

# RHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REGISTER


Home of the Richmond Red Devils  
Fall 2015 Edition Vol. XXXXVI  
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## STORIES '15

# Devils' Tales; History, Legacy, Memories

**Devils' Tales**  
 History, Legacy, and Memories  
*A Walk through the Halls of Morton and RHS*



Mary Lou Griffey, Executive Director RHSAA  
 Duane Hodgkin, Class of 1962

Coauthored by Duane Hodgkin, class of 1962, and Mary Lou Griffey, RHSAA Executive Director, this one-of-a-kind history book called, *Devils' Tales, History, Legacy, and Memories; a Walk through the Halls of Morton and RHS* will be available in November 2015. The three hundred page book includes more than nine hundred pictures and almost two hundred memories of our alumni, teachers and coaches. Order yours today.

**Book signings :**

**Dec 4– RHS Conference Room– 4 to 7 pm, in the RHS Career Center off Southwest E and 2nd streets.**

**Dec 5 - Wayne County Tourism Bureau– Christmas Open House - 1 - 3 pm, 5701 National Road East, Richmond, IN.**

**Jan 15– 1-4 pm, Wayne County Historical Museum, North A Street, Richmond, Indiana**

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\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive a copy of the new book, *Devils' Tales, History, Legacy, Memories*, a 150 year history book of RHS and Morton High Schools. It is \$35.00 shipped (Make check payable to RHSAA book. Cut and include this portion with your check to RHSAA, 380 Hub Etchison Pkwy, Richmond IN 47374.)

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# The Tivoli Queen 1926



Betty Kenney was such a pretty girl. In 1926 she proved just how pretty and smart she was choosing love over money. Following is her story:

In 1920 the Victor Theater Company purchased a ninety-nine year lease for the Wakefield block at Ninth and Main streets to erect a theater. It was called the Tivoli. It was built to be have local theatrical performances which were held in Richmond. It was opened in early 1926 by the Fitzpatrick-McElroy Company, and the manager was Howard Waugh. Mr. Waugh held a contest for the "Tivoli Queen" which offered the winner a choice of a five hundred dollar cash prize or a trip for two to Hollywood to audition for movies.

This was still the era of silent movies accompanied by live music. The Tivoli Orchestra members included Ray Connolly, Richard Gasmene, Jack Kirkowski (Jack's Xylophone Band), Glen Crum, Delbert E. Ranks, E. C. Hayes, Walter H. Loop, George Sylvester Stincker and Thelma Feltis. The organist was Ted Bock.



The winner of the Tivoli Queen contest, a senior at Morton High School was Betty Kenney. Her decision was not to go to Hollywood but to take the cash prize. She was engaged to Walter Van Etten, class of 1923, who, as a cartoonist in high school, created his own signage business. The prize was used for starting their family and a trip to Pennsylvania.



Later, when the talkies appeared in 1928 and movies removed the need for a live orchestra, the Tivoli became a place where live performances were held as well as movies. In 1929 Charles Francis Jenkins, the pioneer of the first movie, Jenkins who hailed from Wayne County, returned to speak about movies. In 1931 Harry Frankel, "Singin' Sam" performed. In 1939 John Charles Thomas, a nationally known baritone, appeared as did the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

The Mortonite productions from Morton High School were held there from 1930 until 1936 to sold out crowds. In 1934 the Tivoli was given to Reid Hospital by Hannah Wakefield at her death. The theater continued to show movies until 1971. Since that time, it has served as a jewelry store and is currently used as a storage area for the hospital But in it's very beginning, it was the home of the "Tivoli Queen."



**Pictured above left; Betty Kenney, class of 1926, in her crown with the original crown framed below. Above second; the original dress worn by Betty Kenney, in the keeping of her daughter, Nancy Van Etten Cox, class of 1957, of Richmond. At the left third; is senior picture of Walter Van Etten, class of 1923. And last, bottom left; is a picture from the 1960s of the Tivoli Theater in Richmond at the corner of Ninth and Main streets.**

## “King” Chalfant 1938

At age ninety-five, Ray “King” Chalfant shared his memories of Morton High School with the alumni office in a letter he sent in April from his long-time home in Atlanta, Georgia. His letter was prompted by our article about his classmate, 2015 Distinguished Alumna Becky Hudelson Rosa, class of 1938.

His given middle name is King and when his classmates found that out, well, that was his nickname from then on.

He tells that he was a good student and rarely had much to do for his first period study hall his senior year. Coach Dick Tiernan would let him leave at 8 am and Ray would walk down the street to meet his girlfriend and classmate, Charlotte Drewko. Charlotte did not have to be at school until 9 am due to having most of her required credits. Coach Tiernan liked Ray who was the manager for the football team or “water boy” as he calls it. He lived at 110 S 21st Street across from Test Field, where the Morton football team practiced.



“King Char” also recalls going to the Starr Piano Company to *scrounge scraps of balsa wood which was used to carve model airplanes. Starr used the balsa wood as dunnage when packing instruments for shipping.*

He was a good student and active in high school, ushering at the Coliseum for the basketball games. Coach Lyboubt would give him tickets to the game- two most of the time- that he would sell to others for seventy-five cents. Ray said that was enough money to take Charlotte out on a date.

