



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XLII, No. 2

Spring 2026

Class of 1973 donates \$7,000



Principal Glowacz (center) is flanked by members of the Class of 1973). Photo courtesy of nadignewspapers.com

As reported by Brian Nadig, a \$7,000 donation from the Class of 1973 will fund new equipment for Taft High School’s recently enlarged weight room. Principal Dr. Ryan Glowacz explained that the facility’s size was increased by one-third—now roughly the footprint of two large classrooms—after underused office space was repurposed.

The gift honors 1973 graduate Phil Vierneisel, a member of Taft’s 1972 Chicago Public League championship football team who later punted at the University of Illinois. Since his passing in 2020, Taft has presented an annual leadership award in his name to a football player; this year’s recipient is senior Jayden Camacho.

Taft Partners with Chinese School



Story and photo courtesy of Nadig Newspapers

Taft High School, known for its growing Mandarin language program, has officially partnered with Shandong Jinan No. 9 High School in China. The partnership was formalized on December 1, 2025, when Taft teacher Chaoyi Li and principal Dr. Ryan Glowacz signed a School Cooperation

Memorandum of Understanding at the Chinese Consulate in Chicago. The agreement aligns with Taft’s International Baccalaureate mission to “educate global citizens” and opens the door for cultural-exchange opportunities, including a planned trip for about 20 Taft students to China in 2027. During the ceremony, the consulate highlighted its Young Envoys Scholarship Program, which aims to send 50,000 American students to China over five years to strengthen U.S.–China relations.

Taft’s Mandarin curriculum, in which more than 400 Taft students are enrolled, includes an International Baccalaureate Diploma course of Mandarin that allows students to earn college credit. It was launched seven years ago after reviewing language offerings across 20 feeder elementary schools revealing that Mandarin was the second most offered language after Spanish. The new partnership is expected to enrich the program further by providing direct immersion experiences for students.

Grease is Still the Word!



Recently featured on NBC 5 Chicago, the iconic musical Grease was inspired by Taft, where co-creator Jim Jacobs (Jun '60) drew from his real-life experiences as a student at Taft right here on Chicago’s northwest side.

From the Pink Ladies to those “summer nights,” a whole lot of Taft spirit made its way onto the big stage and screen! And that legacy is still alive today. View the story here:

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/video/news/local/grease-was-inspired-by-chicago-taft-high-school/3910449/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Attention Reunion Committees! Please keep TAA informed of any changes to event details and remember to send us your best photos for inclusion in the post-reunion newsletter. Thanks!

Taft Night Out

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Location: Mystic Rogue Irish Pub, 6070 N Northwest Hwy

Details: We invite our families and local partners to join us in supporting teacher-driven initiatives, campus improvements, and our athletic programs. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

Save The Date

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF TAFT



APRIL | 25TH | 2026
MYSTIC ROGUE IRISH PUB, CHICAGO

Chicago All-Class Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 29, 2026

Location: Schiller Woods Grove 10

Details: Free admission. BYO food and seating. For classes that wish to make special arrangements there is a Picnic Liaison group on Messenger—contact @ steven white.

Arizona All-Class Picnic

Date: Sunday, November 8, 2026, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Beardsley Recreation Center Ramada 10, 12755 W Beardsley Rd, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Contact: Judy Jacobsen (gordonsdatter@gmail.com), Fred Wordell (ftjawo@aol.com);

Details: \$5 per person (includes a raffle ticket for TAA gear), bring a dish to share, beverages in non-glass containers.

