



# ACTION SERTOMA

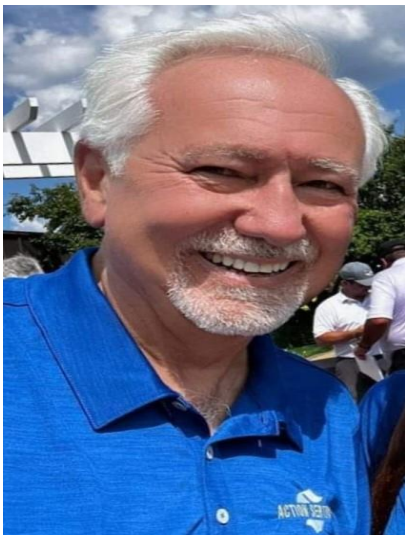
## FALL/WINTER 2023

*"A Club helping those in the Community."*

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Dan Letizia*

*Sertoma Star Board Member*



I started dating my wife, Nan, at the age of 16 (the only girl I ever dated). We have 5 children (ages 38 – 48); have 5 wonderful in-laws (but lost our dear Tray 3 years ago); have 11 beautiful grandchildren (ages 1 - 19). I have been practicing law for 47 years (36 with my brother); served for 9 years on the Oak Brook Police & Fire Commission; served as treasurer of my homeowner's association for the past 20 years. I was invited by Gene Sr. to join Alsip Sertoma (now Action Sertoma) 35 years ago; played golf at Silver Lake every Tuesday afternoon for 25 years with Roger, Norm and Gene; have gone on numerous wonderful trips to Mexico, Myrtle Beach, and Arizona with so many of you. I have served on the Sertoma Centre Board for the past three years (now Sertoma Star) and have made dozens and dozens of lifetime friends. Nan and I have been riding Harleys for the past 25 years. We have ridden from coast to coast in America, across most of Canada and twice in Europe. I stopped skiing on two separate occasions, once when my kids got better than me and then again when my grandchildren got better than me. We love to travel and have been to Europe a total of 11 times.

We just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in July and spent two phenomenal weeks in Italy with our children and grandchildren...truly a trip of a lifetime. Proud to be a Sertoman!!

*Action Sertoma is a  
Proud Sponsor for*



The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to honoring the lives of our fallen heroes and assisting those heroes in need. The Foundation provides support and assistance to the families of Chicago police officers who are killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty. The Run to Remember is the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's annual 5K run/walk that raises funds to support families of fallen and catastrophically injured Chicago Police Officers. <https://cpdmemorial.org/>





## Sertoma Centre, Inc. and New Star Merge

We want you to know that Sertoma Centre, Inc. and New Star have officially merged, forming **Sertoma Star Services**.

For a collective 125-plus years, the New Star and Sertoma Centre agencies have provided state-of-the-art services and programs. By merging, we are creating an extensive alliance for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and those living with mental illness.

Bringing together Sertoma and New Star into one organization allows us to deliver the best practices of each organization and share them across all of our services. We will have a stronger impact on people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental illness throughout Chicago and the surrounding suburbs by providing individuals with a full array of comprehensive services, choices, and opportunities. Combining the strengths of each organization will benefit consumers and their families by creating new opportunities and additional programming support.

Both Gus van den Brink, Sertoma Centre's Executive Director, and I will continue in leadership roles in the merged organization. I will be the President/CEO, and Gus will remain Executive Director until his retirement.

Sertoma Centre and New Star share complementary services and a common vision of enriching the lives of the individuals we serve. Our core mission of providing choices and opportunities for people will remain unchanged after the merger. We look forward to a great future together.

Most sincerely,  
*Dan Strick*  
President/CEO



## Action Sertoma 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Outing at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park Raises \$50,000 for our Club

Thank you, golf committee, for yet another great outing. We do appreciate you! Our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing is Wed, July 17, 2024. Stay tuned for details at <https://actionsertoma.org/golf-outing>





## NEWS

### A Blast from Sertoma Past!

It's always important to look back at the history of an organization to understand where it has come from and the changes and progress that have been made since. It is in this spirit that I share this fun look back at Sertoma history:

**100 Years Ago...**In 1923, Sertoma (then still known as the Co-Operative Club) first welcomed women to the organization in the form of a wives' auxiliary. The first chapter of the Co-Operettes was started in Manhattan, KS, and called themselves the "Co-Op Lassies."

**80 Years Ago...**The Co-Operative Clubs International and National Monarchs Clubs were merged during an event known at the time as "The Wedding." The merger officially took effect on September 1, 1943.

**60 Years Ago...**Hearing health became the official national mission focus of Sertoma in 1963, which affected 24 million Americans at the time of its selection. Sixty years later, hearing and speech disorders now impact over 50 million individuals in the U.S. alone. That same year, Dallas Police Detective L.C. Graves, a past president of the club in Dallas, was handcuffed to Lee Harvey Oswald when Jack Ruby shot and killed Oswald on November 24, 1963.

