



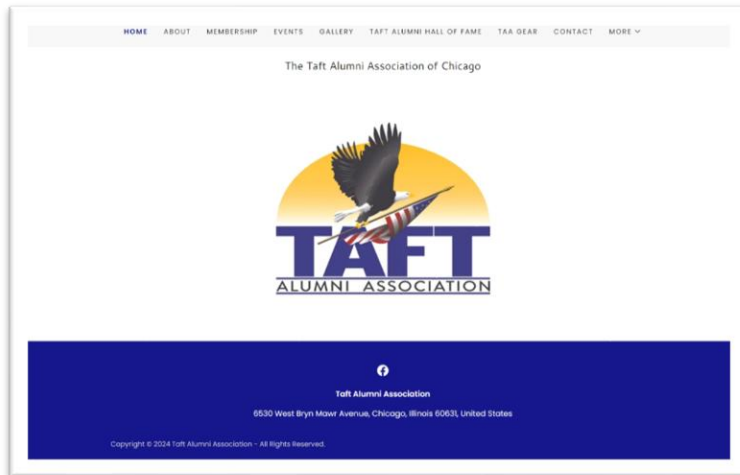
Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XL, No. 4

Fall 2024

New! Improved!

We are pleased to announce that TAA now accepts online payments, and the TAA website has been given a facelift. We have also reinstated our original email address: eagleemail@taftalumni.org. To prevent confusion or loss of messages, eagleemail39@gmail.com will remain active for the time being.



Come and visit us at www.taftalumni.org!

75 Years of Cheers

Last April, Mary Ann (Budenbaum) Tittle (Jan '50) asked if we would be interested in her 1949 cheerleading notebook containing all of the cheers with stick figures and verbal descriptions of how to execute the cheers. She also had a copy of the cheerleaders' "contract" that advised best practices for the young ladies' conduct in and out of school.

When the notebook arrived, TAA board member and Taft English teacher Stephanie Wilczynski (2015) volunteered to show them to the Taft Varsity and Junior Varsity Cheerleading teams, as she had once been an enthusiastic cheer captain herself.

On September 14, Wilczynski had the opportunity to show the notebook to the Taft cheer teams during one of their practice sessions. She said, "The team loved reading the contract; they even tried out some of the cheers based on the instructions in the notebook. What a fun experience for them! Their coach [Chris Rouvas] even took a couple



Thirty of the more than forty Taft cheer team members gather to display the notebook and cheerleader contract.

pictures of cheers written in the book to keep for later - maybe alumni night?"

After seeing these photos, Mary Ann Tittle said, "Oh, how very thoughtful, thank you a million times, makes me so happy to know they enjoyed it. We were not the gymnasts they are now, nor was there any physical training to be a cheerleader. What a beautiful group of girls, I love it."



A few of the young ladies discuss cheers of old.

Wilczynski added, "The Taft Varsity Cheer won the Chicago Public League City Championship two years in a row (2023 and 2024); hoping they'll get a third one in the books this year."

We hope so, too!



Arizona All-Class Picnic

Date: Saturday, October 26, 2024, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: Beardsley Recreation Center Ramada 10, 12755 W Beardsley Rd, Sun City West, AZ 85375 (Watch for a map coming via email.)
Contact: Fred Wordell (ftjawo@aol.com); Judy Jacobsen (gordonsdatter@gmail.com)
Details: \$5 per person (includes a raffle ticket), bring a dish to share, beverages in non-glass containers. TAA sweatshirt raffle.

So-Cal All-Class Get-Together

Date: Saturday September 20, 2025, Noon – 4:00 pm
Location: "House of Savage," 2372 Recuervo Cove, Del Mar, CA
Details: \$10 (pizza and pop), bring a dish to share and BYOB.
Contact: Please RSVP! Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (janhelloworld@hotmail.com), 858-353-3559

Taft Class of January 1965 60 Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2025
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Des Plaines
Contact: Cheryl (Miller) Dominowski (ckdomin@aol.com) or Lee Marsh (taft65@yahoo.com)

Taft Class of June 1965 60 Year Reunion

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025
Location: Moretti's Restaurant in Edison Park
Contact: Bonnie (Stewart) Jilek (taftjune65@gmail.com)

Taft Class of 1975 50 Year Reunion

Date: Tentatively Saturday, September 20, 2025
Contact: 1975 classmates are encouraged to contact taftshclassof75@gmail.com to update their details.

