



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XLI, No. 4

Fall 2025

2025 Taft Alumni Hall of Fame

Induction into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame is an honor that we take very seriously. Our mission is to recognize those among us who have exemplified the standards of Taft and who have distinguished themselves by making significant contributions to their community and/or to their country.

We are pleased to announce the five individuals who will be formally inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame on Friday, October 17, 2025. All are welcome; we encourage you to attend this special event that will be followed by the Homecoming game at 7:00 pm against Lincoln Park. Details can be found in the Events column.

Robert Bady – Class of 1987



Robert Bady, Class of 1987, has built a legacy of leadership, service, and athletic excellence. A standout basketball player at Taft and North Park University, Robert led the nation in 3-point shooting in 1989-90 and earned multiple conference honors.

Off the court, Robert became a dedicated community

leader. He made history as the first African American elected to the Ridgeville Park District Board, served on the Evanston Historic Preservation Commission, and currently sits on the Levy Senior Center Foundation Board, enhancing programs for older adults.

Through initiatives like the 'Hoops for the Ages' senior basketball tournament, the Evanston Girls Feeder Basketball Program, and his leadership with the ETHS Boosters—which raised nearly \$800,000—Robert has fostered opportunities for all ages. His service, philanthropy, and passion for community embody the values of the Taft Hall of Fame.



Patricia (Lutze) Boy – Class of 1968



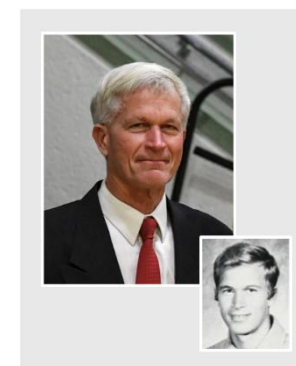
Patricia Boy, a proud 1968 Taft graduate, has dedicated her life to public service. After earning a B.A. in English from DePaul University on a scholarship, she built a career as a business owner and community leader before stepping into politics.

As Indiana State Representative for District 9 since

2018, Pat has authored and co-authored numerous bills—many passed unanimously—while earning a near-perfect pro-consumer voting record. Her leadership has been recognized with honors such as the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award for Economic Development and the Champion of Congressional Term Limits award in 2024.

Beyond the Statehouse, Pat remains deeply involved in civic life, serving with organizations like the League of Women Voters, NAACP, and environmental and arts committees. Her dedication, integrity, and tireless work for the people of Indiana embody the spirit of the Taft Hall of Fame.

Gregg Gierke – Class of 1977



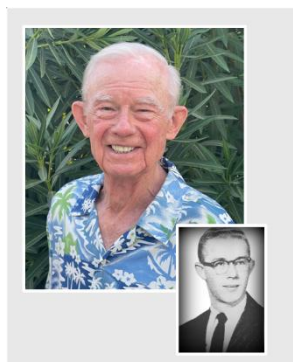
Gregg Gierke's basketball legacy began at Taft, where he earned All-Section and All-Public League honors. At North Park College, he played on three NCAA Division III National Championship teams before earning his Master's at UIC.

As a coach, Gregg led college and high school teams to 512 wins, 10 championships, and

multiple #1 national rankings. He was inducted into the Chicago Basketball Coaches' Association Hall of Fame in 1995 and into the Kish Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019. Beyond the court, Gregg ran camps that helped over 5,000 kids improve their reading skills and inspired athletes to serve their communities.

Gregg passed away in 2022, but his passion for the game and dedication to mentoring has left an enduring mark on countless lives.

Martin J. Paluga Jr. – Class of June 1958

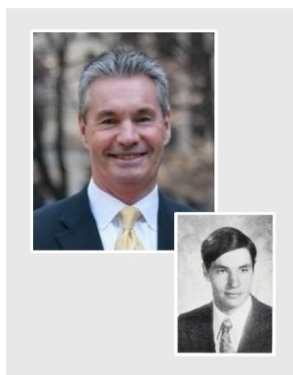


Martin J. Paluga Jr., a first-generation American, rose from humble beginnings to become a CPA, successful investment advisor, and major philanthropist. A Chick Evans Scholarship recipient to Northwestern University, he dedicated much of his life to ensuring other Taft students could share that opportunity.