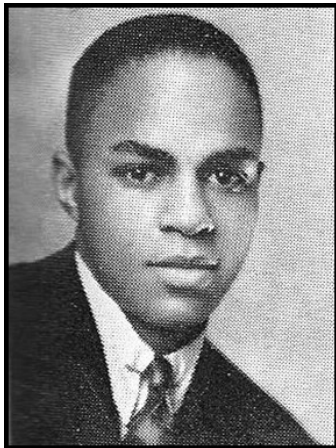
Ray said skating parties were popular at Morton. They would often roller skate at the Coliseum, where the wooden floor and wooden bleachers made a lot of noise. The couple also went to the school dances together and he would watch Charlotte in Block M.

After graduation, his family moved to Terre Haute, where his father took a job as a civil engineer. Ray received his BA in civil engineering from Rose Poly Tech in 1942. He was commissioned into active duty on his graduation day, May 9, 1942, reporting to Fort Benjamin Harrison. He did not see Charlotte again for six years when they crossed paths in Chicago where she lived. He found out she had died when he returned to Richmond for his fiftieth class reunion in 1988.

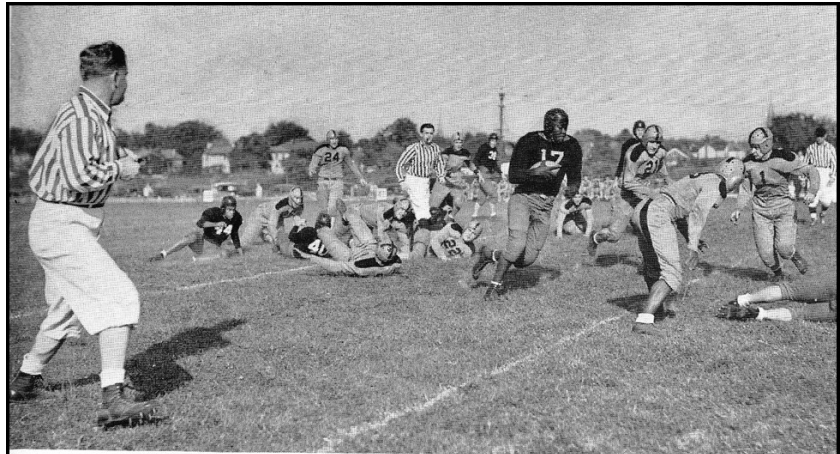
Major Chalfant served four years in the Army Corp of Engineers and was stationed in Oregon and then Canada, and worked on the Alaska-Canada Highway, sleeping in tents that first winter in sixty-below weather. When he was transferred to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1944, it was quite a weather change. After his discharge, Ray earned a Master’s degree at Yale and taught there for two years as a structural engineer. He also taught at Georgia Tech for seven years followed by working for companies in Georgia, becoming known as a concrete stress expert. He started his own business in 1960 and married a “Georgia gal” but soon divorced and has remained single. Ray retired in 2013 but his business continued. He visited his office daily, which finally closed this year.

Ray Chalfant said he likes the alumni magazine and especially appreciated *the recognition given to RHS and MHS service men and women. I was no hero but I do consider myself a patriot.*

## The First Touchdown 1940



**Norman Howard, class of 1941, was quarterback on Lybould Field scoring the first touchdown.**



**Pictured above is a practice game from 1940 showing “Big Bear” Bryant (number seventeen), class of 1941. Information for this article came from the 1941 *Pierian*.**

When the new high school was envisioned in 1938, an athletic field was high on the list of desired facilities. Football had been a part of the school since first played as a team sport in 1919. The team played at Earlham, whose field was good those first years and also played against Earlham. Most of the high school football games from 1920s and 1930s were then played at Test on the field that was muddy and rough.

The new field on Whitewater Boulevard was a vast improvement with good sod, a cinder running track, concrete viewing bleachers and concession stands.

The very first game on what became Lybould Field (named in 1952 for former Athletic Director Lymond Lybout) was seventy-five years ago on Friday, September 20, 1940. It was played against Marion and ended in a tie, 13-13.

The very first touchdown for the Devils was carried by quarterback Norman Howard, class of 1941. Howard, a black student, later enlisted in the navy, serving in the South Pacific during World War II as a fireman first class. He died of pneumonia September 12, 1945, but his body was not returned to Richmond until 1947.

Other members of that first team included; Eugene T. Williams, Galon Lyons, Paul W. Marksbury, Ralph E. Herold, Bryant “Big Bear” Leavell, Ed “Corky” Cordell, Clayton H. Dooley, Charles H. Reed, Walter E. Hunt, Donald Dickerson, Frank Svarczkopf, Jr., Wendell S. Harger, Clifton Walton, Bob Fox, Mack Peyton, Harry Pierson, Earl Allman, Joseph C. Durso, John D. Godsey, Tom Clark, Earl Allman, Junior Wine, Ted Elleman and Don Hale.

Under the early leadership of Coach Dick Tiernan and Coach Gerald Bartz, football became a popular sport for the school. Boys in junior high were trained by the high school coaches and the skill level increased. The popularity of the football team grew when lights were added to the field in 1941, allowing for nighttime games to be played.