Class of 1974 50 Year Reunion



A great turnout for the Class of 1974 at Moretti's in Edison Park.

SoCal Annual Get-Together



Seated: Ursula Walcynski Clancy('76), Gail (Uhlar) Murray ('76), Jim Jacobs (Jun '60), Jan (Ostromencki) Savage ('74). Standing: Bronwyn (Strass) Estephan ('76), Linda (Gawlic) Newell ('76).



1974 Classmates gather on a stairway during a tour of the Taft campus.

Chicago All Class Picnic



One of the many tents at this annual gathering of eagles in the Schiller Woods Forest Preserve, full of music, food, and camaraderie.



Members of the Class of 1994 celebrated 30 years since graduation.

Alumni News & Views

Dear Taft Alumni Association, I want to thank you for awarding me the Wayne Andersen Scholarship. I know that it is a privilege, and it means much to me to have just that bit more to support me as I begin my college journey.

Carley Pederson, 2024

Thanks for all of your efforts!

Lynn (Valters) Mays, Jan '63

Thanks for all your hard work.

Anita (Nehring) Petersen, Jun '52

My wife Judith grew up in Cleveland. She would have loved Taft. We will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary on October 10. Is anyone working on our 70th class reunion? Thanks for all you do.

Hal Osucha, Jan '56

Thanks for doing such a great job!

Barbara Kalish, Jun '65

I just wanted to say thanks for all the reminders. I really enjoy the newsletter and really appreciate all you do.

Carolyn (Cella) O'Connor, Jan '59



Eagles hangin' out: Robert Hadden '88, Naudja (Weaver) Pernell '84, TAA board member Steven White '88, and Latreece Dickerson '88.

Congratulations to **Robert Johnson** (Jan '65) on receiving the IIT Professional Achievement Award in September. Johnson is a licensed structural engineer based in Chicago. He contributed to the design of several high-rise buildings, including Three Illinois Center, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Center, and the Bloomingdale Building. Beyond his design work, Johnson is dedicated to promoting the

structural engineering profession. He actively engages in STEM outreach programs, such as the Illinois Tech Annual DuPage Area STEM Expo, and has been featured on CAN-TV discussing STEM activities in Chicago. Johnson has also served as mentor to the Taft Robotics Team.

Marty Fenelon (1973) is busy with the upcoming release of multiple books, including a non-fiction book for project managers titled "Building Better Software: A Non-Technical Project Manager's Blueprint for Success." In addition to this book, Fenelon is releasing the third and fourth books in his historical mystery/thriller series, titled "Sinister Speakeasy" and "Smuggler's Cove," respectively. He also announced the release of a financial thriller, "The Regulator: Death of a Bank," which follows a Federal Regulator investigating a Silicon Valley Bank. The books are available on Amazon.



In July, TAA board members Marybethe Kelly (1978), Rich Lindberg (1971), and Stephanie Wilczynski (2015) staffed a sales table at Crippen House for the Norwood Park Historical Society's birthday celebration with a garden walk. Lindberg serves as liaison between the two organizations.



1971 Classmates wound up the summer on September 6 at the Highway House on Northwest Hwy in Chicago, just a stone's throw from Taft.



in August, January '65 classmates enjoyed The Village of Arlington Heights' Sounds of Summer Concert "The Blooze Brothers" in Harmony Park. Standing: Janet (Clune) Klopp, Leslie (Izban) Falco, Bob Johnson, Marge (Holt) Crowe. Sitting: Joan (Johnson) Walendy, Lee Marsh.



Who said don't rock the boat? Brothers Kionel Louis (1997) and Defonda Louis (1988) enjoy the second annual "All White with a Splash of Blue" alumni cruise on Lake Michigan.

Thanks for all you do. GO CUBS GO!

Dale Dvorak, 1971

After 40 years in banking, my golden parachute and I were shoved off the banking plane and landed a new gig at Systems Evolution, Inc. as a consultant. Couldn't be happier! Other than that, still "dad" to two sweet little cats, exploring the wonders of Phoenix and the surrounding Sonoran Desert, and generally loving life.