Through the Martin J. Paluga Jr. Foundation, he endowed six Evans Scholarships—totaling \$750,000—and helped revitalize the Taft/Evans Scholarship program, resulting in 14 scholarships awarded between 2015 and 2023. He also funded a putting green at Taft to promote golf and scholarship awareness.

His leadership, generosity, and deep loyalty to Taft, providing endowments for recipients of the future, exemplify Hall of Fame spirit.

G. Michael Verden – Class of 1976



G. Michael Verden has built a distinguished career in law enforcement and security, serving 21 years in the U.S. Secret Service, including on the Presidential Protective Division for Presidents Reagan and Bush Sr. He coordinated security for global events like the Winter Olympics, Super Bowls, and World Cups.

As Senior Director of Security for the NBA and now CEO of The Lake Forest Group, Mike has protected people and venues worldwide. He actively mentors future law enforcement professionals, coaches youth sports, and supports community organizations.

Respected for his professionalism, leadership, and dedication, Mike proudly represents Taft wherever he goes.

Champion Now Interview

Niko Aleksic (2025), recipient of the first Jerry R. Iverson Memorial Scholarship, was interviewed in August about his choice of career, the impact of the scholarship, and the positive influence of Taft's IBD program.

The scholarship honors Jerry Iverson, Class of June 1954, made possible by his son Terry Iverson of Champion Now.



Niko's interview may be viewed here:

<https://www.ctemag.com/videos/honoring-legacy-through-jerry-r-iverson-memorial-scholarship>

Calling All Alumni Authors!

Have you published a book, article, poem, or research paper? Do you know a fellow Taft alum who has?

The Taft Alumni Association is assembling an Alumni Authors Index to celebrate the many ways our graduates share their voices with the world. Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, academic research, screenplays, or any other form of writing that you have authored (not edited), we'd love to include it!

Our goal is not only to honor your achievements, but also to inspire current Taft students by showing them what's possible.

If you'd like to be part of this special collection, please email your information to eagleemail@taftalumni.org and include:

- First and Last Name (and pseudonym if applicable)
- Graduation Month/Year
- Publication Title
- Publication Type
- Publisher
- Publication Date
- Related Links (author's website, online articles, or purchase links)

The index will be posted on the TAA website. We can't wait to read about—and share—your work!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Taft Alumni Hall of Fame 2025 Induction

Date: Homecoming, Friday, October 17, 2025, 5:00 pm

Location: Taft High School (6530 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Chicago, IL 60631) in the Forum (Room 162) overlooking the Ozaki Garden, located at the northeastern corner of the campus, close to the corner of Hobart and Northcott (half a block south of Avondale and half a block east of Hurlbut Street). Attendees will be able to enter the building by walking through the Ozaki Garden and entering through Door 3B.

Contact: eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Arizona All-Class Picnic

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

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

Contact: Fred Wordell (ftjawo@aol.com); Judy Jacobsen (gordonsdatter@gmail.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 (pizza and pop), bring a dish to share and BYOB.

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

Florida All-Class Reunion

Date: March 2026 TBD

Location: West-Central Florida area

Details: If interested in the revival of the Florida get-togethers, please contact Tom Hoppe tafths.chicago_hoppe@yahoo.com

Taft Class of 1968 Reunion Pizza Party

Date: Friday, October 17, 2025, Noon till ?