So-Cal All-Class Get-Together

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2026, Noon – 4:00 pm

Location: “House of Savage,” 2372 Recuerdo Cove, Del Mar, CA

Details: \$10 (Rosati’s pizza and pop), bring a dish to share, BYOB

Please RSVP! Jan (Ostromencki) Savage, (janhelloworld@hotmail.com), 858-353-3559

SW Florida All-Class Get-Together

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 11:30 AM

Location: Joey D's Chicago Eatery and Pizza, 3811 Kenny Drive, Sarasota, FL 34232

Contact: Tom Hoppe (tafths.chicago_hoppe@yahoo.com)

SW Florida “Portillo’s Takeover”

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 11:30 AM

Location: Portillo's Wildwood (The Villages), 2283 Dr. Randy McDaniel Way, Wildwood, FL

Contact: Tom Hoppe (tafths.chicago_hoppe@yahoo.com)

Taft Class of January 1960 66-Year Reunion

Date: Friday, August 7, 2026, 11:30 am

Location: Moretti's Restaurant, 6727 N Olmsted Ave (opposite Edison Park Rail Station)

Details: Casual get-together luncheon, self-ordering

Contact: RSVP Lew Robert (lewrobert42@gmail.com) or text 847-858-2557. Please update your email and cell/text number.

Taft Class of 1967 60-year Reunion

Date: TBD

Location: TBD

Facebook: [Taft High School Class of 1967 Chicago](#)

Taft Class of 1976 50 Year Reunion

Date: Oct 10, 2026—Spread the word to save the date!

Location: TBD

Facebook: [W.H Taft Class of 1976 -Chicago](#)

St. Monica Class of 1976

Date: June 2026 (TBD)

Contact: John Murphy (jmurf001@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1C4WfkiHij/>

Farnsworth All-Class Mustang Mingle

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026, 6 PM – 10 PM

Location: Biagio Events and Catering

Tickets: <https://givebutter.com/centennialmingle>

Contact: friendsoffarnsworthcps@gmail.com

Yearbooks Are Coming!

Our inventory is nearly completed after which a complete list of available yearbooks will be offered. We have both new and used (inner covers filled with student’s written comments) to be sold as follows:

- \$50 for new yearbooks (includes shipping via media mail)
- \$35 for used yearbooks (includes shipping via media mail)
- Yearbooks picked up in person will have the \$8 delivery charge waived

TAA gratefully accepts donated yearbooks. Please address inquiries to: eagleemail@taftalumni.org.

This is a first-rate newsletter. I commend you all on a job well done.

Ken VanDerHorst, 1969

Thanks for all you do for us Tafties!

Jim Petersen, Jun '63



Taft recently welcomed 2016 Taft alumnus and current MLB player Jack Suwinski of the Pittsburgh Pirates for a Strength & Conditioning visit.



Photo by Independent Newsmedia

John Placko (Jun '65) was featured in the Litchfield Park/Goodyear Independent as one of the Arizona seniors who participated at his local Optum Community Center in an AI workshop aimed at a broader understanding of

artificial intelligence and how to avoid scams. Placko said, "I think I learned to use [AI] better, and I learned that it's already more integrated than I thought."

Thank you for all your hard work keeping Taft Alumni active. I was gifted a copy of Irv Kaage's book, "Extra! Extra!" Peggy (Peterson) Dore, who was a classmate of Irv's at Ebinger, and my twin sisters Donna and Roberta Roess [1969], who Irv mentions in his wonderful book. I, in turn, purchased three copies of Irv's book and sent to my surviving siblings. They felt exactly what I felt reading his book. First, in that it gave us a piece of home. Also, such a warm feeling to know someone other than our family still

remember our beloved baby sisters Donna and Roberta, deceased many years ago. I highly recommend this book to all who grew up in and near Edison Park. I am the oldest of six Roess kids of Greenleaf Ave. in Edison Park: Barbara, Bill, Marge, Roger, Donna, and Roberta. Our family home is still in our family. My brother Roger's daughter Allison is raising her family there. Her daughter Bridgett Rice graduated from Taft in 2024. Live goes on...

Barbara (Roess) Sewik, Jun '53

Thanks for all you do.