**40 Years Ago...**Sertoma took the national stage when President Ronald Reagan recognized actor Keenan Wynn for his work on the organization's hearing health programs. Reagan would go on to award Sertoma with the Presidential Private Sector Initiative Commendation Certification for outstanding civic responsibility the next year.




**30 Years Ago...**In 1992-1993, Sertoma established its scholarship program. Communicative Disorders Scholarships and Hard of Hearing or Deaf Scholarships continue to provide \$1,000 in financial aid to graduate students studying audiology/communicative disorders and hard-of-hearing and deaf undergraduates respectively.

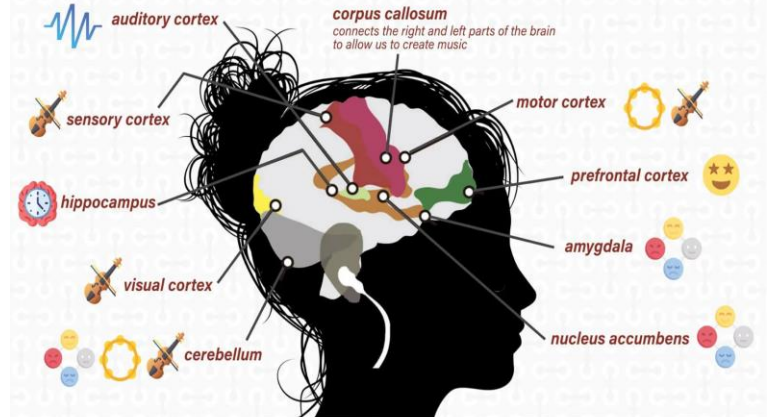





## DID YOU KNOW?



Scientists have long known that music activates certain brain functions. Recent advances in neuroscience have allowed them to find out how this happens.

<p><b>Rhythm</b></p>  <p>The <b>motor cortex</b> and <b>cerebellum</b> are involved when we create rhythms by tapping our toes or beating a drum.</p>	<p><b>Pitch and tone</b></p>  <p>The <b>auditory cortex</b> recognises and processes different pitches and tones. It also analyses a song's melody.</p>	<p><b>Anticipation</b></p>  <p>The <b>prefrontal cortex</b> creates "expectations" when we listen to a song, for example, by deciding if a melody makes sense. It is also responsible for giving us the "chills".</p>
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<p><b>Memory</b></p>  <p>The ability to recognise our favourite song after hearing just a fragment of it comes from the <b>hippocampus</b>, which acts like a memory bank.</p>	<p><b>Performance</b></p>  <p>Music-related actions such as playing an instrument and dancing fires up the <b>cerebellum, motor cortex, sensory cortex and visual cortex.</b></p>	<p><b>Emotion</b></p>  <p>The <b>nucleus accumbens, amygdala</b> and the <b>cerebellum</b> are responsible for triggering emotional responses when we listen to music.</p>
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Source: The Kennedy Centre

Graphic: Doris Wai



Our Veterans accepted the responsibility to defend the U.S.A. when duty called. We honor you and thank you for serving our country Veterans! Scroll down to hear about three veterans who are members.



**Proud Sponsor for the Annual South Suburbia Crisis Center Diane Masters Cup**



**PROUD SPONSOR FOR CHICAGO AUTO SHOW FIRST LOOK FOR CHARITY**



## **ACTION SERTOMA FALL FEST NOV 3 AT GAELIC PARK WAS A SUCCESS!**

This was our first in-person event since 2019 due to COVID. We are delighted to confirm over 320+ people attended, and we sold all the Grand Raffle Tickets. Final numbers are not available yet. Job well done Fall Fest Committee. Thank you for all you do!





- House of Hope \$500
- St. Damian Church \$500
- Chicago Police Memorial Fund \$250
- Alsip Scholarship Fund \$500
- Sertoma Speech and Hearing \$15,000
- Lemont Sertoma Club Golf Outing \$1,200
- Toss For Tots \$1,250
- New Star Golf Outing \$2,000
- Navaro Farms \$500
- Serteen Club \$300
- JDRF Walk \$500
- RESPOND NOW \$2,000
- Jones Center \$250