Location: Beacon Tap, 1374 Lee St, Des Plaines

Details: \$20/person, appetizers, salad, pizza, soft drinks, cash bar; RSVP by October 3, 2025

Contact: carolyn.toerpe@gmail.com or nancywarz@sbcglobal.net

Wayne Faust 50 Year Anniversary Show

Date: Saturday, November 22, 2025, 6:30 pm

Location: Elks Lodge Banquet Hall in Des Plaines

Details:

https://www.picklehead.com/wayne/wayne_chicagoland50th2.html

Annual Taft Alumni All-Class Get-together

Date: Saturday, November 22, 2025, 6:00 pm - ?

Location: Edison Park Inn (EPI), Party Room

Details: No admission fee, cash bar, food available

No. 1 Candy Company in the USA

Date: Friday, November 7th • 10:00 AM

Location: 347 Spring St., Jeffersonville, IN

Details: Warren and Jill Schimpff will be honored and the sweet tradition will continue as they pass the torch to Steve Shepherd, 5th generation owner of Schimpff's Confectionery

Chicago Taft All-Class Picnic



Many classes celebrated their reunions. This happy group from the Class of 2005 is marking 20 years.

"Taft Eagles showed up and showed out, like we always do. 2025 I had a great time with all of you," said Luther Jordan '85. Anthony Brookins said it best, "I had a lot of fun at the all-class picnic yesterday! Thanks to Steve White ('88) and all the other folks who had a hand in getting everything together for us to have a great time catching up and reminiscing on yesteryear."

SoCal All-Class Get-Together



Seated with Jim Jacobs (Jun '60) is original Pink Lady, Carol Bollman ('59). Standing: Jim Bixler (Jun '66), Gail (Ponce) Bixler (1968), Patrick Raetzman (Jun '57), Cindy Bollman (1975), Patrick Collins (1968), Brownie (Strass) Estephan (1976), Gail (Uhlar) Murray (1976), Jan (Ostromencki) Savage (1974) and Fritzle.

Class of January 1960 65 Year Reunion



All in attendance agreed that it was an enjoyable luncheon with "olde" (spelling is correct) friends. The weather cooperated, and the outdoor patio was delightful. Note all the smiling faces in the attached two photos. Perhaps we can do this again the first week of August 2026 to celebrate our 66th class reunion with "olde" friends! Diane (Nelson) Chapin came the longest from Washington, DC and the rest were local folks. Bill Schalk was here in Spirit. He and his wife were in Oslo, Norway, but he phoned in at noon and spoke to everyone.

Lew Robert, January '60

Class of June 1965 60 Year Reunion



Classmates gathered at the Assembly Hall doors after a tour of Taft led by Principal Dr. Ryan Glowacz.



Reunion Committee members Frank Abbaticola, Nancy (Wendt) Gunning, Bonnie (Stewart) Jilek, Joan (Boquist) Brozny, Arlane (Gulbrandsen) Christensen, and Bob Christensen. Unfortunately, no photo was taken of the entire group.

Class of 1975 50 Year Reunion



When you have a great turnout like this one, it's hard to get everyone into the picture.

A donation of \$543.00 has been sent to Taft High School from the Class of '75! We requested that it be used for students with financial difficulties! A great night was had by everyone, and so many friendships were rekindled!

Mary (Sokol) O'Connor '75

2025 Alumni Cruise



DeFonda Louie (1988) in the center joined classmates in July saying, "The All-White Splash of Color cruise was an amazing time of fun in the sun! Thanks to everyone who came out to support this event!"

Alumni News & Views

Since Joanne (Dass) Black and I FaceTime almost every day, we went over my copy of the newsletter this afternoon together. I never knew Waters and Prussing were elementary schools in our area. Never heard their names before. Reading it alone, I would never have given them a second thought. Then Joanne told me she had gone to Waters before her family moved, and she entered Hitch in third grade. Started googling names and came up with school histories and a bio of the man, James B. Farnsworth

after whom my elementary school was named. Thank you again for the newsletter and all the work you do to keep us informed about what's going on at Taft HS. Very proud of the school, the staff and the students.

Myra Andres Fisher, June '51



1978 classmates met at the Edison Park Fest in August.