Ralph Walton, 1982



1999 classmates, plus a few "older" folks from the 80s, gathered for an outing at Montrose Harbor in September.

Eagle Eye: Taft Campus News



Thomas Angsten, the wrestling coach, and driver's ed teacher at Taft, flew with the US Navy Blue Angels ahead of the Air and Water Show in August, after being nominated by a student. The student, who is in the JROTC program, took part in a contest, writing the winning essay about Angsten's support and dedication to his students. Photo Credit: ABC 7 Eyewitness News.



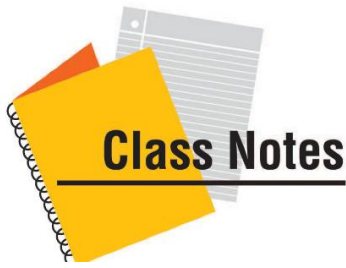
Sarah Al-Shawabkeh, a Taft junior, was the first-place winner of the "Welcome to Chicago" high school art competition. Her work was featured at the Democratic National Convention at the United Center last August. (Photo Credit: Tyler Pasciak LaRiviere/Sun-Times)



Taft student Annie Swingen's Amazon Wish List is being used to purchase and fill 75 backpacks for newly arrived immigrant students at Taft. Twenty-four hours after Heide Stevens, a Chicago Tribune columnist reported it on Facebook, Swingen's porch looked like this. There are kind people everywhere.

Taft Mission Statement
Educate Global Citizens

Taft Vision Statement
Create a Better World



1950s

Nancy (Mondientz) Tibbitts (Jun 1949) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Edgebrook, lives in Santa Barbara, CA, NIU BA Edu, is a retired teacher.

Bruce Pearson (Jun 1952) married **Carole Lammersfeld (Jan 1955) deceased**, has 5 children, 11 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, married his wonderful wife Carole in 1955.

Bill Bruhn (Jan 1953) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Hitch, lives in Rosemont, IL, US Army 1958-64, is a retired tool and die maker.

Marion (Johnson) Chabot (Jun 1953) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Berkeley, CA, BS, MD, is a retired pediatrician.

Carole (Green) Lubecker (Jun 1953) has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Cary, IL, De Lourdes BS Edu '77, is retired.

Arlene (Rogowski) Warner (Jun 1953) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended St. Cornelius, lives in Park Ridge, IL, is a retired homemaker.

Toni (Geisert) Lien (Jun 1954) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in San Diego, CA, BA Educ, MS Counseling/Psychology, is a retired educational psychologist.

Marlene (Cerny) Williamson (Jun 1955) has 3 children, 1 grandchild, 1 great grandchild, attended Garvy, lives in Glendale, AZ, is a retired administrative assistant.

Hal Osucha (Jan 1956) has 4 children, 13 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, attended Farnsworth, lives in Oak Ridge, TN, MI State '60; US Navy 30 years, Captain retired, is a retired engineer.

Mary (Murphy) Richards (Jan 1956) has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, 6 great great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in San Tan Valley, AZ, is the retired owner/operator of Richards Alamo Service in Rosemont, IL.

Robert Soske (Jun 1957) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Giles, lives in Inverness, IL, US Army 1961-63, is the owner of Presstech, printer of the TAA Newsletter.

Lynn Terry (Jun 1957) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Onahan, lives in Sedona, AZ, Colorado U BA '62; SF State MA '71; USMC 1962-67 Captain Infantry Vietnam, is a retired sales executive.

Dennis Duszak (Jan 1958) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Batavia, IL, IIT BS MET '61, MBA '69, is a retired materials engineer, feels fortunate to be welcomed and accepted by his second wife's family despite his somewhat warped sense of humor.

Bob Zaun (Jan 1958) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Mundelein, IL, Valparaiso Univ BA Bus and Music; US Air Force 4 1/2 years, Captain, is a retired mortgage banker and real estate broker, his vocal group "Jazz Spectrum" (www.jazzspectrum.com) celebrated 30 years of performing.

Diane (Prosser) Degrenier (Jun 1958) has 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, attended Patrick Henry, lives in Cary, IL, college 2 years, is retired from sales, is in need of a new dance partner.