Kenneth Carlson, Jan '63

Taft's Occupational Prep Team visited the Plumbers Union Local 130 for a hands-on career exploration experience. Students learned about pathways into the trades, and practiced skills like mending pipes and unclogging drains. Wyatt Harris, a 2024 graduate and now a union apprentice, helped demonstrate skills and share his experience with the students. Two students were interviewed by WBBM-TV during the event.



Class of 2024 alumnus Wyatt Harris, left, and Taft teachers Chris Siegel, right, and Lisa Marren in the background.

We didn't have a marching band in the corridors in the 70s but we did have a marching band in the 60s. Google: "Taft high school Chicago marching band 1960". I see in the clip https://x.com/Taft_HS/status/2022103588915523692?s=20 an inclusion of the chess club or team. Around 1960 girls/women weren't allowed to play at inter school events.

But where there's a will there's a way: the then sponsor Mr. Levin simply made a woman the team captain.

Victoria (Scanlon) Crosley, Jun '61



Barb Kozdron, a 2000 alumna, stopped in for a tour of the main campus with Principal Glowacz. Her smile tells us, "You just can't hide that Eagle Pride!"

Richard Sienkiewicz (Jun 1949) has 4 children, 14 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Altamonte Springs, FL, NIU BS Edu, MS Edu; US Navy 1956-1958, is retired from IBM data processing.

1950s

Ronald Betz (Jun 1951) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Northbrook, IL, UI BS Pharm '55, Roosevelt U MPA '87; US Army 1956-58, is a retired pharmacist, married Rose Marie who died in 2025.

Bob Eischen (Jun 1952) married **Patricia Link (Jun 1954)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Skokie, IL, U Denver BSBA '57; US Army and US Air Force Reserves, is a retired accountant.

Richard Karolczak (Jun 1953) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Union Ridge, lives in Harvard, IL, is a retired plant manager.

Barbara (Roess) Siwik (Jun 1953) has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, Metropolitan Business College, is a retired reservationist in Branson MO.

Jackie (Bendler) Nelson (Jun 1954) has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, attended Altgeld, lives in Hoffman Estates, NEIU BA GS, is retired.

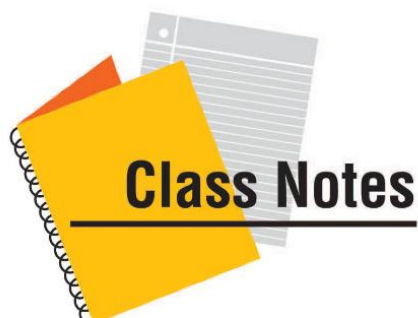
Ralph Beck (Jan 1956) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Highland Village, TX, North Park Col AA '58, Northwestern Dental School DDS '62; US Navy Lt Cmdr 1962-70, is retired from dental practice in Orange County, CA.

Ruth (Mathisen) Blomquist (Jan 1956) married **James Blomquist, deceased (Jan 1956)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Lakemoor, IL, North Park College 2 years, is a retired FDIC investigations tech.

Herb Korff (Jun 1957) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Albuquerque, NM, SIU BS Bus Admin, is a retired accountant.

Raymond Lauk (Jun 1957) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in Medinah, IL, is semi-retired from printing and marketing communications.

Nancy (Thorson) Scheuler (Jun 1957) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in Schaumburg, IL, IL Wesleyan BS '61, is a retired fashion merchandiser.



1940s

Rod Lowell (Jun 1947) has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren,

attended Ebinger, lives in Tucson, AZ, U Chicago BA; US Army 1952-54 Korea, is a retired physics technician at U AZ, is an intrepid attendee with partner Kathleen of the Arizona alumni picnic.

Wallace Wilson (Jun 1948) has 5 children, 18 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Grayslake, IL, is a retired carpenter and Sears home improvement salesman.

Joyce (Cleaver) Leddy (Jun 1958) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Grand Marais, MN, UI, BS Ed, is a retired artist, writer and church counselor.