Thanks to you and the others involved in the newsletter. Looks good.

Bill Green, January '63

Thank you for all your work keeping us Tafties informed.

Joyce (Christensen) Johnson, June 1952

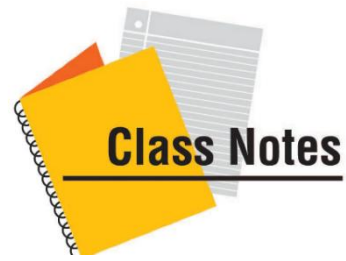


While visiting my son's home in Vermont in Townshend, about 20 miles north and a bit west of Brattleboro in the lower southeast corner of the state, I came across the Taft Hill Farm site,

which was settled by the ancestors of William Howard Taft. You never know what you might find in the backwoods of Vermont. There is a plaque recognizing the farm site and a sign for Taft Hill Farm.

Jim Ohlson, June '63

Fast friends for more than 70 years, this was the last picture taken together of Bruce Kramer (left) and Ken Kulovitz, both January '67 grads, before Bruce passed away last May.



1940s

Jessie (Douglas) Usdrowski (Jun 1949) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, 1 great grandchild, attended Farnsworth, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, is retired.

1950s

Dale Kendrick (Jun 1950) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Libertyville, IL, Wright Jr College; NIU DeKalb; US Army 2 years, is a retired owner/operator for more than 50 years of Barnaby's Restaurant in Des Plaines.

Nancy (Zuehlke) Winkates (Feb 1952) married **Bob Winkates (Jan 1952)**, has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, is retired.

Bob Winkates (Feb 1952) married **Nancy Zuehlke (Jan 1952)**, has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Hitch, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, Northwestern U BA, is retired.

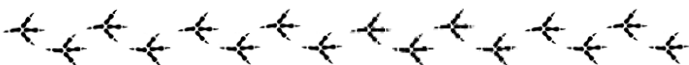
Joyce (Christensen) Johnson (Jun 1952) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Niles, IL, Wright Jr College, is a retired receptionist, enjoys her years of retirement.

Robert Dunworth (Jun 1954) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended St Columbanus, lives in Egg Harbor, WI, UI BS Acct '59; Chicago Kent College of Law JD '73, is a retired attorney.

Charlyn (Smith) Hetzel (Jun 1954) married **Herb Hetzel (Jan '49)**, has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Palatine, IL, is a retired homemaker and school cafeteria director.

Ray Whitehead (Jun 1954) has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Landrum, SC, DePaul U BA; UI MA, EdD, is a retired musician, educator, and insurance agent.

Mary (Pastuszka) Sikorski (Jun 1955) married **Fred Sikorski (Jun 1959)**, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended St. Constance, lives in Mundelein, IL, Wright Jr College AA, is a retired administrative executive, still married after 67 years.



Marilyn (Treadway) Armentrout (Jan 1956) has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Irvine, CA, U of Chicago BS '59, is a retired director of personnel at UC-Irvine School of Engineering.

Jay Forbregd (Jan 1957) has 1 child, attended Onahan, lives in Phoenix, AZ, Wright Jr College AA; USMC 5 years, is retired from sales.

Priscilla (Deck) Woodworth (Jun 1957) has 4 children, 7 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Des Plaines, IL, NIU 1 year, beauty culture school, is a retired beautician, sales, and school bus driver, has been married 65 years.

Roger Blocks (Jan 1958) married **Marjorie Eaton, deceased (Jan 1958)**, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Three Lakes, WI, Purdue U BS Metallurgical Engr, U Iowa MBA, U Evansville MA Econ; US Army Corp of Engineers, Captain, 1962-69, is a retired metallurgical and process control engineer, played a key role with the Saturn V exterior controls, prelaunch, space shuttles; Wall of Fame at The Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia, EAA Timeless Voices, ASM Life Member; remarried to longtime friend Barbara Weber, RN MA.