John Grud (Jun 1958) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Thecla, lives in Lake Geneva, WI, Marquette U BS Bus '62, DePaul U MBA '70; USMC '63-'67, is retired.

Margery (Roess) Rollins (Jun 1958) has 4 children, 5 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Torrington, CT, Wright Jr College, is retired.

Cliff Stoll (Jun 1958) has 1 child, attended Garvy, lives in Columbus, OH, is a retired engineer.

Bruce England (Jan 1959) has 6 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Merrimac, WI, CLU, LUTCF, is retired from life insurance and investment sales and service, served 27 years on ski patrol at Devil's Head Resort and will celebrate 50 years of marriage to Marsha.

Carolyn (Cella) O'Connor (Jan 1959) married **James O'Connor, deceased (Jun 1953)**, has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Evergreen, CO, is retired, Our children are all Taft graduates: Carin '77, Timothy '78, Christine '85, Cindy '87.

1960s

Jo Anne (Barry) Edwards (Jan 1960) attended Garvy, lives in Leesburg, FL, UI BS '64, MS '66, is a retired A.P. biology teacher, received Outstanding Biology Teacher award with

honorary membership in the National Association of Biology Teachers; has traveled to over 40 countries.

Marilyn (Stano) Guillemette (Jun 1960) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Chicago, IL, is a retired manager and buyer for Hallmark.

Susan (Richardson) Vogt (Jun 1960) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Wheaton, IL, Bradley U BA '64; UI M.Ed '68, is a retired elementary teacher.

Rudy Drost (Jun 1961) married **Lynn Anderson (Jun 1961)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 grandchild, lives in Inverness, IL, BA Hist and German, is retired.

Lynn (Anderson) Drost (Jun 1961) married **Rudy Drost (Jun 1961)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Inverness, IL, Roosevelt Univ. BA Psych, MA Counseling and Human Services, is a psychotherapist.

Art Kay (Jun 1961) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Schaumburg, IL, 2 years college, is retired, has been an instructor for the Tooling and Manufacturing Association.

John Prochaska (Jun 1961) married **Cynthia Ludtka (Jun 1964)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in Park Ridge, IL, NIU BS, MBA Fin; US Army HQ Japan 1967-69, is a retired non-profit CFO, celebrated with Cindy their 55th wedding anniversary on September 1, also recovered from a replacement Cardiac Mitral Valve implanted in April.

Rick Wendricks (Jan 1962) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, lives in Hot Springs Village, AR, Drake Univ., is retired.

Lois (Knickerbocker) Boyer (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, lives in Anacortes, WA, DePauw Univ BA, is the retired owner of "The Mole Hole of South Bend" gift shop.

Robert Johnson (Jun 1962) has 4 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Palatine, IL, 2 years college, is a retired letter carrier, is a volunteer chaplain at Lutheran General Hospital.

Craig Sabey (Jun 1962) lives in Peoria, IL, is retired from the Ill Dept of Transportation; US Army Spec 5th Class in Thailand 1966-1968 building supply roads, has been on an Honor Flight to Washington, DC.

Robert Zerwer (Jun 1962) has 1 child, lives in Elmwood Park, IL, NIU '71, is a retired buyer for Truserv Corp.

Lynn (Valters) Mays (Jan 1963) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in New Smyrna Beach, FL, Dominican College BA '67; St. Xavier U Chicago MA '05, is a retired elementary teacher.

Richard Sliwinski (Jan 1963) has 2 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in New Rochelle, NY, Northwestern U BS BA '67; U of Chicago MBA '70; USMC Sgt. 1968-70, is retired.

Margaret (Wingert) Hardy (Jan 1964) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Aurora, IL, NIU BS Edu '68, is a retired elementary school teacher of 35 years.

Richard Baran (Jun 1964) has 1 child, attended Hitch, lives in Batavia, IL, NEIU BA '67, MS '69; Loyola MBA '72, is retired.

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.

Cindy (Ludtka) Prochaska (Jun 1964) married **John Prochaska (Jun 1961)**, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Park Ridge, IL, BA Psych, MA OT, is a pediatric occupational therapist, celebrated with John their 55th wedding anniversary on September 1, has been a Park Ridge resident since 1970.