Chet Lee (Jun 1958) has 2 children, attended Morris, lives in Westlake Village, CA, US Army 1961-64; Roosevelt U BS Gen'l Studies '77, is a retired software development manager, <https://elevenshadows.net/apawnoffate/> tells about his early life, coming to the US in 1947, and finding his biological family in 1985.

Jeff Carson (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Wildwood, lives in Phoenix, AZ, BS Phys Ed; US Army 3 years, is retired from a US security agency.

Sharon (Carlier) Dompke (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, Wright College 2 years, is a retired department manager, has been involved in Boy Scouts, especially Eagle Scouts, for 21 years.

Ken Monahan (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Northwestern U BA, MA, PhD, is semi-retired.

1960s

Paula (Brockstein) Adams (Jan 1960) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Montgomery, TX, Glassell Art School, BS, MS Science; Museum of Fine Arts Certified in Watercolor Painting, is an artist and retired teacher, loves to travel, her artwork can be viewed online at paulaadamsart.com.

Bill Schalk (Jan 1960) attended Hamilton, lives in Racine, WI, Coe College BA '65; Marquette Univ JD; Armed Forces Staff College, US Navy 1966-86, Commander Retired, is a retired lawyer.

Jim Jacobs (Jun 1960) has 2 children, attended Garvy, lives in Rancho Santa Fe, CA, Columbia College Chicago, Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, is a semi-retired playwright ("Grease"), composer, and actor, is an inductee to the TAA Hall of Fame, and was inducted into the Illinois Rock n Roll Hall of Fame in Joliet in September 2025.

Valerie (Duszak) Mesun (Jun 1960) has 5 children, 10 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Lake Tomahawk, WI, AA Acct, Lutheran General Hosp RN '64, is a retired registered nurse.

Lynn (Foerster) Nelles (Jun 1960) married **Tom Nelles, deceased (Jun 1960)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren,

attended Edison, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, Cornell College BA, is retired.

Stephen Wren (Jun 1961) attended St. Thecla, lives in Seminole, FL, RN, BA, MPA; US Army active duty 1966-72, is retired.

David Barth (Jan 1962) has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Elgin, IL, Elmhurst Col BA, is a video producer/voice-over narrator.

Marilyn (Prochaska) Copeland (Jun 1962) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in Tampa, FL, NIU AA, is retired.

Lowell Johnson (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Manteno, IL, Augustana BA '66; UI MAT '68; Lake Forest School of Mgmt MBA '85, is a retired teacher.

John Alley (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Irving, lives in Green Valley, AZ, US Army, 67th Evac Hospital, Vietnam 1966-67, is retired from management, widowed.

Ken Carlson (Jan 1963) has 2 children, attended Edison, lives in State College, PA, is retired.

Mary (Terlecki) Mckelvey (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Sun City West, AZ, NIU BS Edu, is a retired staff development coordinator.

Rick Monahan (Jan 1963) attended Onahan, lives in Cave Creek, AZ, IL Wesleyan U BA '67; U of MO MA '69, is retired, lives with his wife of 60 years, and 4 cats.

Anne (Flexman) Warner (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in York, PA, nursing school 3 years, is a retired RN, husband Floyd is now in an Alzheimer's memory care unit.

Donna (Griessmer) Catlett (Jun 1963) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Elk Grove Village, IL, IL Wesleyan U BFA, is a retired administrative assistant for municipal government and theatre admin.

Donna (Maag) Esposito (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Garvy, lives in Oro Valley, AZ, NEIU BS Educ/Art, is a retired industrial sales representative, helps lead a visual arts ministry, creates handcrafted pottery and totems.

Jim Groll (Jun 1963) married **Janet Loose (Jun 1967)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired Chicago police officer.

James Kuhagen (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Arlington, VA, Augustana College

BA '67, Penn State M Ed '68, UW Madison Rehabilitation Psych PhD '75, is a retired psychologist and behavior analyst.