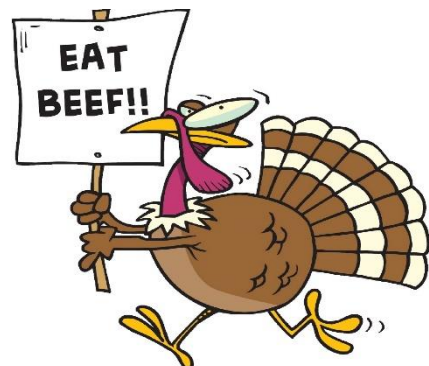
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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Dennis Canalini-Oct 5   | Jack Shanahan-Dec 31   |
| Kristine Kalnins-Oct 28 | Gregg Jarmon-Jan 3     |
| Joe Varanauski-Nov 3    | Jason Nielsen-Jan 17   |
| Charles Lazzara-Nov 27  | Brian Letizia-Feb 3    |
| Ed Kelly - Dec 4        | Sue Colella-Feb 14     |
| Al Maggi - Dec 5        | Jack Howe-Feb 18       |
| Joy Jarom - Dec 9       | John Parker-Feb 19     |
| Bradley Nielsen-Dec 15  | Dennis Fioretti-Feb 21 |
| Michelle Pinto - Dec 15 | Dan Letizia Jr-March 3 |



- Every Tues 8pm - QUEEN OF HEARTS Fundraiser, Details at <https://actionsertoma.org/queen-of-hearts>
- Dec 1 & 2 – Sertoma Star Holiday Bazaar, Alsip, IL
- Jan 2024 – Action Sertoma Holiday Party
- Feb 9 – Sertoma Star First Look for Charity
- Feb 24 – Crisis Center South Suburbia Gala
- March 19 & 20–Sertoma Star Home Show Pack-Up
- May 2024 - Heroes First Responder Cook Off
- July 17 – Action Sertoma Annual Golf Outing
- Nov 1 TBD – Action Sertoma Fall Fest Gaelic Park



- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Eric Leader – Oct 1         | David Nick – Oct 1      |
| Concetta Pinto – Oct 1      | Andrew Sampalis – Oct 1 |
| Tracy Fioretti-Moehle-Oct 2 | Anita Flassig – Oct 8   |
| Connie Barrera – Oct 25     | Glenn Bylina – Nov 1    |
| Robert Clifford – Nov 1     | Ed Fioretti – Nov 1     |
| Joe Varanauski – Nov 1      | Eugene Esposito-Nov 11  |
| Stephen Reilly – Nov 10     | Joe Racine Jr. Nov 13   |
| Mike Reeg – Dec 1           | Charles Lazzara – Dec   |
| Sue Colella – Jan 1         | Carol Daggy – Jan 1     |
| Pat Gill – Jan 1            | Joy Jarom – Jan 1       |
| Rick Lakie – Jan 1          | Al Maggi – Jan 1        |
| Brad Nielsen – Jan 1        | Rob Surrusco – Jan 1    |
| Debbie DeMaar – Mar 1       | Dennis Canalini – Mar   |
| Pat Harpold – Mar 8         | Lisa Molloy – Mar 17    |
| Robert Hehl – Mar 18        |                         |





**Members Dinner Mtg**  
 1st Tuesday of the Month at  
**CAPRI RISTORANTE ITALIANO**  
 12307 S. HARLEM AVE.  
 Palos Heights, IL 60463  
 6:00 pm Cocktails  
 6:30 pm Dinner



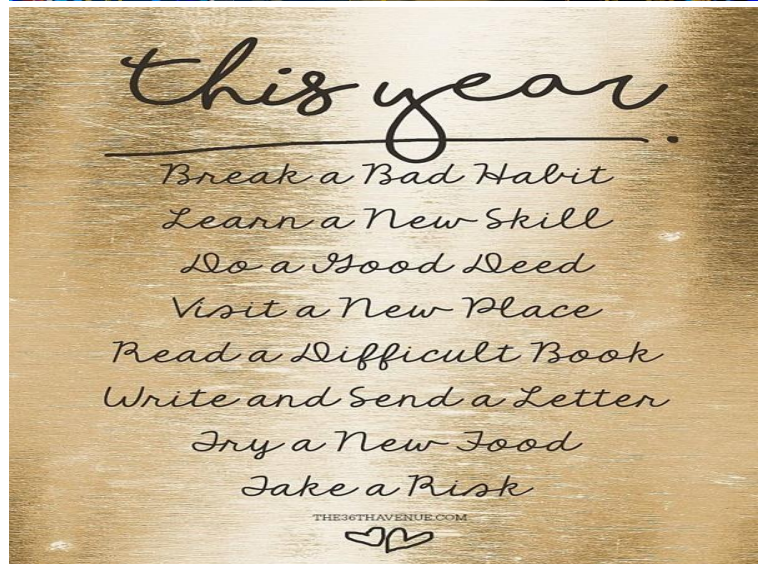
**Action Sertoma Board Mtg**  
 Last Wed of the Month  
**BLARNEY STONE**  
 15400 Cicero Ave  
 Oak Forest, IL 60452  
 6:00 pm