Bob Johnson (Jan 1965) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Edison, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, IIT BSCE '69, MSCE '71, is a retired structural engineer.

Daniel Lazar (Jan 1965) has 1 child, attended Burr, lives in Bloomingdale, IL, is retired.

Paulette (Kaleta) Colo (Jun 1965) lives in Mundelein, IL, is a retired artist.

Barbara Kalish (Jun 1965) attended Norwood Park, lives in Phoenix, AZ, NAU BS '70, GA State MEd '75, ASU M SpEd '77, is a retired teacher.

Bill Moody (Jun 1965) has 3 children, 1 grandchild, attended Norwood Park, lives in Dallas, TX, Iowa St U BS '70, is semi-retired from public relations.

Lynn (Hintz) Pozsgay (Jun 1965) attended Hitch, lives in Huntley, IL, is retired from banking and real estate.

William Moldenhauer (Jan 1966) attended Norwood Park, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is retired, volunteers at a food pantry.

Michael Megaris (Jun 1966) has 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Overland Park, KS, MBA Fin, CMA '88; USMC Reserves 1966-72, is a semi-retired accounting professor at Johnson County Community College, and is owner/manager of rental houses.

Pamela (Erbach) Kuelto (Jan 1967) has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Ottawa, IL, NIU BA History, is a retired church office administrator.

James Doubek (Jun 1967) has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Waukegan, IL, US Army Reserve 6 years, is a retired tool and die maker.

Fredric Lind (Jun 1967) lives in Park Ridge, IL, is retired.

Linda (Culpepper) Peterson (Jun 1967) has 1 child, attended Oriole Park, lives in Bensenville, IL, is retired.

Robert Poteracki (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Juliana, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, NIU BS '71, MBA '93, is retired from industrial sales.

Marlene (Porter) Boehler (1968) has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Prussing, lives in Huntley, IL, is a retired employee benefits consultant.

Art Ellingsen (1968) has 1 child, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, OS/2 US Navy Reserve 1969-75, active 1970-72, Vietnam and Korea 1971; ISU BS '80, is a retired pastor and consultant, serves as Commander and Chaplain for American Legion Post 216 and Jr. Vice Commander, VFW Post 9284, both in Elk Grove Village, Treasurer, Vietnam Veterans of America, NW Sub Chapter 311, founder of Arlington Hts. Tea Party.

Lauren (Congiusti) Zubert (1969) married **James Zubert (Jun 1959)**, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Wauconda, IL, is a retired administrative assistant.

1970s

Pete Angelakos (1970) attended Hitch, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Wright College, is a retired machinist.

Mike Costanzo (1970) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Sioux Falls, SD, WIU BA '74, is a retired broadcasting radio station owner, co-founder of PDR disabled youth group and volunteers as a Braille Library narrator.

Arlene (Nothacker) Merriman (1970) has 3 stepchildren, 2 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Bradenton, FL, NIU BS Family Svcs '74, MS Comm Mental Health '76; Barry U MS Ed/Higher Ed Admin '18, is retired.

Ken Paul (1970) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Klamath Falls, OR, UMT BS Wildlife Mgmt '77, is an incident manager and retired fire chief at Klamath National Forest, has worked in fire and natural resource management since '76, instructs Fire Science and Incident Mgmt. System Training, is deputy incident commander of a Complex Incident Mgmt. Team.

Susan (Morper) Saia (1970) has 2 children, attended Oriole Park, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is retired.

Bobbie (Machowski) Weiss (1970) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Norwood Park, lives in Northbrook, IL, Carroll Univ. '74, is a retired teacher, is doing well despite the age.

Jeffrey Wunderlich (1970) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Porter, IN, DePaul U MST, CPA, BS, is a semi-retired CPA.

Dale Dvorak (1971) married **Jane Krusinski (1971)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Antioch, lives in Waco, TX, West Point BS Engr Mgmt '75; Boston U MSBA Fin '79; US Army 6 years, is a semi-retired business owner.

Jane (Krusinski) Dvorak (1971) married **Dale Dvorak (1971)**, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, lives in Waco, TX, NEIU BA Early Childhood Ed '75, is a retired teacher.