Jerry Kurinsky (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Hitch, lives in Katy, TX, UW Whitewater BBA '68; US Air Force 1969-73, is retired, his wife Judy has recently passed away.

Jim Petersen (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Fort Myers, FL, Wright College '66; Staff Sgt US Army, Vietnam 1967-69, is a retired IT professional.

Diana (Rhodes) West (Jun 1963) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Thomson, IL, Highland Community College, is a chaplain to law enforcement.

Mike Wulf (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Rockport, TX, BA, MS, US Air Force 23 years, is retired, recently celebrated 60 years of marriage, life is good.

Michael Lopriore (Jan 1964) married **Carol Votava (Jan 1966)**, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Prospect Heights, IL, is retired.

Glenn Skinner (Jan 1964) has 3 children, attended Garvy, lives in Elmwood Park, IL, Northwestern U BAA '71, is a retired trust officer.

Karen (Kuehl) Adair (Jun 1964) has 2 children, attended Oriole Park, lives in Fort Wayne, IN, Wright College, North Park U, is a retired real estate broker.

Robert Buelow (Jun 1964) married **Marlene Lounsbury (Jun 1967)**, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in St Charles, IL.

Karen (Erwood) Kugelman (Jun 1964) has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, some college, is a retired programmer on key entry systems.

Warren Luckner (Jun 1964) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Stillwater, MN, Luther College BA Math '68, U MD MA Math '70, U KY M Ed '72, is a retired actuary, and professor emeritus at U Nebraska-Lincoln.

Kris (Warzecha) Tyler (Jun 1964) has 2 children, attended Onahan, lives in Des Plaines, IL, NEIU BA '68, National Louis U M Ed '86, is a retired teacher at River Trails School District 26 in Mt. Prospect.

Janet (Clune) Klopp (Jan 1965) attended Hitch, lives in Mundelein, IL, NIU BS Ed '68, MBA Bus Acct '82, is a retired accounting specialist for Allstate Insurance.

Jim Fleming (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Addison, IL, Hanover College BA '69, Lake Forest MBA '84, is retired.

Mary (Strandin) Goodlow (Jun 1965) has 4 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Williams Bay, WI, UI Champaign, is retired.

Lee Pomeraning (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, is retired.

Carol (Votava) Lopriore (Jan 1966) married **Michael Lopriore (Jan 1964)**, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Prospect Heights, IL, is a retired RN.

Gail Fransen (Jun 1966) attended Hitch, lives in Willowbrook, IL, UI BA '70, Meramec College AS '76, DePaul U MA Non Profit Mgmt '90, is retired.

Judy (Abbinanti) Olszowka (Jun 1966) has 2 children, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Des Plaines, IL, DePaul U BS Elem Ed, Loyola U MBA, is a retired health insurance manager.

Ken Kulovitz (Jan 1967) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Anaheim Hills, CA, Amundsen-Mayfair College AA Bus Adm, Wright College BA Fin Acct ; US Army 1970-72, is a semi-retired plant accountant at UC Irvine Medical Center, continues working at the Honda Center and Angels Stadium in Anaheim, CA.

Sally (Schuessler) Abbey (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and another on the way, attended Onahan, lives in Glendale, AZ, Illinois Wesleyan 1 year, ASU BA Graphic Design, U Phoenix MA Ed Early Childhood, is a semi-retired elementary teacher and practicing artist, active member of Arizona Artists Guild, occasionally enters art shows, been in Arizona 45 years.

Marlene (Lounsbury) Buelow (Jun 1967) married **Robert Buelow (Jun 1964)**, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in St Charles, IL, is retired.

Tim Coyne (Jun 1967) married **Mary Gaughan (Jun 1967)**, has 1 child, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Milford, OH, MS Special Ed, is retired.

Mary (Gaughan) Coyne (Jun 1967) married **Timothy Coyne (Jun 1967)**, has 1 child, attended St. Monica, lives in Milford, OH, is retired, still kicking and 48 years together.