## John Bryant and the Record Shop 1947

John Bryant remembers what it was like to be a black kid in the 1930s growing up in Richmond. He was born in 1924 and lived on South Twelfth Street. Neighborhood kids hung out at Tenth Street Park. When playing together, there was no difference between the poor kids (which he said he was one) and the Reeveston kids (which were the rich kids) that lived from 16th Street on east. All the kids, black and white, seemed to get along.

But sometimes black kids were not treated as well by adults. A black child could not take swimming lessons at the YMCA in the '30s and '40s. John remembers signing up for lessons with his classmates at school, excited to learn how to swim. He remembers his teacher coming to him and telling him he could not go with the other kids because he was black. It was the first time he felt that being black was a bad thing. Then later, if the kids went to Kressge's or to a store to get a fountain coke, other kids who were some of his white buddies could all sit at the counter. But not John; he had to take his coke outside. It was hard for a young black boy to understand why he was treated differently.

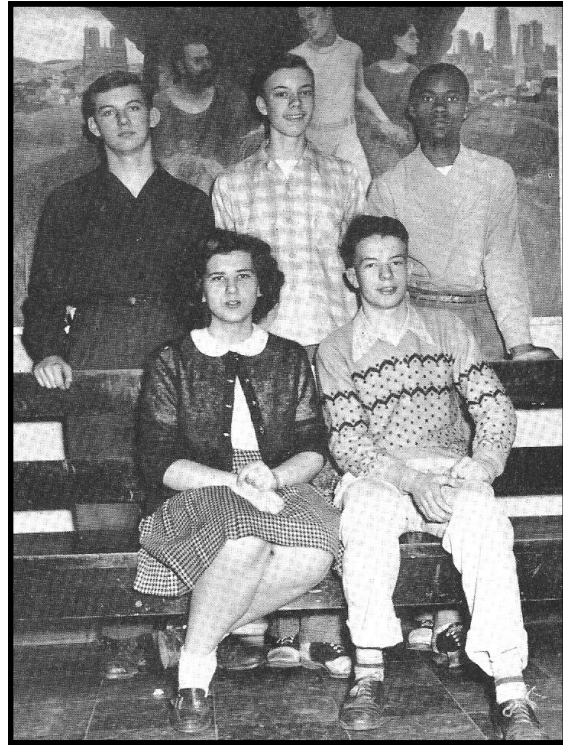
All his life he liked music. He remembers cranking up the Victrola and was fascinated by the art on the record labels. His family was too poor during the Depression for him to take piano lessons like he wanted to, but he enjoyed singing in the church choir and at school. He has fond memories of Ben Graham and Miss Mary Minnick who were his high school choir teachers.

He liked to go to the local teenage hang at the Devil's Den, (later the TAC CLUB) which was located at the YMCA. At the YMCA, color or wealth was not a divider. He even served as treasurer of the club where all the high school kids gathered after ball games to dance and play Ping Pong and listen to 45s.

The jukebox full of 45 records kept music in the air at the Devil's Den every weekend. Later those records and his love of music would help to shape his career.

World War II was drafting boys out of high school and John was drafted in his junior year. He reported to the navy at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Chicago, Illinois, in October 1943. John served state side during the war, spending time at bases in Idaho and San Diego working as a cook. "I fed a lot of people", he remembers. At that time, black soldiers were assigned to the kitchen and were not allowed to man guns on ship.

He was discharged in the spring of 1946 as a second class petty officer. He returned to Richmond and was determined to finish his high school classes. That fall, forty-six soldiers came back to high school to finish school and get their diplomas, but many of them soon quit, finding it too hard to fit in after their time in combat.



The 1947 spring Devils' Den officers are (seated) Cynthia Patti and Dick Bietry. Standing are (l-r): Jim Hardman, Ernie Olsen, and John Bryant. Absent was Nancy Shelly.

# The Specialty Record Shop 1947

John took a few classes that summer and entered his senior year in the fall of 1946. He was engaged to his high school sweetheart who had finished her schooling while he was away. She wanted to be married right away. John felt he needed his high school diploma to provide for a family properly. His fiancé did not want to wait and married someone else.

John was glad to be back in school where he thought some of his teachers favored the returning soldiers. Lowell Stafford was his homeroom teacher and taught civics and Frances Peacock taught U. S. History. Both men helped him return to a civilian world. He graduated with the class of 1947.

John held several different jobs for the next ten years but the one that would change his life was when he began working at Specialty Records Shop in 1956. He sold 45s to the kids who would come in the store, go into the listening booth, and then buy their favorite records. From The Beatles, to Elvis, the Doo Wop groups and the the Beach Boys, music was an important way to enjoy being a teenager. John enjoyed the kids, and they liked him.

If you were a teenager in the '50s and '60s, you most likely stopped in the Specialty Record Shop in Richmond to listen to the latest 45s and purchase records of artists you were hearing on the radio or seeing on TV shows such as *American Band Stand* or *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

The Specialty Record began in 1947 when Miss Kelly and Miss Bass could not find rhythm and blues "soul music" in town. Both their husbands worked at Belden, so the ladies began the record shop as their own project.

