



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XLII, No. 1

Winter 2026

2025 Hall of Fame Induction

By every account, the 2025 Induction was a great success. Principal Glowacz said it best, “We had a beautiful induction ceremony yesterday and honored all of the inductees at half time. You would have been very proud to see how happy all of the guests were. There were many tears of joy and appreciation, and great memories of Taft shared by all.”



Honorees Mike Verden (1976), Todd Gierke on behalf of Gregg Gierke (1977), Robert Bady (1987), Patricia (Lutz) Boy (1968), and Martin Paluga (Jun '58). Photo courtesy of Barb Littel.



At the homecoming game, the honorees were caught at halftime by Steven White '88.

Barb (Borek) Littel '76 commented, “What an inspiring night! All of the inductees had such interesting stories. They were all done well by Taft.”

Each honoree received a commemorative plaque, a TAA baseball cap, and a complimentary TAA membership.

The next TAA Hall of Fame induction will take place in 2028. It's never too soon to consider worthy nominees.

Taft's Gifted Program to Expand

As reported by Brian Nadig in the Nadig Newspapers, Taft is expanding its Seventh and Eighth Grade Academic Center next school year. The center, which admits students via testing, currently has three classes each for 7th and 8th grades (about 28 students per class). Planned is a fourth 7th-grade class to be added in August, and an additional 8th-grade class to be added in 2027–28, eventually growing to eight classrooms and roughly 224 students. Taft's total enrollment at the two campuses is about 4,200.

The center began around 25 years ago as a way to attract high-achieving local students; now, about 93% of participants come from Taft's feeder or preference-zone schools.

The gifted program was moved to Taft's Freshman Academy (built in 2019) to ease overcrowding at the main campus, and with steady freshman enrollment, the school leadership says they can accommodate more gifted-program students. According to principal Dr. Ryan Glowacz, “We just got to the point where we could accommodate slightly more academic center students, and historically we always carried a larger academic center enrollment.”

Still, one ongoing challenge has been retaining Academic Center students after 8th grade — historically, only 30–40% stay at Taft for high school. Those who leave often go to selective-enrollment high schools. With the expansion, administrators hope to improve retention and offer more students a stronger start.

Alumni Authors Index Grows

After announcing the creation of an Alumni Authors Index, we had an extraordinary response, and quickly learned that Taft's alumni talent didn't stop with the written word.

Now called the Alumni Creative Arts and Sciences Index, we have expanded the index to include published musical compositions, and productions for theater, television, radio, and more.

The index resides on the TAA website here:
<https://taftalumni.org/alumni-creative-arts>

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!

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

Florida All-Class Get-Together

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location: Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club, 200 Inverness Ave, Temple Terrace, FL

Details: No admission fee - voluntary donations are appreciated. No outside food or drinks are allowed. Complimentary hot coffee, iced tea, and water will be provided. An optional abbreviated grill room menu with table service is available. Credit/debit card only.

Contact: Tom Hoppe, 813-340-5478,

(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: TBD

Location: TBD

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

Arizona All-Class Picnic

The Arizona crew did it again--another fabulous day with fellow alumni and guests. Standing: Judy Jacobsen '70, Anita



(Grabowski) Steinkemper Jun '64, Nancy Warzecha '68, Bob Quirk (Nancy's Guest), Lee Nega'69, Fred Wordell Jun '67, Dave Moresi Jun '67, Carole (Eckwall) Moresi Jun '67, Nancy (Rick) Richards (1967), Rich Makula (1969), Laurel (Ryan) Makula (1967), Kris (Warzecha) Tyler (1964). Seated: Patti (Zowal) Kalesz (1966), Nancy Luikaart (1968), Kathleen Barrette (Rod's Guest), Rod Lowell (1947), Therese Hoffman (1970), Lizabeth Congiusti (1968), Paulette (Zematis) English (1967), Richard Tyler (Kris' Husband). Patti Hoffman (1978) arrived after the photo was taken.

Carole (Eckwall) Moresi and her husband Dave Moresi (both Jun '67) traveled from Wisconsin to join us. It paid off--Carole (right) won a Taft alumni backpack in the raffle presented by Paulette English.



