

## Alumni Association

*Keeping Ties with Our Alumni*



**TAYLOR**  
School District



June 2019 Newsletter

## LET'S MEET OUR LEADERS



Angela Belcher Winton

Angela Belcher Winton, TCH 1996, was recently appointed to Taylor City Council. When asked for a write-up this is her response.

I graduated from Taylor Center High School in 1996. I can say my high school years were some of the most memorable years of my life. The amount of

school spirit was unmatched. Homecomings, Spirit Week, basketball and football games—they brought out such a sense of community and togetherness. I remember late nights planning skits and even later nights setting up the fantastic Homecoming and Spirit King stages. Everything was such a huge celebration at the school. I truly feel the experiences and education I received at TCH prepared me for the world ahead. I can say the teacher that had the biggest impact on me during high school was Mr. Mickey Turcheck. He taught me many things including that I do NOT like to run but did finish an

entire Cross-Country season under his leadership. He also taught me that anything was possible and that if you want something done—give it to a busy person!

After high school, I headed to Eastern Michigan University where I earned my bachelor's degree in Business Management. I started working at Clyde's Carpet/Flooring America during high school and continued working during my time at EMU. I ended up with 8 years of work experience there in various roles such as store clerical staff, Office Manager

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and ultimately the Regional HR/Payroll Manager. After that, I spent 10 years at West Side Beer Distributing in Human Resources and Payroll and now have spent the last 6 years at The Senior Alliance as the Chief HR Officer. I thoroughly enjoy working in the non-profit sector as I feel it balances my skill set and my desire to help and serve people.

I founded and currently manage a non-profit organization called Metro Detroit Share ([metrodetroitshare.org](http://metrodetroitshare.org)). I founded the organization after we lost our first daughter Brooke Marie. Our organization helps families who have lost a child during pregnancy or infancy. We operate monthly support meetings, a funeral assistance fund, an annual Walk for Remembrance & Hope and a keepsake/memory box program.



I reside in Taylor with my husband Eric, daughters Faith and Skylar and 3 rescue pups Pixie, Honey & Haley.

My hope for the future is to make our area (and the world) a better place by using my skill set to serve the community in any way that I can.

*Angie, the Taylor Alumni Association wishes you all the best in your new position.*

## GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



☆ Students put on a “Kindness Week”. It revolved around daily acts of kindness to remind us to be kind and that our acts of kindness are appreciated. Notes were attached to each locker. Here are two samples of the notes—“You are important” — “Live your life the best way you can”.

☆ An after school tutoring program has been established.

☆ Art work done by the students was displayed at the Taylor City Library, drawing rave reviews.

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## THE TERRY LABELLE STORY

Terry, a 1967 graduate of Kennedy High School, passed after a long battle with cancer. Terry enlisted in the army and served as an Infantry Sergeant in Vietnam. He was awarded several medals for bravery and heroism, including the Bronze Star.

Following his military career, Terry earned an



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# WHAT'S IN THE NAME?

Blair Moody Elementary School opened in 1956. The school had 15 classrooms and in 1959 added 10 more classrooms. The



school was named after Arthur Edson Blair Moody, known as Senator Blair Moody. Blair was born February 13, 1902 and died July 20, 1954 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He attended Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and was a star athlete in football, baseball and track. The St Louis Cardinals offered him a professional baseball pitching position which he declined. While at Brown, he was also the heavyweight boxing champion. He earned degrees at the University of Michigan and from 1923 to 1951 was a reporter for the Detroit News, covering the news from Washington D.C. During World War II, he was a combat war correspondent. Moody wrote a book, "Boom or Bust", focusing on transforming to full employment, reducing the national debt and how to balance the budget. In 1951, Michigan State Governor G. Mennen Williams appointed Moody to the U.S. Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Arthur H. Vandenberg.

Moody, held for less than two years served from April 23, 1951, to November 4, 1952. He is probably most remembered as the host of the radio and television program "Meet Your Congress". The show ran from 1946 – 1952. Unfortunately, Blair Moody passed in 1954 prior to the opening of Blair Moody Elementary School.

Next Issue... Why was one of our Middle Schools named Robert West? Who was he? Please help me with answers to those questions.



Arthur Edson Blair Moody

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Engineering Degree at Western Michigan University. After serving as an engineer for several companies, Terry started and owned several businesses in the Grand Rapids area. He is survived by Sue, his wife of 46 years, and children Rachel and Gregory.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Gary W. Procop, MD, MS

1983 John F Kennedy High School Graduate

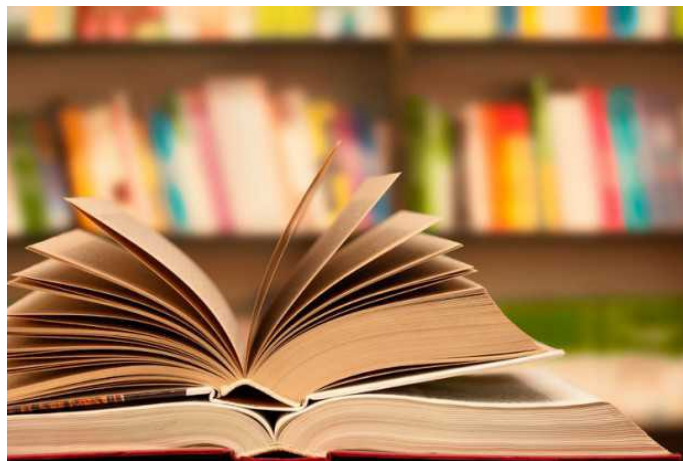


Death in a family is always a tragedy. It is particularly devastating when the person who has passed is the parent with

whom the child primarily identifies. This loss for me was of my father when I was in the sixth grade. The loss was followed by a lack of direction, which took me in less desirable directions. Although I credit my mother for my moral compass and am ever thankful for her good stewardship of our limited resources, she was not equipped to provide academic guidance. My grades slipped, my friends changed, and a downward spiral had begun.