Rosalie (Scimeca) Feilen (Jan 1958) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Sarasota, FL, is retired.

Bob Gunderson (Jan 1958) has 1 child, 3 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Las Vegas, NV, SIU BA '67, Azusa Pacific MA '77, is a retired PE teacher of 42 years and coach, is an inductee to the T.A.E. Hall of Fame.

Louis Holian (Jun 1958) has 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended St. Juliana, lives in Palatine, IL, De Paul U BSC, is retired from self-employment.

Sharon (Hinds) Nystrom (Jun 1958) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended Barry, lives in Westlake Village, CA, is retired.

Martin Paluga (Jun 1958) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Monica, lives in Las Vegas, NV, Northwestern U BS '62, is a retired CPA and Asst. Controller, Financial Consultant, inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2025.

1960s

Steve Mack (Jan 1960) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Inverness, IL, Northwestern U BSBA '69, Kellogg School of Mgmt Northwestern MBA '70, CPA '73, is a retired partner with Ernst & Young; EVP LaSalle National Bank.

Dennis Ferson (Jun 1960) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Wakefield, MI, Wright Jr Col, ECC, UIC, US Army 1965-1967, is a retired labor relations manager, keeping busy serving on the boards of several local non-profit organizations.

Sandy (Swanson) Hipp (Jun 1960) has 6 children, 14 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Oriole Park, lives in Aurora, IL, UI BS Phys Ed '64; NIU MS Outdoor Ed '93, is a retired PE and science teacher.

John Majka (Jun 1960) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Louisville, KY, UIC BS Engr; US Army Sgt E-5 3 years, Vietnam 2 years, is a retired engineer and educator, has been a ham radio operator on K9AAN for 63 years.

Pamela (Kostenko) Kramer (Jun 1962) attended Lincoln Park Ridge, lives in West Chicago, IL, BA, MLS, Advanced Certification, is a retired school library consultant.

Phyllis Miller (Jun 1962) has 1 child, attended Hitch, lives in Crescent City, FL, Roosevelt U BA Eng, UI MSW, is a retired executive for the State of Illinois Dept of Public Aid.

Paula (Simonides) Weglarz (Jun 1962) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Palatine, IL, ISU BA English, is a retired associate editor.

Ellamae Braun (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Carpentersville, IL.

Marge (Stewart) Doud (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Chicago, IL, NIU BS Ed '67, is retired.

Lee Schurter (Jun 1963) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Hitch, lives in Thousand Oaks, CA, is retired.

Glenn Erickson (Jun 1964) married **Judy Schmook (Jun 1967)**, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Rio Rancho, NM, AA; E5 US Army 1968-70, is a retired police officer.

Mike Parquette (Jun 1964) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, 1 great grandchild, attended Our Lady of Victory, lives in Wonder Lake, IL, US Army '65-'67, is a retired 30-year field operations manager for Ameritech and 20-year technician for Intermatic Inc.

Nancy (Connors) Bensen (Jun 1965) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended Prussing, lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, Wright Jr College, Harper College AA Bus, is a retired executive assistant.

Marianne (Simonides) Hafer (Jun 1965) has 2 stepchildren, 2 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in Cape Coral, FL, is retired.

Dave Bergbreiter (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Garvy, lives in College Station, TX, Michigan State BS Chem '70; MIT PhD '74, is a Regent's Professor of chemistry at Texas A&M, still a full-time professor but traveling a lot, photos (nearly all Lynne's) at daveandlynne.smugmug.com.

Katherine (Schneider) Knapp (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Henderson, NV, NEIU BA Health & PE '71, is retired.

Susan (Grandt) Roden (Jun 1966) married **Ed Werner, deceased (Jun 1965)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired secretary with School District 59.

Ron Stolle (Jun 1966) has 2 children, 5 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Hudson, OH, NEIU BA '71; Loyola MBA '76; Washington U EdD '07; Army Reserves 1969-75, is a retired corporate finance executive and Associate Professor of Finance at Kent State.