Janet (Loose) Groll (Jun 1967) married **Jim Groll (Jun 1963)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired school occupational therapist.

Laurel (Ryan) Makula (Jun 1967) married **Richard Makula (1969)**, has 2 children, 1 grandchild, lives in San Tan Valley, AZ, RN, is a retired nurse and administrator.

Marsha (Tomal) Mathews (Jun 1967) has 1 child, attended Norwood Park, lives in Wildomar, CA, California Southern U PsyD, is a psychologist.

Carole (Eckwall) Moresi (Jun 1967) married **Dave Moresi (June 1967)**, attended Ebinger, lives in Pleasant Prairie, WI, BA Art and Psych, is a retired graphic artist, enjoys nature walks, gardening, cooking, and Bible study.

David Moresi (Jun 1967) married **Carole Eckwall (Jun 1967)**, lives in Pleasant Prairie, WI, DDS; US Navy active duty 20 years, retired O-5 Commander, is retired, enjoys bicycling, creates radio and TV shows for public broadcasting.

Steven Bierlich (1968) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Wheeling, IL, IU Acct, is retired from a commercial photographic studio.

Deborah (Schwantes) Domes (1968) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Roselle, IL, is retired.

Carol (Smythe) Evans (1968) lives in Sparks, NV, is US Navy Retired.

Barbara Gron (1968) has 2 children, attended Onahan, lives in Northbrook, IL, NIU, Northwestern, is a retired philanthropist and humanitarian.

Hank Nowak (1968) attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Hot Springs Nat'l Park, AR, DePaul U MSA '77; US Army 8 years, is a retired accountant and law enforcement officer.

Nancy Warzecha (1968) lives in Des Plaines, IL, Associate Degree, is retired, enjoys bicycling, skiing, traveling within the US and in Europe.

Phil Iglitz (1969) married **Gail Anderson (1970)**, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Corvallis, MT, UIC BS '74, UNLV MS '92, is a retired high school math teacher.

Rich Makula (1969) married **Laurel Ryan (Jun 1967)**, has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Hitch, lives in San Tan Valley, AZ, DePaul U BS Acct '73, is a retired controller.

Michael Wojcik (1969) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Junior College, US Navy 4 years, is retired.

Ralph Holmen (1970) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Onahan, lives in Wheaton, IL, UI BS '74; Loyola School of Law JD, is a retired attorney.

Gail (Anderson) Iglitz (1970) married **Phil Iglitz (1969)**, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Corvallis, MT, UNLV BS '03, is a retired landscape architect.

Judy Magnowski (1970) attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Bradenton, FL, is a retired dietary professional, enjoys retired life in Florida.

John Montgomery (1970) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Madison, WI, ISU BS Geo '74; UW Madison MA Urban Planning '76, MA Public Admin '77, is a retired deputy state budget director.

Frank Berauer (1971) married **Eileen Dunn (1973)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended St. Thecla, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, BS Acct, is retired from accounting and finance.

Ray Rzewnicki (1971) has 2 children, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Tucson, AZ, is retired.

Christopher Sadowski (1971) lives in Westerville, OH.

Diane (Rutledge) Sundberg (1971) has 2 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, Milton College BA '75, is a retired paraprofessional in special education.

Eileen (Dunn) Berauer (1973) married **Frank Berauer (1971)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Our Saviour Lutheran, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, BS Bus Admin, is a retired office manager.

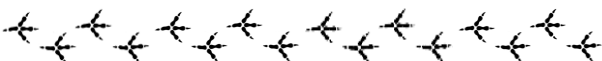
Larry Boysen (1973) married **Peggy Cole (1973)**, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Park Ridge, IL, ISU BA Acct '77, is a retired CPA.

Peggy (Cole) Boysen (1973) married **Larry Boysen (1973)**, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Park Ridge, IL, BS Ed '76, MS Ed School Admin '85, is a retired special education teacher and administrator.