Backpacks and more TAA gear are available in the TAA Swag Shop:

<https://www.wamiswag.com/shops/taftalumni>

Class of 1968 Reunion Luncheon



For their latest reunion luncheon in October, 1968 classmates met at the Beacon Tap for a pizza party.

Annual Taft Alumni Get-Together



November's annual all-class affair at Moretti's saw great attendance and great smiles.

Alumni News & Views



All Taft grads should be aware that our alma mater is the origin of *Grease*. However, how many of you have seen the original play, which was performed in Chicago, opening 2/8/1971 (54 years ago!)? On October 12, 2025, the play was performed at the

Metropolis Theater, Arlington Heights. It was a mixture of the movie music, the original play, and the Broadway version. Some of the class of January 1965 met to see the play and have dinner afterwards. A good time was had...

Bob Johnson, Jan '65

I really enjoy reading the newsletter and appreciate all the Alumni Association does to keep us all in touch with each other. We all had a very special "Taft Experience" and I encourage newer alumni to attend your nearest get-togethers. It is great to see old pals, but also make new friends with our special shared Eagle history. I especially enjoy the SoCal annual get-togethers hosted by Jan Savage (1974) who graciously hosts the event each year. Thank you for all you do, and hope we see each other for our 50th next year (hopefully).

Gail Uhlar-Murray, 1976

Susan Moresi (1973) invites alumni to listen to her podcast "Here's What I Say by Sue Moresi." It's available through [spreaker.com](https://www.spreaker.com), [Spotify](https://open.spotify.com), and other podcast outlets. Sue says, "I discuss topics of interest to me--local news, broader issues, books, TV, movie reviews, and other interesting bits of information."



The January '60 luncheon committee sport their new Taft Alumni shirts. Lew and Bob attended kindergarten together at Hitch, and the Scouts.

We spent our summer at our place on Cushing Island, Maine, and have been travelling to Boise, ID, where our son and his family live. Our grandson Rodi is now 2+ years and is so cute! Our daughter Thalia, who lives in Brooklyn, is expecting a baby in April, and we are thrilled. Hope everyone is doing well.

Evanthia Malliris, 1972

On October 3, 2025, Bill Schalk (Jan '60) was awarded the prestigious Coe College Distinguished Service Award in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The award is a lifetime honor for alumni or friends of the college, who display exceptional stewardship to Coe through their service and/or financial contributions. Bill was inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2004.



Thanks for all you do!

Lou (Andersen) Handley, Jan '65

Remembering Larry Marsh

My brother, Taft June 1959 Graduate Larry Marsh died suddenly on October 31, 2025. He and his wife Barb had planned to attend Larry's Taft class reunion on December 29th.

Larry retired from the Navy a Two Star Admiral. Former Taft English teacher Edith Strandberg had urged Larry to accept his appointment to the United State Naval Academy. Our Dad just "happened" to forget to mail Larry's letter declining his appointment. I remember Larry taking a train to stay with Uncle Evert in Baltimore before beginning his Plebe Year at the Academy. He graduated eighth in his class from the Academy and entered into the submarine service after completing an interview with Admiral Hyman Rickover.



Larry served on the USS Flasher and was Captain of the "boomer" USS Will Rogers. The USS Will Rogers would "hide" underwater and had nuclear missiles to act as a deterrent to the Soviet Union. The USS Will Rogers was deactivated in 1993.

Our son, Alan, followed Larry to the United States Naval Academy and served on the fast attack submarine the USS

Montpelier. (Larry claimed he had no influence on Alan's decision to apply!)

A week before his death, Larry and Barb went to a reunion of the crews for the USS Will Rogers. They enjoyed meeting some former crew members and had many stories to tell when they served on the submarine.

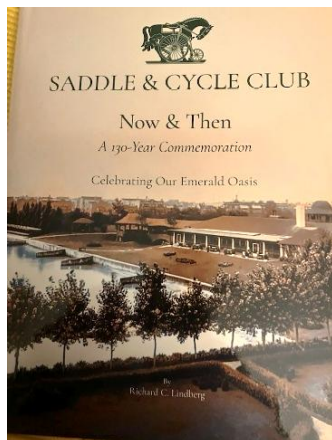
Larry was President of his Taft class and after he retired from the Navy, he started a committee to begin having high school class reunions under the heading "Together Again". His class would meet two or three times a year. The June 1959 class was responsible for Taft's Alumni Clock.