Bill Blomquist (Jun 1967) attended Oriole Park, lives in North Venice, FL, is retired.

Ida (Webb) Carlson (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, attended Oriole Park, lives in Bonita Springs, FL, is a retired journeyman electric tech, living the retired life in southwest Florida with husband Paul.

Judy (Schmook) Erickson (Jun 1967) married **Glenn Erickson (Jun 1964)**, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, attended Ebinger, lives in Rio Rancho, NM, is a retired purchasing agent.

Edward Krzeminski (Jun 1967) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Countryside, IL, Certified Healthcare Facility Manager; US Army 6 yrs, is a retired regional facility manager of three hospitals, served as mayor of Countryside, and received the Bronze Award for Leadership from the National League of Cities.

George Bergstrom (1968) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Germantown, TN, Grinnell College BA '72; U Iowa MA Hospital and Health Admin '74, is retired from health/hospital administration.

Patricia (Lutze) Boy (1968) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended St. Eugene, lives in Michigan City, IN, DePaul Univ BA Eng, is a state legislator, inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2025.

Linda (Lease) Dustin (1968) married **Jack Dustin (1968)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, BA, MA Education, is a retired PE teacher.

Jack Dustin (1968) married **Linda Lease (1968)**, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended Ebinger, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, MD, is a retired family physician.

Bonnie (Brooks) Lopez (1968) has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Westminster, CO, is retired.

Ron Olsen (1968) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Edison, lives in Oregon, WI, US Army 6 years, Vietnam 1968-69, National Guard 16 years, is retired, went on the Wisconsin Badger Honor Flight to Washington DC in June 2024.

Roy Bergstrom (1969), attended Ebinger, lives in San Francisco, CA, Knox College BA '73; UI AM '75; U of the Pacific MBA '00; UI PhD '80, is a retired university professor and administrator.

1970s

Brian Cline (1970) attended Ebinger, lives in Barrington, IL.

Jerry Herreweyers (1970) has 1 child, 1 grandchild, attended St. Robert Bellarmine, lives in San Diego, CA, UI BS Computer Eng '74, SOSU MS EE '84, is retired.

Thomas Hoppe (1970) has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, attended St. Thecla, lives in San Antonio, FL, Industrial Engineering College of Chicago BSIE; IL Air National Guard 126th Air Refueling Wing O'Hare, is retired from engineering and industrial management, plays golf year round (walking golfer with a 6 handicap) since moving to Florida in '92, enjoys with wife Sandra concerts, theater, boating, billiards (was a regular at The Side Pocket '68-'70), encouraged early by Mr. Lyons, is currently writing a memoir.

Nancy (Dobbertin) Blanco (1971) attended Garvy, lives in Mesquite, NV, is a retired business analyst.

Melody Childs (1971) attended Wildwood, lives in Sandia Park, NM, NEIU BS '75; UIU MS Microbiology '77; UNM BSN '89, is a retired RN and microbiologist.

Wayne Faust (1971) has 3 children, 10 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Evergreen, CO, Carthage College BA History, is an entertainer and author, has been a full-time music and comedy performer and songwriter for over 50 years (waynefaust.com), and also writes fiction. Released an apocalyptic trilogy called "Calek's Tale" in 2024 (see waynefaustauthor.com).

Margie (Gorski) Szewczyk (1971) has 2 children, 4 grandchildren, attended St. Robert Bellarmine, lives in Des Plaines, IL, is a retired corporate investigator.

David Swoch (1972) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, UIC BSEE '77; DePaul MBA '88, is a retired electrical engineer.

Jim Nelson (1973) attended Norwood Park, lives in Chicago, IL, Trinity College BA '77; UIC MS '83, is retired after 35 years as teacher and coach at Lake Park HS in Roselle.

Joe Anderson (1975) has 4 children, attended St. Eugene, lives in Downers Grove, IL, BS Engineering, MS Engineering, is in technical sales.

