

Alumni Association

Keeping Ties with Our Alumni



TAYLOR
School District



April 2018 Newsletter



JFK High School, Taylor Michigan

THE CLOSING OF JOHN F KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

John F Kennedy High is soon to close its doors permanently. I was curious as to whether Taylor's "John F Kennedy High School was the first in the United States to be so named"? My research revealed that on February 6,

1963 at a School Board meeting, in Taylor Michigan, Mr. Trolley moved to rename the new senior high school the "John Fitzgerald Kennedy Senior High School. Mr. Delp supported the motion. The motion was passed on a 6 yes 1 no vote. I then contacted Sharon Kenney Vespremi (JFK 1969), who was working in Congressman

Dingell's local office and asked her to research the question. The Congressional Research Service provided her information on a John F Kennedy High School in San Antonio, Texas. On September 10, 1962 their Board of Trustees voted on the name of their school, believing it to be the first John F Kennedy High School in the country. Later, I went to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, and asked for a list of John F Kennedy High Schools. In that list I found that a school in Cheektowaga,



JFK High School, Cheektowaga, NY

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New York had been named in honor of the President in 1961. On March 7, 2018 I again called the high school and talked with an administrator. She confirmed that they had named the school John F Kennedy in 1961. The school also opened in 1961 and is about to graduate their 57th class.

So, to the best of my knowledge, our JFK was the 3rd in the country to be so named.

—By John Pantalone

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JFK FAREWELL

Committee Chair Ken Renner provided the following schedule of events for the upcoming JFK Farewell gathering:

Friday, June 22nd - American Legion Hall 6 pm- until closing. Informal opportunity to visit with fellow alumni and JFK faculty. Food and discounted drinks available.

Saturday, June 23rd - At the JFK building and grounds 3 pm - 10 pm. Live music (provided by Kennedy alumni), dance, possible classic car and bike on site. The baseball fields can be used for pick up games—food available.

Sunday, June 24th - 9 am - 12 noon, pancake breakfast—all you can eat pancakes, sausage, beverages all for \$7. At noon we will play and sing the JFK Alma Mater for the last time.

This is not an event to be missed. 📖

IN THE NEW

The Closing of Harry S Truman High School

Harry S Truman High is closing, not the building, but name Truman as a high school. The same building will now house all the high school students in the district under the name Taylor High School.

Truman High School, named after President Harry S Truman in 1971 opened in the Fall of 1973 with 1,697 10th, 11th and 12th graders. The first graduating class of 418 students was June of 1974.

The “Six Million Dollar Complex” was home to 1,600 senior high and 1,300 junior high students. A formal dedication was held April 28, 1974. Congressman William Ford was the principal speaker. William Marshall, President of the Michigan AFL-CIO, presented the school with an oil portrait of President Truman. A letter written by President Truman November 18, 1971 was sent to Superintendent

Simon Kachaterian. It was read at the Dedication. The letter follows:

"I was pleased to receive your letter informing me that the Taylor Board of Education authorized a resolution to name their new Junior and Senior High School complex for me.

I am highly complimented, and I hope that all the students enrolled in this school will make the most of the opportunities for an education extended to them.

I greatly appreciate this honor and the members of the Taylor Board of Education have my sincere thanks and best wishes."

—Information by Sheri Englebrink



Harry S. Truman

Image Source: Greta Kempton-commons.wikimedia.org

Out of the Past

We were recently sent a story entitled "Life in Room 126" that was written June 9, 1980. Room 126 was home for Denny Alexander, History Instructor. Mr. Alexander is no longer with us and is missed by many. The well written article is too long for this Newsletter, so I will just take parts and if anyone wants the entire article you can let me know.

Parts of the article

I walked in the first day and took a nonchalant look around the room in which I would be spending my first hour of every school day. I figured it to be my final look, since every student knows what is accomplished in first hour class—catching up on all the sleep you lost the night before. But as I glanced around, I noticed something unusual about this room. Maybe it was the friendly little signs around the room. Or, maybe it was the list of rules sitting in front of me. Rules? Whoever heard of rules in first hour? The rules contained:

- no gum chewing
- no head on the desk (if you did put your head on the desk, you would hear a sharp command to lift up your head). The man doesn't appreciate a sleepy audience.

The closing paragraph reads- "But, as I sit here now, looking back at all the pain, anguish and fun I went through, I realize my whole first hour I will never forget the little man with the probing eyes and the sly smile.

Again , if you would like the entire story of first hour with Mr. Alexander, let us know.



ALUMNI NEWS!

New Members

Welcome to our newest Lifetime members:

Larry Bowman, TCH 1969 - The Taylor Alumni Association welcomes Larry to the fastest growing Alumni Association in the State. Not only did Larry become a lifetime member, he also contributed \$75 to the association—in his words—"to keep up their good work". Thanks Larry.

I called and spoke with Larry. He is retired and living in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He has real fond memories of Taylor Center High and the city. Larry keeps up with news from Taylor by going to the Taylor Alumni web site tayloralumni.org.

How about you—is it time for you to join the fastest growing Alumni Association in the State. It's only \$25 for a lifetime membership and a portion of that goes to scholarships.

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR



► Would you like to hear about many of Taylor's best features? Just click on the City's website and let some of the City leaders be your guide. A new "Welcome to the City of Taylor Tour" has been added to the City of Taylor's official website cityoftaylor.com.

► New Business in Taylor



Preferred Packaging located at 2700 Wick Road creates corrugated packaging for companies like Mazda, Ford and Gordon Foods. For anything that requires shipping they create corrugated packaging material such as pallets. They intend to work with the Taylor Career Center to have apprenticeships, such as Computer Assisted Drafting for students.

Job opportunities may be available as they are required to have 25% of their work force made up of Taylor residents. —Contributed by Caroline

Patts



- April 13th Euchre Tournament fundraiser sponsored by the Taylor Alumni Association will be held at the American Legion Hall on Brest Road. Only 100 tickets will be sold. The \$20 price includes food, door prizes and a \$300 first place money prize. For tickets contact Judith LaFleur (313) 386-3106.
- May 12 The Taylor Griffin Football Booster Club is hosting a golf outing at Westburn Golf and Country Club to raise funds for the new football team. They are looking for golfers and hole sponsors. For more information contact Head Football Coach Jeff Morrow at 313-608-1639.
- 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.
- October 6th JKF Class of 1968's 50th Reunion. If planning to attend the cost is \$40. Please make checks to John F Kennedy Class Reunion and mail to Nancy Strong 35626 Pinecrest New Boston Mi 48164. Direct questions to Nancy McVay Strong at 734-654-8395, Mary Burgraph Baugh 734-512-7272, or Lynn Carson Boughton at 517-902-4406.

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

Janet Anderson Borden, class of 1965, (passed November 19, 2017)

John F Kennedy High

Tim King, class of 1974, (passed March 5, 2018)

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