As a student at Taft Larry participated in basketball and baseball. He claimed his "bow" legs were not because he was a catcher.

Larry was inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 1995.

We all will miss Larry.

Lee Marsh, Jan 1965

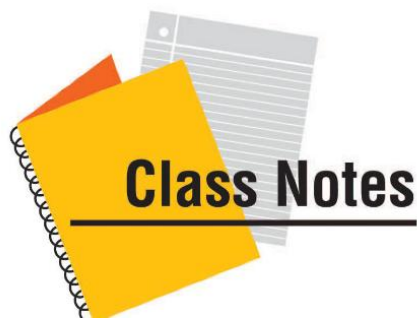


Rich Lindberg (1971) has published his latest book, a coffee table history of the Saddle & Cycle Club in Chicago, founded as a bicycle club along the shores of Lake Michigan in 1895. There was a time capsule laying in the Club's garden to be opened in 130 years. Rich was inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2000.

When Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco, Jun '62, landed in town for a family reunion, she took the opportunity to show off her alma mater to her children. Principal Glowacz was happy to show them around.



Hello Taft! Larry Lonson Class 1968. Shortstop for the Taft 1968 City Championship Baseball Team, still active playing shortstop in the 70+ Timeless Division at the 2025 Roy Hobbs World Series at historic Terry Park in Ft. Meyers, Florida. "LOVE OF THE GAME"



1940s

Robert Machon (Jun 1948) married **Marillyn Kane, deceased (Jun 1948)**, has 3 children, 10 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Madison, WI, MSU BA '52, Northwestern BA '68; US Air Force, 1st Lt, Korean War 1952-54, is a retired insurance agent.

1950s

Myra (Andres) Fisher (Jun 1951) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Woodland Hills, CA, Ohio U BSJ; UCLA Ext PR certification, is a retired freelance writer, lived near Bryn Mawr and Parkside, walking straight west to Taft was easier than taking two buses, Facetimes with Joanne (Dass) Black almost daily, widowed, active in two non-profits.

Bruce Pearson (Jun 1952) married **Carole Lammersfeld, deceased (Jan 1955)**, has 5 children, 14 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended Cleveland, lives in Chicago, IL, Wright Jr College 1953-54, is the retired owner of Chicago Truck Rental (formerly Pearson's Truck Rental) at Montrose and Pulaski.

James Fizzell (Jan 1953) has 4 children, 14 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Park Ridge, IL, BS Horticulture '57; MS '62, is a semi-retired consulting horticulturist, author and broadcaster, member of the TAA Hall of Fame.

Jake Jacobsen (Jan 1953) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Olathe, KS, BS, is retired from Hallmark Cards, Inc.

Carol (Anderson) Montgomery (Jan 1956) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Beaubien, lives in Colorado Springs, CO, MA Edu, is a retired educator.

Allen Meskan (Jun 1956) married **Elizabeth Antonacci, deceased (Jun '58)**, has 3 children, 26 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, 3 great great grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Addison, IL, BS Mech Eng, is a foundry engineer.

Marjorie (Klarquist) Nehlsen (Jun 1956) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Lake Suzy, FL, is a retired secretary at A.B. Dick Co. in Niles IL.

Karen (Taylor) Fogarty (Jan 1957) has 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 2 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Chicago, IL, Wright Jr Col AA, is a retired after-school program director.

Marcelyn (Haerr) Norris (Jan 1957) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Carol Stream, IL, Illinois Wesleyan College 2 years, is retired.

Donald Barnes (Jun 1957) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Palatine, IL, US Army 2 years; college 2 years, is a retired shop manager.

Dianne (Slatkay) Frantzis (Jun 1957) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Glenview, IL, DePaul U, is retired.

Bill Taugner (Jun 1957) has 2 children, attended Oriole Park, lives in Stevens Point, WI, UI, North Park College; Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter; US Army 1963-65, is a retired commercial insurance underwriter, is currently President of the Village of Whiting in Wisconsin.