John continued to work at selling records and mentoring his customers until November of 1979 when the owners told him they were closing the shop the first of the year. Not sure of what to do next, at fifty-five, he had to start another career. His friend, Wayne Stidham, class of 1934, of Second National Bank hired John as a teller at the bank. He later retired from the bank.

John still loves music. He sold his collection of records when he moved a few years ago but listens to classical and popular music. He said, "I cut my teeth on the blues," and he sings soulful gospel at Oak Park Church of God. He was ninety in June and he doesn't drive. He walks a lot and stays active for his age. He has fond memories of Richmond School and his teachers. He has even fonder memories of the students who came to him to buy their music, get his advice, and talk to him about what was going on in their lives.

John Bryant never married and has always lived in Richmond, a town which he loves. He attended the class of 1958's Fiftieth Reunion in 2013 as an honored guest, speaking to "his kids" fondly, remembering his time at the record shop. If you enjoyed recorded music in the 50s and 60s, and even into the 70s, you probably shopped at the Specialty Record Shop and met John Bryant.



# The Incredible Joy of Freedom 1953

Richard Jett was a prisoner of war during the Korean War. Events of his life were documented in articles from the *Palladium-Item* in 1953 and 1978. Following is his story:

Jett lost his mother when he was only two. He grew up on 1023 North H Street with his maternal grandparents, Orville and Carrie Johnson who served as his guardians. His father, Thomas R. Jett, lived in Richmond at 1219 North G Street, not far away.

Richard attended RHS until his junior year, 1949, when he enlisted in the army May 7, 1950 at age nineteen. He received his basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas. Just six months later, PFC Jett was captured by the Chinese on November 20, 1950 near Pug won, North Korea while attempting to break through an enemy roadblock. *My infantry company had been ordered to withdraw. After we'd pulled back, we were told to set up roadblocks. Our scouts told us we could take it easy, because there were no enemy near.*

*But I woke up one night to the sound of rifle fire, and a hand grenade exploded in the Korean hut we were in. The force of it threw me clear across the room.*

The blast knocked out two of his teeth and he had shrapnel in his hip. Wounded, he was captured. His grandmother's letters had been returned and she didn't know if her grandson was alive or dead for months. Five days before Christmas, the family received word that Richard was a prisoner of war. His grandmother's prayers had been answered. He was alive.

The family received a letter from Richard Jett on February 6, 1951, that he wrote as a prisoner. A few more letters came over the next two years, one with an International News Photo of him smiling with two other prisoners, reading their letters from home.

He was released from Camp Five and reached Freedom Village on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1953. While at Freedom Village he met his buddy from Test Junior High School, Richard Chamness and another Richmond soldier, Richard Shaffer. Corporal Jett then left the Port of Inchon on August 11<sup>th</sup> and arrived in San Francisco on August 23, returning to Indianapolis by plane. He arrived in Richmond Tuesday, August 25, 1953.

At right is a *Palladium-Item* article about Richard Jett in a POW camp from *International News*. (Morrisson-Reeves sup-

## Grandparents Of Local Prisoner Of Reds Are Overjoyed By Picture



AP photo of dead being buried at "Death Valley" POW Camp in North Korea



(International News Photo)  
A Richmond soldier, Pfc. Richard Jett, who is a prisoner of the Communists forces in North Korea, is pictured with two other Americans as they were writing letters to home folks.  
Private First Class Richard Jett, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Johnson, 1023 North H street, is the soldier on the right.  
Others in the picture are Thomas Grant, Orangeburg, S. C., and Clarence Adams, Memphis, Tenn.



## The Incredible Joy of Freedom 1953

Jett was released August 5, 1953 after thirty-two months and ten days as a prisoner. He had been held at "Death Valley," a mining camp prison where he was forced to bury other dead POWs. Jett said *There were about 800 who died there, I believe, mostly from bad food, exposure, and lack of medical treatment. One day I counted twenty-nine taken from the hospital. All prisoners were buried in mass graves.*

*Towards the end of January, 1951, we marched north to Camp Five and the Yalu River, where we were held until the truce was signed. There were about 1,200 in the camp, all nationalities; American, British, Turks, South Koreans and others, and we all got along because we all hated the Chinese who ran the camp. I would rather be in hell than in that camp. Three things I don't ever want to eat again are rice, boiled corn, and fish,* commented CPL Jett. (His rank changed at discharge).

The welcome home overwhelmed the twenty-two year old man. As he stepped off the train at the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot he was reported to say, *I can't figure out why so many people are here.*

Family members escorted him to his uncle's house on North 14<sup>th</sup> Street for a meal of all his favorite foods. Missing was Jett's grandmother who had died November 16, 1952, while he was in prison. His grandfather had moved from Jett's childhood home to live with Richard's uncle at North 14<sup>th</sup> Street also. *There is no better place than Richmond,* commented Richard Jett.

There were four others from the area that were also POW's and returned here. Pfc Richard K. Davis, son of Mrs. Dorothy Davis of Cambridge City, Cpl Richard L. Shaffer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Shaffer of 1212 North H Street in Richmond, PFC William E. Joliff, Metamora, Indiana and Pfc Joseph William Morgan, Connersville, Indiana all returned with Jett. A parade in their honor was held Saturday, Sept 13, 1953 on Main Street for all the five freed men.

