdy urges. The City of Tempe also paid for me to take classes at H&R Block to improve my tax preparation skills. I did this and continued volunteering and working for H&R Block for 7 years. I would eventually (through online classes) become an Enrolled Agent (per the IRS). This helped me join my friend's CPA firm, as I worked for him for the next 11 years. I am now fully retired.

Paul and Marlene attended Arizona State University and eventually continued their education, with Paul becoming a primary care physician and Marlene earning her MBA and becoming a corporate investment banker. Both of them are married and are now living in the Boise, Idaho area. Nancy and I now have 5 grandkids and a second home there. We are so proud! I truly believe that my upbringing in Taylor and my education at JFK and U of M made my life worthwhile. Love to all my classmates!

Don't forget to send us your story for our "Where are they now?". (We would like to make this a regular feature in our newsletter) We would love to share your story! Email the Alumni Association: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com.

Taylor Schools Alumni Association Election Results

The Taylor Schools Alumni Association held officer elections on November 12, 2025. Based on the ballots returned and the votes cast at the meeting (by lifetime members), we are proud to announce our newly elected officers:

- President: Caroline (Craddock) Patts — Taylor Center Class of '73
- Taylor Center Vice President: Sandra Kyte — TC Class of '62
- Kennedy Vice President: Deborah (Howard) O'Conner — JFK Class of '76
- Truman Vice President: Lora Coats — Truman Class of '83
- Secretary: Sheri (Graham) Engelbrink — Truman Class of '77
- Treasurer: Nancy Mascaro Miller — Kennedy Class of '67

Congratulations to all!

A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing officers—your continued dedication, time, and commitment to the Association are truly appreciated.

We are still seeking a Taylor High School Vice President. If you are a Taylor High graduate and interested in helping support our alumni community, please let us know!

Alumni Lifetime Members

Larry Darnell – Taylor Center Class of 1962

Robert Moritz – Kennedy 1971

Tim Faremouth – Kennedy 1975

Deborah “Debbie” Howard O’Connor – Kennedy 1976

Want to become a lifetime member? It is only \$25. See the form at the end of this newsletter.

Reunions

If you have a class reunion coming up, please email us the info so we can add to the newsletter and also share on Facebook – tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com



Truman Class of '76 Reunion

TRUMAN, CLASS OF 1976 50 YEAR REUNION INFO from Gina Fiorini Laarkamp: Truman Cougars Class of 1976....Save the date, September 18, 2026, Chateau on the River, Trenton, MI. Please join our group on Facebook if you are not a member to watch for more information. Group Name: Harry S. Truman Class of 1976 50th Reunion

Florida Residents plan Taylor Kennedy Reunion in Lakeland, Florida

"There seems to be a fair amount of Taylor Kennedy graduates living in Florida," I said to Chuck Bonner, when I reached out to him via a phone call in early 2025. Bonner, whom I never met, lives in Ocala, up the road from me, about 100 miles or so. He's a '67 grad, I'm a '77 grad.

He agreed and asked what was I envisioning for a reunion of people from various classes.

I suggested we put the idea out there to see if our classmates living in Florida thought it may be fun and interesting.

He was very positive about the notion. He told me of his annual JFK reunions in St. Augustine that included Mr. Pantalone.

We put our heads together and thought why not?

We narrowed our invitation to all JFK grads that graduated in the 1900s. Simply because we didn't know how many would respond and we wanted to keep the cost down to zero by holding the event in a restaurant where everyone picks up their own tab.

The event has been well received with over 70, JFK High School Floridians planning to meet in Lakeland on March 24, 2026.

Lakeland seemed to be the middle of the state with regard to those who showed real interest. Lakeland is also the spring training home for the Detroit Tigers.

The reunion will be unlike your traditional high school reunion.

We're gathering together people who share a common bond from our childhood. We grew up in the same town, had some of the same teachers, visited the same locations to shop and eat. We share a lot of similar experiences, especially during our years at Kennedy. Now, we find ourselves in the Sunshine State. We may not be besties but we are closer than you may think.

If you're interested learning more about the upcoming reunion, please contact Charles "Chuck" Bonner or Laura Scaturro via Facebook.

And yes, Mr. Pantalone is planning 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. Please Note: If you know of a deceased graduate who is not listed in the Memoriam section of our website, please let us know the name, school, graduating class, and date of passing.