Lynne (Heinichen) Inglesby (1972) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Chicago, IL, some college, is semi-retired and working from home.

Carl Overhuls (1972) has 2 children, attended Ebinger, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, Wright College AA; RE '76; Cook County Sheriff's Police Academy '77, is a retired real estate broker/investor of 46 years and worked 12 years in the police department, lives in Luther Village, a retirement community.

Carole (Jacobucci) Scardina (1972) has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, attended St. Tarcissus, lives in Berwyn, IL, Morton College AA '06, St. Xavier U BS Elem Ed '08, is a 4th grade teacher.

Christine Burns (1973) lives in Des Plaines, IL, UI BA '77; MLIS, is a records management consultant.

Martin (Fenelon) Fenelon (1973) has 1 child, attended Edison, lives in Niantic, CT, IIT BS '77, MBA, RPI '84, UNH ScD '02; US Navy 1977-94 LCDR (USNR-Ret), is a retired IT manager.

Patty (Machowski) Wilson (1976) has 1 child, attended Norwood Park, lives in San Antonio, TX, NIU BS Nutrition/Food Sci, is the owner of Mr. Wilson Heating and Air Conditioning.

Philip Soto (1979) lives in Chicago, IL, DePaul U BA Pol Sci, is a general manager, founded Bishops Hill Winery in Joliet.

1980s

Ralph Walton (1982) attended St. Monica, lives in Phoenix, AZ, Loyola U BA Bus Admin, is a retired banking consultant at MUFG Union Bank, consultant in the banking industry.

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.



Patricia Ann (O'Keefe) Daniels of Chicago, IL, died on July 8, 2024. Beginning in 1965, she taught English at Taft for many years.

Caryl W. Heinichen of Park Ridge, IL, died on August 27, 2024. She served as a

Social Studies teacher, department chair, and counselor from the mid-70s until her retirement in 1994. She is survived by her sister Lynne (Heinichen) Inglesby, Class of 1972.

George Charles Zima of Peoria, IL, Class of January 1945, died on February 19, 2022. He was a member of the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

Edmund Thaddeus Mazure of Edgewater, FL, Class of June 1945, died on February 18, 2024. He was a member of the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

Corinne Ann (Sir) Thompson of Lumberton, NJ, Class of June 1947, died on May 20, 2024.

Patricia (Ryan) Michalski of Oak Park, IL, Class of June 1950, died on December 17, 2022. She was a member of the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

Karen Yvonne (Debs) Krier of McHenry, IL, Class of January 1954, died on June 25, 2024.

Robert Rollin Roehl of Homosassa, FL, Class of June 1954, died on June 24, 2024.

William Daniel Saracco of Roswell, GA, Class of August 1960, died on March 21, 2024. He is survived by his wife Lynn (Hybarger) Saracco, Class of June 1962.

Brian Richard Arnsperger of Prescott, AZ, Class of June 1961, died on February 5, 2023. He was a member of the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame.

Marilyn Louise (Moody) of McHenry, IL, Class of June 1961, died on September 12, 2024. She is survived by her sister Maurine Moody, Class of June 1967, and her brothers Richard Moody, Class of 1971, and Bill Moody, Class of June 1965.

Virginia "Ginny" Josephine (Devereaux) McCarthy of Venice, FL, Class of June 1963, died on April 25, 2024.

Gertrude "Trudy" (Dominick) Kaufmann of Fox Lake, IL, Class of June 1963, died on June 27, 2024.



Phyllis (Forsbeck) McLendon of Wonder Lake, IL, Class of June 1963, died on September 12, 2024. She is predeceased by her sister Judith (Forsbeck) Cipolla, Class of June 1956, and is survived by her sister Carol Forsbeck, Class of February 1952.

Phyllis Jane Holmen of Atlanta, GA, Class of January 1966, died on July 18, 2024. She is survived by her brother Ralph Holmen, Class of 1970.

Thomas Dale Peterson of Nashville, TN, Class of June 1966, died on August 5, 2024.

Mathew "Mark" Pump of Riverton, WY, Class of 1969, died on July 14, 2024.

John Artingstall of Elk Grove Village, IL, Class of 1970, died on April 17, 2013.