The RHS Register of September 12, 1953 reported that Dick Jett came back to high school to get his diploma in the fall, commenting it was hard to find work without a diploma.

In a 1978 Dick Reynolds of the *Palladium-Item* wrote an update on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the parade for the returning POWs. Richard Jett spoke about his life since 1953. His father lived at 622 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street and his grandfather Johnson was still living at the Greenwood apartments in Richmond. He was asked if he thought about his time as a prisoner by Reynolds. *"Once in a while, I dream about it, but I would rather forget about it. The memories are too unpleasant. I remember they treated us more like children. They made you feel like you weren't anything. And we all cried like babies when we learned we were being freed.*

He didn't finish high school and get his diploma. He found it was too hard to return to school after having been a prisoner of war for almost three years.

Richard Jett enlisted again, rejoining the army with a friend, Donald Stewart of Cincinnati. The two had been imprisoned together at Pyok tong, Korea. They had vowed to stick together if they were ever freed.

Richard Jett stayed for one enlistment in the army. He married a woman from Lexington, Kentucky where he made his home. He worked there more than twenty years driving a garbage truck. He had two sons, Byron and Todd.

Richard Jett and Donald Stewart, who lived in Cincinnati, stayed friends the rest of Jett's life. The two would travel between Lexington to Cincinnati to keep in touch. They were just boys in that prison camp in North Korea but the two shared the *incredible joy of freedom.*

## Business and Philanthropy 1959

*(Guest article by Duane Hodgin, class of 1962)*

Paul Lingle was born in Richmond, Indiana, in 1941 to Bill and June Lingle and lived on 900 South 20<sup>th</sup> Street. A 1959 graduate of RHS, he graduated from Wittenberg University in 1963, majoring in business and minoring in economics. Paul completed his Master's degree at the University of West Virginia in 1965.

His first job was working for Cleveland Electric Illuminating in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1965. He served as an industrial relations personnel consultant and later as a market research analyst.

In 1969 Paul and his wife, moved from Cleveland and returned to Richmond. Paul remarked, "I remember loading our belongings and headed back home with a crying child and another soon to be born. I had little cash and a thousand dollars of useless stock."

His father had started Lingle Real Estate business in 1959 when there were twenty-two other real estate agencies in Richmond-none larger than six agents. His dad offered Paul an opportunity to work for him. Paul remembers thinking I know nothing about real estate. He asked his dad about what kind of training he would receive and his dad said, "Here are the keys to the office, now go get 'em." Paul said, "I thought what have I got myself into?" With two young children, a new job, and no financial assistance from his dad, Paul had a short learning curve.

Paul remembers going to his desk, and when he sat down the chair broke, causing him to fall to the floor. Ironically, as he fell backward, his previous job's sales training manual landed beside him. At that point, he said he either had to go for it and make it in real estate or go back to Cleveland.

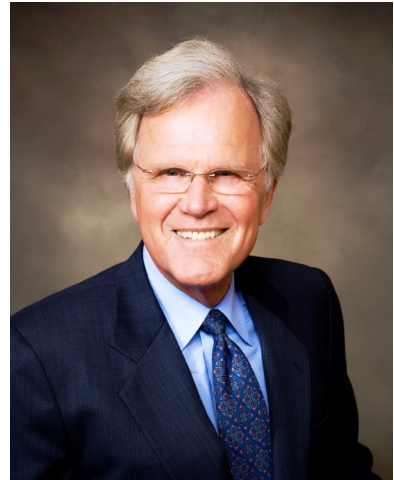
Paul said, "I decided to implement what I learned in my former job where I had an extensive three year sales training program. I thought the same principles could apply to the real estate business." He set a goal for himself to be the top real estate salesman in Richmond within two years or he would look for another career. Failure was not an option for him as he began working sixty to seventy hour weeks. Paul accomplished his goal in nine months.

He attended an afternoon seminar in Dayton, Ohio, called, "How to Buy Real Estate With No Money." It was perfect because Paul said that he had no money. The concept worked.

After several years of growing the Lingle Real Estate business and accumulating a diversified investment portfolio, Paul became quite successful and began to accumulate assets. He and his wife wanted to do something for the community.

About this time, Paul met Darrell Beane who was the executive director of the Reid Hospital Foundation. Beane explained the importance of philanthropic giving by those who had accumulated assets and wanted to give back to others. At first Paul did not want his name associated with his philanthropic giving, but Beane explained that, by attaching his name to a gift, it helped to attract other donors and not-for-profits could promote matching funds.

Darrell Beane also gave Paul a book to read called, *Giving to Live: How Giving can Change Your Life.* According to Paul, this book was a "life changer" in his approach to philanthropic giving. The premise of the book is that people could benefit others in three ways: giving of one's time, sharing their talents, or giving financial resources. The author said by making a decision to give to others, both the recipient and the giver benefit. Paul said the book reminded the reader that everyone at some point in his or her life, has benefited from the help of others such as parents, family members, business colleagues, friends, or mentors.