Michael Calabrese (1975) has 2 children, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Menlo Park, CA, JD, is an attorney and policy analyst, was thrilled to join 80 other classmates for their 50 year reunion.

Nancy (Szenda) O'Brien (1975) has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, attended Onahan, lives in Niles, IL, is retired from retail accounting.

Gail (Krusinski) Harned (1976) has 2 children, 2 grandchildren, attended Norwood Park, lives in Lexington, KY, Murray State U, is a retired snowbird, winters in Naples, Florida and loves to travel.

Mike Verden (1976) has 2 children, lives in Libertyville, IL, WIU BS Law Enforcement Admin, ISU MS Criminology, is a security consultant, inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2025.

David Hoffman (1977) married **Cathy Paddack (1977)**, has 2 children, attended Immaculate Conception, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is retired.

Cathy (Paddack) Hoffman (1977) married **David Hoffman (1977)**, has 2 children, attended Oriole Park, lives in Schaumburg, IL, is a retired secretary.

Linda Fee (1978) has 2 children, attended Garvy, lives in Palatine, IL, is a project manager.

Jack Cook (1979) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended Wildwood, lives in Park Ridge, IL, NEIU BA, is an insurance broker.

Gregg Lameka (1979) has 2 children, 1 grandchild, attended St. Cornelius, lives in Algonquin, IL, is an auction manager.

1980s

Cheryl Scaramuzzi (1984) has 7 children, attended Hitch, lives in Chicago, IL, Northwestern Univ Resident, Notre Dame Univ Fellow, is a radiologist/surgeon, married to St. Lawrence HS grad Anthony Fasamella.

Robert Bady (1987) lives in Evanston, IL, North Park Univ, is senior sales consultant at K2M, Inc. and sales leader at

MDHearing, inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame in 2025.



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



www.taftalumni.org



www.tafthighschool.org

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.*

Reginal B. Betts of Chicago, IL, died on September 10, 2025. As a Chicago police officer he served as resource officer at Taft, respected and loved by the student body.

Ruth Ellenor (Lehmann) Smith of Park Ridge, IL, Class of June 1943, died on February 24, 2025.

Margaret Jean (Schwendeman) Murdock of Arlington Hts. IL, Class of January 1950, died on August 25, 2025. She was predeceased by her husband Charles Murdock, Class of June 1949.

Martin David Bunge of Phoenix, AZ, Class of June 1950, died on July 16, 2025. He was predeceased by his brother Fred Bunge, Class of June 1943, and is survived by his brother Leonard Bunge, Class of February 1946.

Robert William Lawrenz of Eden Prairie, MN, Class of June 1950, died on August 21, 2015.

Betty Eulalie (Borg) Koehl of Sterling, VA, Class of June 1950, died on March 18, 2025.

Carol (Brokaw) Yeaman of Barrington, IL, Class of June 1952, died on May 26, 2025.

Dolores Ellen (Koudel) Koettgen of Lake Forest, IL, Class of June 1954, died in 2024.

Kenneth Guy Motzny of Rockford, IL, Class of June 1954, died on July 23, 2024. He was predeceased by his brother William Motzny, Class of June 1948.

Allan Joel Brockstein of Henderson, NV, Class of January 1959, died on July 20, 2025. He is survived by his sister Paula (Brockstein) Adams, Class of January 1960.

Sharon Holly (Gallaher) Lichter of Phoenix, AZ, Class of January 1960, died on July 5, 2025. She was predeceased by her sister Darcy (Gallaher) Gaffigan, Class of June 1961, and is survived by her sister Cynthia Gallaher, Class of 1970.

Allan Lloyd MacFarlane of North Barrington, IL, Class of January 1961, died on June 19, 2025. He is survived by his brother Ronald MacFarlane, Class of June 1958.

Toni Mildred (Mueller) Byford of DeKalb, IL, Class of January 1963, died on September 22, 2025.