John Schmidt (Jun 1958) attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, B.Ed '62; M.Ed '65, is a retired UID Associate Director of Admissions.

Penni (Eichin) Isaacson (Jun 1959) attended Wildwood, lives in Deerfield, IL, UI 2 years; Moser Secretarial, is a retired needlepoint designer and shop owner.

Anne (Fear) McManus (Jun 1959) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in St Charles, IL, Wright Jr College, is retired from swim coaching and childcare, was an official in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles for the canoe/kayak competition.

1960s

Barbara (Uebel) Kinley (Jan 1960) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Raceland, KY, is retired.

John Turk (Jun 1960) has 1 child, attended Garvy, lives in McKinney, TX, UI 2 years, is a retired tool engineer.

Holly (Nielsen) Rogers (Jan 1961) attended Ebinger, lives in St Helena, CA, St. Olaf College 1961-63, North Park College BA '66, is retired, plays flute and manages the St. Helena Community Band.

Christine (Wojtowicz) Batalden (Jun 1961) has 6 children, 17 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended St. Eugene, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, Wright Jr College, McHenry County College, is retired.

Susan (Craumer) Corrao (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in South Barrington, IL, Wright Col AA; NIU BS Speech Pathology '65, is retired.

Linda (Leshuk) Davidson (Jun 1962) has 6 children, 11 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, attended Norwood

Park, lives in Palatine, IL, Wright Jr College; U of WI Madison, is an office building manager.

Judy (Merrill) Ruegsegger (Jun 1962) has 4 children, 15 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Centerville, OH, Wheaton College BA Lit Secondary Edu '65, is a retired high school English and French teacher, enjoys being a group leader for the international Bible Study Fellowship (BSF).

Ray Setzke (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Wimauma, FL, US Navy '62-'66, is retired from Ace Hardware Corp. after 30 years, if he's not playing golf, softball, pickleball, or and traveling, he's doing something fun.

Carol (Lundberg) Miller (Jan 1963) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Sioux Falls, SD, Wright Jr College; Augustana Univ, is a retired librarian, recently moved north from Iowa.

Lois (Soby) Bahlow (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Riverview, FL, is retired from sales.

Sharon (Olson) Rainey (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Huntley, IL, SIU, is retired from customer service.

Linda (Schneider) Koziol (Jan 1964) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Glendale Hts, IL, Roosevelt U BA, NIU MS, is retired.

Bill Mazurek (Jan 1964) has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Westcliffe, CO, Air Force Academy BS, Capital U MBA; US Air Force 5 1/2 years, is a retired aviation safety inspector.

Linda (Berg) Hermann (Jun 1964) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Kent, OH, is a retired assistant to the President of Kent State University.

Richard Anderson (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Telecomm technical training; US Army 1966-68, is retired from telecommunications.

Peter Ebner (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Glendale Hts, IL, NIU BS Phys Ed, MA Phys Ed '73, is a retired high school teacher and coach.

Lou (Andersen) Handley (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, EIU BS Ed '69, is a retired secondary English teacher.

Lee Marsh (Jan 1965) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Palatine, IL, Purdue U BS CHE '69, Northwestern U MBA Business '72, is semi-retired.

Laura (Valters) Schultz (Jan 1965) has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Montague, MI, is retired.

Wayne Hanslik (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Batavia, IL, UIC BA Sociology, is retired from insurance sales.

Terry Long (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Waterford, WI, US Army helicopter pilot Vietnam 1968-71; UICC BSIE '73, is a retired engineer, enjoys bicycle riding.

Christine (Prybylo) Payton (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 3 stepchildren, 7 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Schaumburg, IL, UIC BA, is a retired office manager.

John Placko (Jun 1965) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Wildwood, lives in Goodyear, AZ, U Iowa BSPH '71, Florida Inst Tech MSPP '86, is a retired pharmacist.

Marie (Marquardt) Rodgers (Jun 1965) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Irvine, CA, American School of Beauty Culture '66; Career Mgmt Institute; AA Interior Designers Institute 2001, is a retired computerized office specialist.

Wayne Willems (Jun 1965) has 2 children, attended Prussing, lives in Dallas, TX, WIU BA Bus '74, Northwestern U Kellogg School MBA '74, is retired, enjoyed his 60-year class reunion last September.