# Business and Philanthropy 1959

In 1992, The Lingle Family Foundation was formed with its focus on helping to fund projects in education, the arts, and health care. In 1999, Paul also created the Paul W. Lingle Foundation. Both foundations have significantly contributed to major fund raising campaigns that have benefited Richmond and the Wayne County area.

Over the past thirty-five years, major gifts have been made to Reid Health, the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Richmond Civic Theatre, Indiana University East, Wernle Home, Earlham College, and he has established a trust fund that will benefit the Richmond High School Alumni Association by providing college scholarship money for students. This fund also created the Lingle Scholars program that offers funding to IU East for two recipients each year.

As a businessman, Paul credits the quality of the people with whom he works and the training model that is used to help his staff improve their personal and business skills which in turn benefits their clients. Declining to list his various awards and recognitions, he did say that he was proud to serve on many community boards and support a variety of community-based events over the years. A special award he cherishes is the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters he received from Indiana University.

David Franz, associate professor of management and dean of the School of Business and Economics at IU East said, "Paul at the core, is a cultivator. His innovative spirit, sense of optimism, and genuine humanness are seen through the way he conducts his business and his life."

Paul has three siblings, Gary, who graduated from Howe Military Academy, Christie Close, class of 1963, and Bill, class of 1969. He has two daughters; Julie Lingle Gardner, class of 1985, and Laurie Lingle Luth, class of 1987. He also has five granddaughters. He and his wife Pat Oler Lingle, class of 1962, live in Richmond.

*(Duane Hodgin is a RHSAA board member and the co-author of Devils' Tales, History, Legacy, Memories, (see page 2).)*

**RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL**  
*Limitless Opportunities*

**PAUL & PAT LINGLE**  
RHS GRADUATES

*"We share many fond memories of our Richmond High School experiences, that most certainly set the stage for our total enjoyment of Richmond and Wayne County."  
— Paul & Pat Lingle*

**Lingle**  
REAL ESTATE

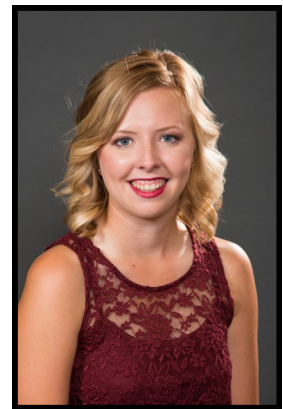
## 2015 Lingle Scholar

Mackenzie Spurrier, class of 2015, has been awarded one of two 2015 Lingle Scholars Scholarships.

Created by Paul and Pat Lingle for students attending Indiana University East, the recipient will receive \$2,000 a year for four years.

Mackenzie was a member of the National Honor Society, the high school choir, and a member of the golf team. She was a dancer with Dixon Dance Studio and a ten-year member of 4-H. Tracy is enrolled at Indiana University East.

(The second recipient is Destiny Maitlen of Centerville-Abington Schools.)



**Pictured above is Mackenzie Spurrier, daughter of Jeff and Tracy Lafuse Spurrier, both class of 1985 of Richmond.**

## Five Miles of Shoreline 1979

There are events that, at the time, may seem small and unimportant. In 2008 Rod Weiss, class of 1979, was standing on the sidewalk in his hometown of Richmond, watching the Veterans Day parade. Not being a veteran himself, he thought of the passing soldiers and what their experiences were like in times of war.

He decided he wanted to go to Normandy, France, for the sixty-fifth anniversary of the storming of the beaches. He thought, as the parade passed, of going but also taking a veteran with him.

Rod has prospered in his businesses and in his words, “been blessed.” The idea of taking someone that was there would be not only good for the veteran but would allow him to see that day’s events through the eyes of soldier who landed on those bloody beaches on June 6, 1944.

He wanted to find someone who fought on Omaha Beach with the First Infantry, known as “Big Red One.” His mission connected him with Willie Southerland of Richmond. At ninety-three, Willie wanted to go back to the beach where he, at age twenty-seven, helped to attack the German stronghold on the high cliffs above the beach.

Normandy, France, June 6, 1944, was the largest amphibious attack in history and involved five beach assaults. The beaches were named: Gold, Utah, Juno, Sword, and Omaha. The Allied joint attack would either liberate France from the Nazis or if unsuccessful, could possibly result in losing the war in Europe. The coordinated assault lasted six bloody days. Tanks sank before arriving shore; men drowned disembarking from their landing ship transports; many were pinned down and slaughtered by German artillery and machineguns before they could get off of the beach, and unforeseen barriers of hidden “booby traps” in the sand literally stopped hundreds from even starting up the bluffs where the Germans were waiting in fortified concrete bunkers.

Omaha Beach stretched along five miles of shoreline below where steep cliffs towered above. Omaha Beach was divided into ten landing sites. The fog had hidden the incoming ships as men unloaded at 8:30 in the morning on the LCVP landing craft. The battle resulted in the death of thousands of Germans as well as more than ten thousand Allied troops who were killed. Two thousand died on Omaha Beach.