Patricia Romaine Olson of Schaumburg, IL, Class of January 1964, died on June 20, 2025.

Carol (Zowal) Luikaart of Apollo Beach, FL, Class of June 1964, died on May 5, 2025. She was predeceased by her husband William Luikaart, Class of January 1964. She is survived by her sister Patricia (Zowal) Kalesz, Class of June

1966, step-sister Anita (Grabowski) Steinkemper, Class of June 1964, and sister-in-law Nancy Luikaart, Class of 1968. **Donald Lee Hardt** of Arlington Heights, IL, Class of January 1965, died on September 19, 2025.

Ronald Fred Elsner of Delaware, OH, Class of June 1965, died on September 15, 2025. He is survived by his brother Norman Elsner, Class of June 1967.

Lynne R. (Heinechen) Inglesby of Chicago, IL, Class of 1972, died on August 30, 2025.

Frederick John Grish of Chesterton, IN, Class of 1974, died on August 24, 2025. He was predeceased by his brother Joe Grish, Class of 1977, and is survived by his sister Theresa (Grish) Heneghan, Class of 1973, and brother Jim Grish, Class of 1972.

George S. Gunnar of McHenry, IL, Class of 1980, died on September 19, 2025. He is predeceased by his wife Laura (Bradberry) Gunnar, Class of 1983.

Darryl Keith Ivory of Chicago, IL, Class of 1984, died on August 13, 2025.

Lucretia Hill of Chicago, IL, Class of 1998, died in October 2025.

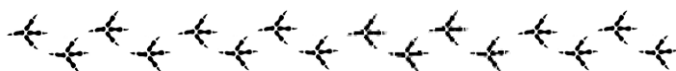
Nicholas Anthony Lipinski of Chicago, IL, Class of 2020, died on August 30, 2025.

The Class of June 1965 reunion committee determined that these classmates were deceased:

Lawrence Clark, Thaddeus Krajniak, John Leslie, Carol (Loose) Bernau, Suzanne Loutsch, Luci Myro, Patricia (Paul) Olbrisch, James Renji, Beecher Ruh, Charles Scheutzw, Holly (Schultz) Tucker

The Class of 1975 reunion committee determined that these classmates were deceased:

Sharon (Alcock) Dettlo, Glenn Babich, Craig Bajus, Ralph Balauskas, Suzanne Bitaut, Jackie Bonnivier, Roland Brandt, John Collins, James Deetjen, James Domian, Ted Dominick, Robert Enders, Tony Esayena, Danny Freik, Danny Geist, George Gregory, Rick Haynes, Larry Jane, Jeanne (Kelly) Welsh, Paul Komiak, Daniel Krause, Alex Kuritza, Donald Kuss, Michael Lee, Tom Lichter, Beverly Loessy, Sue Lorenz, Robert Luchesi, Karen Meisner, Luke Moore, Douglas Musslewhite, Scott Lucke, Cynthia Nicolini, Gerald Olsen, Peggy Osbourne, Lee Pertle, Gary Peters, Igor Popadynec, John Riggle, David Schneider, Nancy Seppala, Michael Silverstein, Dave Slawik, Chris Sosin, Debbie Stankiewicz, David Stapleton, Jonathan Toerber, Glen Tucker, Dirk Vanderah, Debbie Vivacue, Tom Woloszynski, John Wiedbusch





2024-2025 Taft Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Ryan Glowacz	2006	Director, Faculty Liaison	Robert L. Schmidt	1973	Director
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The Taft Alumni Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Taft Alumni Association.

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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? ☐ Yes ☐ No
*Month/Year You Graduated	Number of Children _____ Children _____ Grandchildren _____ Great Grandchildren _____ Great Greats? _____		
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ 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? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
*Month/Year Spouse Graduated	Higher Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years		
Additional Education, Degrees, Military Service, Years			
Occupation	Retired ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Semi	Elementary School Graduated From	

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