Kathie (Yehling) Haber (Aug 1966) has 1 child, lives in Petersburg, TN, BS Secondary Ed Math '70, is a retired high school math and computer teacher, still doing her fiber arts work, doesn't have livestock anymore but still live on the farm, going between TN and a condo in Illinois.

Martin Emrath (Jan 1966) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Brentwood, TN, UICC BSME '70, UI MBA, MSME '73, is a retired sales manager.

Ronald Lindberg (Jan 1966) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Willowbrook, IL, Augustana BA '70; UI MS Chem '72; UI MD '76, is a retired ophthalmologist since 2020.

Don McKenzie (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Topeka, KS, KU BA Hist '70, is retired guitar store owner.

Wayne Gibson (Jan 1967) attended Garvy, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, Wright College 1 year, is a retired postal clerk.

Bob Carroll (Jun 1967) married **Diane Janke (1968)**, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired mold maker.

Sue (Oenning) Halihan (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 3 bonus stepchildren, 13 grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Sleepy Hollow, IL, Harper College AA Nurs '81, is a retired emergency RN.

Sharon (Goritz) Lukas (Jun 1967) has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended St. Robert Bellarmine, lives in Holland, MI, is retired from marketing with Herman Miller, Inc.

Diane (Janke) Carroll (1968) married **Robert Carroll (Jun 1967)**, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is retired.

John Knudson (1968) attended Ebinger, lives in Melbourne, FL, Valparaiso U BS, Idaho State U MA, is a retired 14-year

college and high school football coach and 37-year financial advisor.

Cynthia (Peska) Northup (1968) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Wildwood, lives in Sheboygan, WI, Northwestern U BSM '72, MD '74, is a retired family physician, enjoys life on a hobby farm in Sheboygan.

Woody Powers (1968) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Burlington, WI, is retired.

Gail (Shellabarger) Diehl (1969) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Sycamore, IL, NIU BS Edu '74, MS Reading '98, is a retired reading specialist K-6 for DeKalb Schools, busy with the grandkids' sports, bowls in two leagues weekly, and vacations in Florida annually.

1970s

Therese Hoffman (1970) has 1 child, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Phoenix, AZ, BSN RN grad, CPD Academy, is a retired pediatric RN of 15 years and Chicago Police Dept. RN of 29 years, had a grand time during a 7 week trip to Rome and the Vatican for the new Pope Leo celebrations, plus France, Spain, and Ireland.

Michael Jakubowski (1971) has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, UIC BS Math '75, is a retired database administrator.

Deby Nyberg (1971) attended Wildwood, lives in Long Beach, CA, U of Phoenix BA Bus Admin '93, is retired.

Bob Friel (1972) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, is a semi-retired electrician.

Judy (Spierowski) Kearney (1972) has 1 child, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Chicago, IL, UIC BA '75, WRIGHT AAS '96, NIU MA '10, is a CPA.

Janine Klich-Jensen (1972) attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Chicago, IL, JD, is an attorney.

Nancy Stevens (1972) attended Edgebrook, lives in Clearwater, FL, UI BS '77, U South FL MA '89, is a retired teacher and guidance counselor, is a docent at the James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art in St. Pete, Florida.

Randy Cygan (1973) has 2 children, attended Garvy, lives in Albuquerque, NM, UICC BS Chem '77; PSU MS Geochem '80, PhD '83, is a retired research geochemist.

Mark Krejci (1973) has 4 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Huntley, IL, US Army/Reserves 6 years, is a retired electrical field engineer.

Betty Jayko (1975) attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, is a semi-retired dental office receptionist.

Jamie (Moffat) Pastwa (1975) attended Wildwood, lives in Orion, MI, ISU BA, NEIU MA Special Ed, is a retired special education teacher.

Linn (Joyce) Silvers (1976) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Albuquerque, NM, NIU BA '98, is retired.

Kent Stotz (1976) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Cary, IL, NEIU 2 years, is self-employed, 5-time National Champion in Pro Street racing.