Willie was one of the survivors who was able to return with Rod and “land” in Normandy again. His two best buddies were killed along with their captain. “Willie said that they did not take a single prisoner the next two weeks due to loss of their captain.” Rod’s eyes teared up as he recounts his time in France with the aged soldier. Willie was shown great respect by the French and United States military officials who



**Stars and Stripes picture of Southerland and Weiss on the beach at Norman-**

## Five Miles of Shoreline 1979

Willie and Rod talked about the battle and the war at their hotel in France. Willie said he had not really ever talked much about any of this before. World War II soldiers experienced what was then called “shell shock” or “battle fatigue.” Today it is referred to as PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder.) According to Rod, Willie said, “We came home and just tried to put that part of our lives behind us.” While at the American Cemetery, Willie wanted to see the monument and read the names on the stone memorial. They walked a lot, talking about what Willie saw and endured, not only on that die, but during his entire time in Europe.

Willie wanted to find the two names of men he had served with in the First Infantry. Rod found their names but realized they were written there because their bodies were never found. He decided not to tell Willie that the bodies were not recovered. But Willie Southerland, who had difficulty walking, found their names and realized why they were memorialized there. Rod remembers the look of sadness on his aged face.

Willie was a humble man. He did not receive his high school diploma but left Richmond schools at the age of thirteen when he lost both of his parents. He worked various farm and factory jobs. Willie Southerland died in 2013 at the age of ninety-seven. He received the French Legion Medal of Honor in 2010. His story might never have been told if not for his return trip to Normandy.

Rod later returned to Omaha Beach with his younger son, Matthew, in 2014 for the seventieth anniversary of the D-Day invasion. They walked up the bluffs and saw the bunkers and the dad told the stories to his son. They then went to Poland and Auschwitz and saw the remains of the Nazi death camp. Rod said, “Anyone who says that it never happened has never stood where I did.” He gets emotional and passionate about the lives lost there and the atrocities that took place.

Rod would like to take another veteran to another battle site, be it in Korea, Vietnam, or even to Afghanistan. Weiss said, “Seeing it through their eyes changes it for you.”

What drives him in his pursuits? What interests him in veterans? He tells of his grandmother, Winifred, who was in charge of the Selective Service locally during World War II and served in that office until retiring in 1972. She was responsible for sending young men into combat, knowing that many of them would come home scarred or damaged or not come home at all.



**Pictured at left is Private Southerland at work with a flame thrower. Below is his army picture in 1944 and his picture in 2009 as he made his return trip to Normandy with Rod Weiss.**



October 1944, Germany

Willie Southerland



November 2009, Richmond

## Five Miles of Shoreline 1979

Rod is a quiet man, engaging at 6'4. He has a strong work ethic which is evidenced in his various business projects. He looks for needs and meets them.

His passion for Richmond shines through by what he gives back of his time and money. Rod has a strong faith in God and believes in giving back.

RHS sports have benefited from Rod's generosity more than once in recent years. He has provided tickets for elementary school students to attend high school basketball and football games and helped to referee the Miami Central and Milan basketball game in 2004. In 2014 he helped sponsor bringing "Coach Carter" and female Globetrotter, Lynette Woodard, to speak to athletes.

Rod Weiss' parents both are RHS alumni. His father Leo, class of 1944, deceased, was a World War II veteran, serving in the merchant marines during the war and later volunteering for the air force. His mother, Winifred Timmons Weiss, class of 1949, lives in Richmond. Rod has five brothers and sisters, all of whom are RHS graduates.

Weiss and his wife Christine Neideck, who graduated from East Brook High School in Upland, Indiana, share a love of sports. Chris was a member of the state finalist basketball team. They have two sons, Jacob, who is a senior at RHS and Matthew who is a sophomore. Both sons are athletes who play baseball, (which Rod has helped coach), basketball for a church league in Ohio, and tennis at RHS. His son Jacob played on one of the state semifinal doubles team this year. Recently, Rod and Christine donated \$33,000 to resurface the high school's tennis courts. Rod knows the importance of a quality surface for state tournaments.

Rod Weiss has made his mark in business, successfully owning and managing several commercial properties. He owns Mint Management LLC, Quaker City Storage, the Chester Heights Apartments, and the former Lobills Grocery store which has been converted into the Medical Professional Building for dialysis treatments in 2008. Rod also owns the former medical building on North J Street that has been renovated into the new Veterans Clinic for Richmond.

His newest project is his recent purchase of Garrison School. He will repurpose the materials and create an indoor basketball court and an indoor tennis court at Chester Heights apartments for tenants, many of whom attend the local colleges.

He has helped fund the Wayne County Historical Museums printing of World War II and Vietnam and the Korean War veterans' books written by Duane Hodgin, class of 1962. Hodgin's book documents Willie Southerland's story.

Going to Normandy with Willie Southerland changed Rod. It is easy to see when he talks about that trip. He has a picture on the wall in his office from *Stars and Stripes* of him and Willie standing on the hill looking out over the beach. He says it is one of his most cherished items. The picture hangs next to his sons' RHS sports pictures and his pictures of vintage airplanes. Rod's interests are many and, most likely, his generosity and adventures will continue to benefit and embrace others.