Chris Jacobs (1973) lives in Kabetogama, MN.

Bruce Moffat (1973) attended Wildwood, lives in Chicago, IL, ISU BS '77, UIC MS Urban Planning & Policy '84, is a retired CTA and RTA manager, is director of the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society, authored six books on Chicago transportation history, writes for a local transportation history magazine, collects vintage toy trains.

Barbara Sullivan (1973) has 3 children, 1 grandchild, attended Wildwood, lives in St Pete Beach, FL, UI BS '77, BSN '80, MD '89, is retired.



Kathryn (Sullivan) Kostelancik (1975) has 5 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Wildwood, lives in Algonquin, IL, is retired.

Barbara Adams (1976) attended Wildwood, lives in Park Ridge, IL, Knox College BA '80; Northwestern U School of Law JD '83, is an attorney.

Linda Kuffel (1977) attended Oriole Park, lives in Park Ridge, IL, is an executive assistant.

Steve Obermeier (1977) married **Laurie Watkins (1977)**, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, is retired.

Laurie (Watkins) Obermeier (1977) married **Steve Obermeier (1977)**, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, is retired.

Marybethe (Hirth) Kelly (1978) has 2 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, is retired.

Jeanne (Czech) Szafranski (1978) has 1 child, attended Garvy, lives in Alva, FL.

1980s

Evon (Sudduth) Young (1984) has 1 child, lives in Oakbrook Terrace, IL, MBA, is a brand and marketing manager.

2000s

Adrian Mazon (2012) married **Stephanie Wilczynski (2015)**, lives in Chicago, IL, NEIU BA Criminal Justice, is a data analyst.

Stephanie (Wilczynski) Mazon (2015) married **Adrian Mazon Jr (2012)**, attended Garvy, lives in Chicago, IL, DePaul U BA Sec Ed English, is a teacher in the Taft English Dept.

Taft's Rifle Range Transformed

The space that once housed Taft's ROTC basement rifle range has been repurposed after sitting largely unused for approximately 50 years. According to Brian Nadig's reporting in the Nadig Newspapers, the facility has been converted into a multi-purpose recreational space. This redevelopment represents a significant change in how the school utilizes this previously dormant space.

Rich Lindberg (1971) provided historical context, explaining that the facility was originally an ROTC rifle range that remained in use until 1967, when it was deactivated amid fears of anti-war protests and confrontations. Following its deactivation, the school's ROTC program gradually

diminished over the years, leaving the rifle range space underutilized.



Students receive instruction on the archery range.

The newly converted space now serves multiple athletic and recreational purposes beyond just archery. In addition to the archery range, the facility houses two batting cages and a golf simulator, providing students and potentially community members with diverse training options. The school also maintains a separate batting cage in its second-floor gymnasium, though access to those cages is restricted when the gym is being used for wrestling activities. This conversion demonstrates how well Taft has adapted historical infrastructure to meet modern recreational and athletic needs.



Taft's ROTC Rifle Team circa 1966: M/Sgt. Charles Duke, M/Sgt. Jasper Lagambina, Capt. Gregory Young, and Capt. Charles Lorenz.



The Taft Alumni Association is looking for a few good people to serve on the Board of Directors. To be considered, you must be or become an active member of TAA and be willing to attend quarterly meetings typically held online. We'd be especially happy to have folks with computer skills to help us with our online presence. Age is no barrier, but we'd love to see some younger classes join us. Interested? Please contact us at: eagleemail@taftalumni.org.

In Memoriam



Lois Irene Kazan of Schaumburg, IL, died on November 18, 2025. At Taft, she served as a music teacher and Freshman Chorus Director in the 60s until 1969.

Joyce Ann (Crooks) Dimond of Tucson, AZ, Class of June 1947, died on October 23, 2012.

Richard Leroy Everitt of Prescott, AZ, Class of June 1948, died on June 20, 2019.