With our newsletters now quarterly, there look to be more names on these lists. Those who are from years past are here because they have not been listed before.

Taylor Center

William "Bill" Gerber – Class of 1966 (6-25-2015)
Michael Schofield – Class of 1987 (7-29-2025)
Victor Barron – Class of 1964 (8-9-2025)
Robert Robinson – Class of 1958 (8-25-2025)
Jeanette Barth Gombos – Class of 1965 (8-5-2025)
Gail Fesler Vespa – Class of 1966 (10-26-2025)
Ruth Jones – Class of 1972 (10-29-2025)
Catherine Kargel Garms – Class of 1968 (9-2-2025)
Mark Florino – Class of 1976 (10-31-2022)
Douglas B Woody – Class of 1972 (3-2-2000)
Denise LeBoeuf – Class of 1984 (7-21-2023)
Vincent Nedrow – Class of 1987 (2-18-2024)
Donald Crawford – Class of 1958 (9-10-2025)
James Mick Jacob – Class of 1971 (2-28-2025)
Frank Carter – Class of 1975 (5-18-2025)

Kennedy

Robert "Robbie" Jackson – Class of 1998 (7-15-2025)
David Bartoszek – Class of 1984 (6-5-2025)
Raymond Cullen – Class of 1972 (8-11-2025)
Donna Widby Zieleniewski – Class of 1972 (9-21-2025)
Daniel Witz – Class of 1969 (9-19-25)
Nancy Rimar Howard – Class of 1966 (8-22-2024)
Rosemary Rose – Class of 1966 (July 2025)
Marlene Agnello – Class of 1974 (September 2025)
Nicholas Acker – Class of 2007 (11-8-2025)
Myra Hale Cain – Class of 1966 (11-6-2025)
Brent LaFountaine – Class of 1971 (11-2-2025)
Velma Brown – Class of 1976 (11-27-2025)
Dorrise Scheaffer Nollf – Class of 1975 (12-2-2025)
William "Bill" F Drake - Class of 1972 (9-11-2023)
Sanchez McComb – Class of 2008 (9-2-2025)
Collett, Erik – Class of 2006 (9-3-2025)



OBITUARIES *cont'd*

Truman

Perry Jordan – Class of 1978 (8-22-2025)
Kirk Noland – Class of 1981 (8-26-2025)
Dennis Jones – Class of 1975 (12-25-2015)
Dan Magreta – Class of 1975 (8-26-2023)
Steve Lenart – Class of 1975
Guy Rudolph – Class of 1975 (5-2-2024)
Geraldine “Geri” Monaco Strucel – Class of 1975 (3-3-2021)
Calvin Moore – Class of 1975

Staff/Faculty

Robert Jaffke – Kennedy Math Teacher (3-28-2025)
Nancy Zoellmer – Retired Special Education Teacher (11-7-2025)

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit tayloralumni.org In Memoriam

Alumni Association



Taylor School District

Taylor School District Alumni Association
11501 Beech Daly
Taylor, MI 48180

Visit us online:

www.tayloralumni.org

Email us:

tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Facebook:

[TaylorMichiganAlumniAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/TaylorMichiganAlumniAssociation)

Taylor Alumni Association Board

President:	Caroline (Craddock) Patts (TC 73)
Vice Pres TC	Sandra Kyte (TC 62)
Vice Pres JFK	Deborah (Howard) O'Conner (JFK 76)
Vice Pres HST	Lora Coats (HST 83)
Vice Pres THS	OPEN POSITION
Secretary:	Sheri (Graham) Engelbrink (HST 77)
Treasurer:	Nancy Miller (JFK 67)
Past President:	Mary (Swartout) Rusnak (JFK 72)

Alumni Association Purpose

To enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District by developing an active alumni association for the common good of both the graduates and the school district.

Taylor School District Alumni Association Application for Membership

Alumni lifetime membership: \$25 per person.
Please print clearly:

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Maiden _____

School Attended _____

Graduation year _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____

Make checks payable to:

Taylor School District Alumni Association

Mail this form along with your payment to:
Taylor School District Alumni Association
11501 Beech Daly, Taylor, MI 48180

Benefits of your lifetime membership:

Monthly newsletter

Website

Facebook page for info
email notices

Class reunion information

Alumni Museum

Social get togethers

Scholarship donations