Allen Walter Day of Addison, IL, Class of 1970, died on June 8, 2020.

Charles Michael Jaske, Class of 1970, died in 1982.

Geralyn Marie (McDowall) McKenzie of Sturgeon Bay, WI, Class of 1971, died on July 15, 2024.

Timothy Paul Talimonchuk of St. Charles, MO, Class of 1979, died on July 18, 2024. He is survived by his sisters Tari (Talimonchuk) Sefton, Class of 1976, and Toni (Talimonchuk) Baxter, Class of 1978.

John Boyle of Chicago, IL, Class of 1979, died on August 25, 2024.

Michael Amico Baratti of Chicago, IL, Class of 1984, died on July 20, 2024. He is survived by his siblings Arnie, Class of 1982, Rena, Class of 1985, and Leda, Class of 1988.

Lisa (Griffin) Clay of Chicago, IL, Class of 1985, died in July 2024.

Troy Campanella Fields of Chicago, IL, Class of 1999, died on June 26, 2024.

Lost Classmates



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

Bruce Pearson, Jun '52, is searching for his classmate **Walter Black**. Please contact us if you know his whereabouts.

Scam Alert!

Beware of any solicitations for gift cards purporting to be from the Taft Alumni Association. They are fraudulent! Report them if you can, notify us of anything suspicious, but do not respond to them. Let's be careful out there!

Call for TAA Hall of Fame Nominations

It's that time again! Nominations for the 2025 Taft Alumni Hall of Fame Induction are now being accepted. We are looking for Taft alumni who, through a lifetime of achievement(s) and dedication, exemplify the values we hold dear and will become examples for all current and future Taft students.

Please include your best information, and if possible, consult with the nominee as you prepare it. We must have current contact details for the nominee or a family representative.

The following are highlights of the standing rules for nominations:

- 1. Nominees should be Taft graduates, living or deceased, who exemplify the best of Taft. Nominations may be submitted by anyone except by the nominee.
- 2. Nominations will be submitted on the standardized official nomination form available on the TAA website at www.taftalumni.org, or by the TAA Secretary upon request.
- 3. Both present and past directors are eligible to volunteer to serve on the Hall of Fame Evaluation Committee, so

- long as they themselves have not submitted a nomination for the current induction.
- 4. Nominees will be judged by a point system that will consider:
 - Achievement in scholastic pursuits
 - Achievement in vocational pursuits
 - Contributions to community and country
 - Meritorious recognition of actions, services, or achievements
 - Significant philanthropic involvement
 - Any additional significant considerations
 - 5. The top five scoring nominees will be submitted as the slate for board approval. Inductions take place every three years, thus allowing the Taft student body to be introduced to, and become familiar with, their predecessors' accomplishments at least once during their years at Taft.
 - 6. Any nominee who is not selected for induction will be eligible for the next induction so long as a new nominating form is submitted with current data.

The 2025 Induction Ceremony for the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame is set for Homecoming in October 2025. The exact date, time, and location will be announced in an upcoming newsletter. **The deadline for submission of nominations is June 1, 2025.**

Order Your Taft Alumni Association Official Gear! www.taftalumni.org/taa-gear



2024-2025 Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors

Paulette (Zemaitis) English	1967	President, Editor	Richard Lindberg, NPHS Liaison	1971	Director
John Prochaska	1961	Vice President, Treasurer	Barbara (Borek) Littel	1976	Director
Paul Madsen	1971	2 nd Vice President	Alan Martin	1971	Director
Marybeth (Hirth) Kelly	1978	Secretary, Events Coordinator	Wayne Schimpff	1959	Director
Anne Lunde	1969	President Emeritus, Historian	Robert L. Schmidt	1973	Director
Ryan Glowacz	2006	Director, Faculty Liaison	Steven White	1988	Director
Judy Jacobsen	1970	Director	Stephanie Wilczynski	2015	Director
Arthur Kay	1961	Director			

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

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 \$ _____ Total Remitted \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail a check with completed membership form <input type="checkbox"/> Use your bank's online bill pay (note year of graduation) and email the completed membership form <input type="checkbox"/> Pay online at www.taftalumni.org and email the downloadable membership form	

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

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