Carol Marie (Nordengren) Larson of Chicago, IL, Class of January 1950, died on February 26, 2026. She was predeceased by her husband Robert Larson, Class of January 1950.

Nancy Ruth (Carlson) Jonas of Fort Myers, FL, Class of June 1954, died on June 18, 2019. She was predeceased by her husband Donald Jonas, Class of February 1954.

Gloria Constance (Peterson) Kavadas of Highland Park, IL, Class of June 1954, died on September 28, 2024.

Donald Robert Schoenbeck of Sandy, UT, Class of January 1960, died on March 12, 2026. He is survived by his sister Carol (Schoenbeck) Muderlak, Class of January 1964.

Judith Lynne (Armbruster) Belva of Bollingbrook, IL, Class of June 1960, died on March 22, 2026.

Joan (Weiglein) Welch of Prospect Heights, IL, Class of January 1961, died on March 17, 2026.

Peter Gary Flensburg of Park Ridge, IL, Class of June 1963, died in February 6 2026. He was predeceased by his brother Daniel Flensburg, Class of January 1950, and his sister Loren Flensburg, Class of January 1961. He is survived by his sister Nancy (Flensburg) Jack, Class of February 1952.

Adele Suzanne (Freda) Knickels of Barrington, IL, Class of January 1965, died on February 16, 2026. She is survived by her husband Howard Knickels, Class of January 1965, and by her sisters Clara (Freda) Drozd, Class of January 1962, Donna (Freda) Freeman, Class of 1969, and Bernadette (Freda) LoBianco, Class of 1976.

David John Kuffner of Wilmette, IL, Class of June 1965, died on December 24, 2025.

Sharon Jean (Wayer) Wolanik of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1965, died on October 25, 2025.

David Edward Hoy of Elmhurst, IL, Class of June 1966, died on December 18, 2025. He was predeceased by his brother Robert Hoy, Class of January 1960 and survived by his brother Donald Hoy, Class of June 1963.

Sandra Lee (Ward) Senjen of Wood Dale, IL, Class of 1970, died on November 7, 2025.

Nicholas Francis Lee of Chicago, IL, Class of 1971, died on January 9, 2026.

Wanda Denise "Tudda" Taylor of Chicago, IL, Class of 1984, died on November 13, 2025.

John Allen Johansson of Chicago, IL, Class of 2021, died on February 20, 2026.

Because you genuinely care about Taft High School, please consider a legacy gift to TAA in your estate planning. A planned gift is a lasting investment.

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2026-2027 Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors

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The Taft Alumni Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Taft Alumni Association.

Please send news, photos, and general correspondence to:

Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185 or eagleemail@taftalumni.org

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Taft Alumni Association

Membership Application or Renewal

Please tell us as much about yourself as you like so that we can share your news in the *Class Notes*.

Only fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required for membership. We will not publish your address or phone number.

About You

My information has not changed

Do not publish my information in Class Notes

*First Name (PRINT CLEARLY)	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name (if different)
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*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
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Primary Phone	Email Address	List in Email Directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children Children _____ Grandchildren _____ Great Grandchildren _____ Great Greats? _____
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Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years

Occupation	Retired? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Semi	Elementary School Graduated From
------------	--	----------------------------------

Other news you'd like to share?

About Your Taft Graduate Spouse

*First Name	* Last Name at Graduation	* Current Last Name (if different)
-------------	---------------------------	------------------------------------

Primary Phone	Email Address	List in Email Directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---------------	---------------	--

*Month/Year Spouse Graduated	Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years
------------------------------	--

Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years

Occupation	Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Semi	Elementary School Graduated From
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Other news you'd like to share?

Your Membership Choices

Deliver Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> By mail <input type="checkbox"/> Both online and by mail	TAA Use Only
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<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (2-year individual)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 (2-year Taft alumni couples)	Total Remitted \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship \$ _____	

Mail a **check** with completed membership form

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