Gail Uhlar-Murray (1976) has 2 children, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Sylmar, CA, Drake U BA Journ/Comm '81; Assoc. of Nat'l Advertisers (ANA) CE certificates, Certified Covid Compliance officer for CA film production, is in film/video/TV/print production business affairs management.

Russell Anderson (1977) has 2 children, lives in Spring Grove, IL, ASSC Fire Science, Paramedic School, is a retired Lieutenant FF/PM Officer III, enjoys retirement through his hobbies and travels.

Connie (Tucci) Morawski (1978) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in St Charles, IL, UI Pharm, is a retired pharmacist.

1980s

Cathy Wallin (1980) attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, is a retired RN.

Mark Keske (1987) lives in Virginia Beach, VA.

Yearbooks to be Offered Once Again

By next spring, the Taft Alumni Association will again be offering yearbooks for sale, although not all years are currently available.

The yearbook inventory holds both new and used (inner covers filled with student's written comments). Surplus yearbooks will 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

Watch for a list of available yearbooks in the next issue. TAA gratefully accepts donated yearbooks.

Taft "Spirit Week"

As reported by Brian Nadig in the Nadig Newspapers, Principal Dr. Ryan Glowacz volunteered to be taped to a wall—and temporarily suspended off the floor—as part of the school's "Spirit Week" celebrating the end of the semester in December. Other activities included an ugly

sweater day and a variety of foods offered by Taft's cultural clubs.

"The thing I didn't expect was it was very hot. [The duct tape] sort of held in the heat," Glowacz said. Six rolls of blue duct tape and 20 minutes did the trick. Staff members participated alongside students, while a trusted "bodyguard" made sure his face remained untouched.

"My wife even brought by our two kids [and] our two-year-old even placed tape," said Glowacz. Wood blocks placed under his feet were removed when the taping was completed, suspending him off the floor.

"I was suspended for only about a minute," Glowacz said. "I requested to be down pretty quickly." He admitted that it felt a little freaky.

Despite some apprehension about being suspended, Glowacz would not rule out doing it again, or perhaps another adventure, mentioning how a principal at a feeder elementary school volunteered for a dunk tank.



A 2006 Taft graduate in his second year as principal, Glowacz has proven to be a very good sport



[Facebook: Taft Alumni Association of Chicago](#)



www.taftalumni.org



www.tafthighschool.org

Taft Mission Statement

Educate Global Citizens

Taft Vision Statement

Create a Better World



Lost Classmates

Looking for someone? For a \$5 donation TAA will print your request here. If the person responds, we'll provide them with your contact information so that they may contact you.

In Memoriam

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.

Russell Harold Oyen of Mesa, AZ, Class of June 1940, died on February 6, 2013. He was survived by his wife Joyce (Thalman) Oyen, Class of January, 1943.

Kenneth Edward Bixby of Sun City West, AZ, Class of June 1941, died on July 28, 2016. He was predeceased by his sister Lorraine (Bixby) Petersen, Class of June 1945.

Marjorie (Behn) Logan of Moab, UT, Class of June 1942, died on November 25, 2025.

Carolyn Mary (Rappold) Reid of Scottsdale, AZ, Class of June 1942, died on June 19, 2016.

Phyllis Eileen (Coyle) Hatch of Glendale, AZ, Class of February 1944, died on December 29, 2018.

Dolores Ann (Wenk) Ebner of Littleton, CO, Class of February 1946, died on February 8, 2023.

Richard Edward Broad of Scottsdale, AZ, Class of June 1947, died in 1996.

Mary Ann (Buddenbaum) Tittle of Marco Island, FL, Class of January 1950, died on September 15, 2025.

Henry Lewis "Hank" Marschall of Visalia, CA, Class of June 1950, died on January 22, 2025.

Jane Ann (Meadows) Abramchik of Skokie, IL, Class of June 1953, died on August 30, 2025.

Elizabeth Annabell (Antonacci) Meskan of Addison, IL, Class of June 1958, died on December 29, 2000. She is survived by her husband Allen Meskan, Class of June 1956.

Dorothy Lucile "Dottie" Engels of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1959, died on November 22, 2025.