**ACTION SERTOMA BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b>	GENE ESPOSITO, JR
<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	DOMINIC PORTO
<b>TREASURER:</b>	JOHN PARKER
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	ED KELLY
<b>VP SPONSORSHIP:</b>	JOE RACINE, JR
<b>VP MEMBERSHIP:</b>	EILEEN CLANCY
<b>VP SOCIAL:</b>	TOM FINGER
<b>PUBLICITY/BULLETIN:</b>	CONNIE BARRERA
<b>SERGEANT AT ARMS:</b>	ROBERT HEHL
<b>DIRECTORS:</b>	ROBERT SCOTT
	DENNIS FIORETTI
	CHRIS OBBAGY
	CHAS LAZZARA
	KRISTINE KALNINS
	GEORGE FETCHO
	ANITA FLASSIG
	KEN CASTILLO

**SERTOMA STAR BOARD MEMBERS**

DAN LETIZIA AND GEORGE FETCHO



# HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO

By Joe Varanauski

On Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> Joe Racine, Chas Lazzara and myself were invited to join 112 other Veterans on a flight to Washington D. C., to Honor the Veteran's that had died while protecting our nation.

We visited the Memorials of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, plus the Vietnam Women's Memorial. We also visited the Lincoln Monument, the Reflection pool, Washington Monument, and the National Air & Space Memorial.

Our day started out at Midway Airport with several hundred volunteers greeting us upon our arrival, were given a Honor Flight Chicago T Shirt. were escorted to our gate on wheelchairs, that were required, where other volunteers were waiting for us with coffee and donuts. We were joined by Wayne Messmer with the singing of our National Anthem, and God Bless America.

After getting on the Chartered Plane to Dulles Airport, we were served an egg and cheese sandwich. This was only the beginning of all the food and snacks we were served throughout the day.

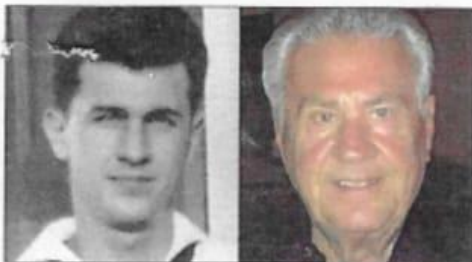
We arrived and were directed to buses and headed to Washington D. C., escorted by 20 State Troopers on motorcycles, who stopped traffic for our four buses all the way into D. C.

When we arrived, we had chaperone's (Guardians) that were with us throughout the whole day, taking pictures of us and all the locations we stopped at. We had the option of using the wheelchairs where all three of us declined for most of the day.

On our arrival back at Midway Airport, several of our family members met us, **ALONG WITH OVER 1,000 PEOPLE THAT WERE THERE TO GREET US.** What a Welcome Home! We shook hands of many people that were there that we did not even know. It was a great experience for Joe Racine, Chas Lazzara and myself. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> year that Veteran's were brought to Washington D. C. through Honor Flight Chicago.

I've included the picture's and Bio's that were in the Honor Flight Chicago Brochure.

## Racine, Joseph R • VIETNAM • NAVY • Tinley Park, IL



YN 2nd Class Racine served from 11/1957 - 11/1963 assigned to West Pac aboard an aircraft carrier in Japan, Philippines, Korea, Hong Kong. ETC Formosa conflict Guam Engineering Dept. Served aboard the USS Shangri La. Patrolled the Taiwan Straits in the shelling of off-shore islands, his carrier set a record for the most days at sea of any US Navy ship without going into port, 90 days plus. March of 1960 sent to Guam, in special service, discharged but stayed in Active Reserve.

## Lazzara, Charles A • VIETNAM • ARMY • Schererville, IN



E5 Lazzara served from 11/1965 - 11/1967 in USA as a generator mechanic in signal company Ft. Hood, TX. Also part of Head & Head Co, Charles' MOS was 52B20, precise power generator operator / mechanic. While at Ft Hood he was in HHC, USAG and had an MOS Change to 64B20 Heavy Vehicle Driver. He served as a classified mission courier to the LA Army Ammunition Plant. Awarded the Good Conduct medal, the expert rifle award and the National Defense Medal. He received letters of appreciation from the Chief of Transportation Major M. Bary, Jr and Lt Wayne Sauls. Charles was also awarded a US Army Safety Award for 15,086 miles driven.

## Varanauski, Joseph S • VIETNAM • ARMY • Tinley Park, IL



PFC Varanauski served from 07/1955 to 07/1957. He did his basic training at Ft Carson, CO. He was assigned to Ft Myer Arlington Virginia and was trained and became a casket bearer. He was then assigned to Post #1 where he guarded the home of General Maxwell Taylor, Chief of Staff for the Armed Forces. He was selected to train for several months to become a Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He was Proud and Humbled to be chosen for this position. Joe was discharged in July 1957. *Veteran Interview Available at [www.honorflightchicago.org/profiles/](http://www.honorflightchicago.org/profiles/)*