My poor performance in my course work resulted in my placement in classes with other students with similar grades. We were essentially the underachievers. Enter Mrs. Arseneau for 8th grade English. I would never have guessed that this petite, 90 lb

woman, with oversized glasses that could have only been in style in the late 70's, would be the person to throw me a lifeline. But, she did. And, she did it in a way that only a skilled educator can. She identified an area of interest, planted seeds and let them grow. She must have seen a spark of interest when we studied Greek mythology. Before long, with her encouragement, I was reading Edith Hamilton's Mythology and, of my own accord, arriving 5-10 minutes before class to discuss my latest discoveries. Mrs. Arseneau was my gateway drug to reading, and I have been an avid reader ever since.



Participation in sports was also important during the next few years. This not only occupied after school time with positive activities, but I found myself making new friends, many of which were in more challenging classes than those to which I had been assigned. I wanted to be with these friends in class throughout the day, not just

after school at practice. Therefore, I worked harder to achieve the grades necessary to be placed in the classes with those more highly performing students.

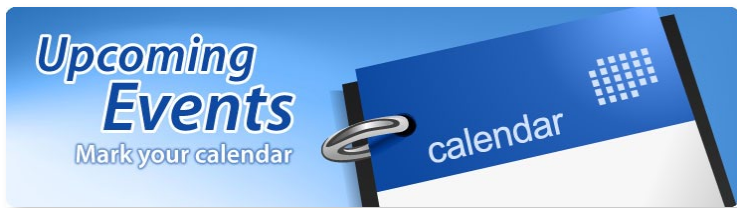
I am proud of my blue-collar upbringing and through it have had instilled a strong work ethic, a sense of responsibility and many other respectable qualities. However, our family was largely uninformed concerning the competitive college application process, financial aid and related information. I appreciate that the Taylor school system helped to fill such gaps. I vividly recall my mother and I leaving an after-school seminar regarding financial aid. This type of guidance provided the first steps necessary for me to consider how I was going to fund college. Fortunately, through grants, loans and several part-time jobs, my dream of college became a reality. And, through a circuitous journey with many other great mentors along the way, an interesting career has been developed wherein I can contribute to society, help others, and educate the next generation of healthcare providers.

I am humbly thankful to all the teachers, coaches, professors and role models who have helped me and countless others along the way. You honestly do not know the depth of the impact you have made.

The following is a very short listing of Gary's achievements. For those of you wanting to see the complete listing please let us know and we will provide it.

Gary W. Procop, MD, MS is the Medical Director and Co-Chair of the Enterprise Laboratory Stewardship Committee for Enterprise Medical Operations at Cleveland Clinic. He is also the Director of the Molecular Microbiology, Virology, Mycology and Parasitology laboratories at the Cleveland Clinic. He has given more than 645 scientific presentations, and has 212 published manuscripts, 50 chapters, and three books to his credit. His primary professional interests are developing and promoting best practices in laboratory testing; the practical applications of molecular diagnostic methods for the diagnosis and treatment of infections; infectious disease pathology; mycology and parasitology. He is currently working on a Degree in Health Professions through Johns Hopkins University. He enjoys sailing, genealogical research and spending time with his family.

*The Taylor Alumni Association extends congratulations to Dr. Procop on an Outstanding Career. He certainly is an inspiration to all of us. 📌*



- June 5th Farewell assembly for Taylor Class of 2019, 8:20 am at the high school.
- June 6th Graduation for Taylor Class of 2019 at the Taylor Sportsplex 6:00 pm
- June 11th Taylor Alumni Association Board Meeting 6:00 pm at the School Board Office
- June 13th Taylor Foundation Meeting, 8:00 am in the School Board Office

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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

Eric Williams, Class of 1969 (passed April 25, 2019)

Lonnie Harbin, Class of 1989 (just notified—passed November 12, 2013)

### John F Kennedy High

Terry LaBelle, Class of 1967 (passed April 23, 2019)

### Correction

Your Alumni Association apologizes for publishing incorrect information regarding the passing of Jerry Cleveland. In the May edition, we listed Jerry as a 2019 graduate of TCH based on information we saw on Facebook. An alumnus, Ed Wasil, JFK 1969 noticed the error and informed us that Jerry Cleveland was a 1969 Graduate of TCH. We thank Ed for providing us the correct information.

Also listed incorrectly, was Beverly Lowe Layne, TCH class of 1958 (passed March 26, 2019) the name should have read Beverly Lowe Lane. Thanks to Judy Warner, TCH 1958, for notifying us.

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