Larry Roy Marsh of Front Royal, VA, Class of June 1959, died on October 31, 2025. He was predeceased by his brother Jay Marsh, Class of January 1961, and is survived by his brother Lee Marsh, Class of January 1965. He was a member of the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

Patricia Ann (Truver) Simon of Clearwater, FL, Class of January 1960, died in May 2015.

William Louis Christian of St. Cloud, FL, Class of June 1961, died on May 24, 2012.

Susan Elaine (Peterson) Hutt of Northport, FL, Class of June 1961, died on December 7, 2023.

Dorit Lynn (Cunis) Tookey of Hardeeville, SC, Class of June 1961, died on September 5, 2025. She is survived by her husband Robert Tookey, Class of June 1961.

Fred Michael Meyer of Elk Grove Village, IL, Class of June 1962, died on July 7, 2025.

Catherine Marie (Schneider) Volstorff of Naples, FL, Class of June 1963, died on June 10, 2022.

Robert Lee Giavonette of Cape Coral, FL, Class of June 1964, died on November 13, 2013.

Robert Alan Hibarger of Roswell, GA, Class of January 1965, died on October 27, 2025. He was predeceased by his brother James Hibarger, Class of June 1951, and is survived by his sister Lynn (Hibarger) Saracco, Class of June 1962.

Bradley Keith Schnell of Des Plaines, IL, Class of June 1965, died on October 10, 2025.

Fred Dennis Manning of Chicago, IL, Class of June 1966, died on July 26, 2013. He is survived by his sister Judy Manning, Class of 1968.

Joyce Mae (Kerstein) Donicht of Colorado Springs, CO, Class of January 1967, died on December 28, 2024.

Edward Allen Dopke of Wauconda, IL, Class of January 1967, died on July 10, 2021.

Ronald Michael Luikaart of Albany, CO, Class of 1968, died on April 10, 2024. He is survived by his siblings Bonnie, Class of 1971, Glenn, Class of 1974, James, Class of 1985, and his cousin Nancy, Class of 1968.

Richard Alan Varyu of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of 1968, died on September 25, 2025. He is survived by his brother Donald Varyu, Class of 1966, and predeceased by his sister Shirley (Varyu) Hopp, Class of 1972.

Raymond Thomas Pierce of Lake Mary, FL, Class of 1969, died on March 1, 2024.

Margaret Ann "Cookie" Gotti of Antioch, IL, Class of 1970, died on June 20, 2018.

Brent Daniel Pemberton of Phoenix, AZ, Class of 1970, died in December 2020.

Rosemary Anne (Sampanetti) Straub of San Ramon, CA, Class of 1970, died on September 14, 2014.

Linda Pauline (Sword) Skocz of Buckeye, AZ, Class of 1970, died on September 18, 2014. She was survived by her husband Rodney Skocz, Class of 1969.

Lawrence B. Coffey of North Barrington, IL, Class of 1976, died on January 5, 2026. He is survived by his siblings Joan, Class of 1977, Patrick, Class of 1978, Kevin, Nora, Tim, Class of 1982, John, Class of 1985, and Michael, Class of 1987.

Robert McFarland of Chicago, IL, Class of 1985, died in December 2025.

Timothy Gene Finley of Chicago, IL, Class of 1989, died on December 31, 2025.

Bertha Williams of Chicago, IL, Class of 1989, died in October 2025.

Are you proud of your Taft background?

Would you like to help future Taft graduates as they start into the world? Individuals, groups of friends or reunion classes are welcome to make donations to TAA's scholarship fund. Memorials to classmates are also welcome. Please contact TAA at eagleemail@taftalumni.org or write to Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago IL 60631-3185. TAA is grateful for all donations.



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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)	
*Home Street Address	*City	*State	*ZIP
Primary Phone	Email Address		List in Email Directory? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children _____ Children _____ Grandchildren _____ Great Grandchildren _____ Great Greats? _____		
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	

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
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (2-year individual) <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 (2-year Taft alumni couples) <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship \$ _____	Total Remitted \$ _____

- ☐ Mail a **check** with completed membership form
- ☐ Use your bank's online **bill pay** (note year of graduation) and email the downloadable membership form
- ☐ Pay **online** at www.taftalumni.org and email the downloadable membership form
- ☐ Send **Zelle** payment to paytaa@taftalumni.org and email the downloadable membership form

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