**(By the numbers: 150,000 service men of which 57,500 were American troops; 5,000 ships; 11,590 airplanes (American and British); 10,800 KIA or MIA, landing on at Normandy, France, June 6, 1944.**

**The 1st Infantry had 124 killed, 1,083 wounded and 431 missing.**

**It has been seventy-one years when most of those there were under twenty years of age.)**

## His and Her Art 1981 & 1976



Greg and Brenda Hull

Artist Greg Hull, class of 1981, and his wife Brenda Johnson Hull, class of 1982, live in Indianapolis but his art is known nationally. Greg knew he loved art in high school. When he graduated he received his BFA from Kansas City Art Institute in 1985 and his MFA from the University of Delaware in 1991.

He tells us he focuses on *the creation of interactive environments and public art that incorporates technologies including light, sound, and movement*. He displays at museums, art centers, and non-traditional spaces. He has been commissioned to design permanent works of art in private and public spaces including a large scale kinetic work for the Indianapolis International Airport.



“Breath” at Indianapolis International Airport



“Amelia’s Gate in Atchison, Kansas

He used laser light on a bridge at Atchison, Kansas, the hometown of Amelia Earhart. It appears to be searching for her in the dark, inviting her to fly home from being lost. “Amelia's Gate” and his other art work can be viewed at Hull’s website at [www.greghull.com](http://www.greghull.com). Greg recently was awarded an Efroymsen Contemporary Art Fellowship and two Creative Renewal Grants from the Indianapolis Arts Council. He serves as an Associate Professor of Sculpture at the Heron School of Art and Design, at IUPUI. He held a one man show at the Richmond Art Museum in 1999 and 2013.

Artist and RHS art teacher, India Cruse-Griffin, class of 1976, was chosen to design the 2009 Governor’s Arts Award for the Indiana Arts Commission. The award is given to organizations, partnerships, businesses, and communities who have made *significant contributions to the arts in Indiana*. The award was presented at the Cornerstone Center for the Arts in Muncie.

Two of her artworks are pictured here. At the far right is “Wish Fish” and below center is “In the Breeze.” and below left is a recent picture of India with two more artwork pieces.

Her art is hung at Reid Hospital too. She has taught at RHS since 1997.



(Palladium Item-Steve Koger Photo)



# Short Stories

## The Beautiful Lady on the Boulevard

The current Richmond High School building was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in October, 2015. The process had begun in 2008 with the work of Chad Slider, a student at Ball State University. He had contacted the alumni office for details of the construction of the building in 1939.

Then in 2010, an application was spearheaded by Scott Zimmerman, Richmond City Planner. The RCS Board approved the process in 2012. In 2013 the nomination was presented to the State Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. In July 2015 the nomination was sent by the state office to the federal office within the National Parks Department.

This designation honors the architecture of the building. Jonathan Hamilton also designed some of the classic federal style original brick buildings at Earlham College in Richmond.

There have been six additions added since the school opened in 1939.



Above is a picture of the plaque that will be placed on the RHS school building.

## Scholarship News

### Dr. J. Warren Perry Valedictorian Scholarship for 2015

Dustin Swonder was the recipient of the Dr. J. Warren Perry scholarship for the class of 2015. He is the son of James and Joy Swonder of Richmond and was the valedictorian of a class of 326.

He received a \$1000 scholarship from RHSAA to attend Harvard University. Twenty-two thousand dollars has been awarded from this fund since 2000.

### Just to Let you Know

The Alumni Research company that was to print our directories has filed for bankruptcy, defaulting on more than 27,000 directories for thirty-five schools according to an update from the Florida Attorney General's office in November.

We missed listing Gary Wiggans, class of 1965 as having served in Vietnam.

We also missed listing Elaine Tiernan's gift of \$30 membership and \$20 scholarship.

And we listed Barry McDowell, one of our charter members, as deceased by mistake. Barry and his wife live in Richmond.

Dana Weigle, another charter board member, now lives in Richmond.

The donations for 2015 will be found on our website as will a version of this magazine at [www.rhsalum.org](http://www.rhsalum.org).

## RHSAA Fall Scholarships

This fall twenty-four alumni received a total of \$44,657.00 in scholarships to IU East, Ivy Tech Community College, Purdue Polytechnic Richmond, and Earlham. This brings the total scholarship awards for 2015 to \$62,657.00. Since 2000, \$718,682.20 has been awarded for 384 scholarships.

### Pierians

Carol K. McCLeary kindly donated a 1909 *Pierian* to the office this summer. This is only the second copy of the very first printed yearbook from RHS. Her copy belonged to her mother, Charlotte Bayer Kleinknecht. We also received a gift of 1923, 1924, and 1925 *Pierians* from Nancy Van Etten Cox that were her father's Edward Van Etten.

We are looking for *Pierians* for alumni, and if we have an extra copies, we sell them. The 1909 to 1949 editions sell for thirty dollars and the newer editions are fifty.

Elizabeth Bennett of Richmond is looking for a 1957 and 1958 *Pierian*.

*If you have copies you would like to donate or if you are looking for a year, contact the RHSAA office at 765-973-3338.*

### Where Things Stand

According to a July 2015 report from Community in Schools, thirty-five percent of the children in Wayne County currently live at or below the poverty level. Currently seventy-four percent of the students at RCS qualify for free or reduced lunches. The need for our work is great. Thanks to all of you who donate without you, we could not do what we do!



# Short Stories

## 117th Annual Exhibition at the Richmond Art Museum

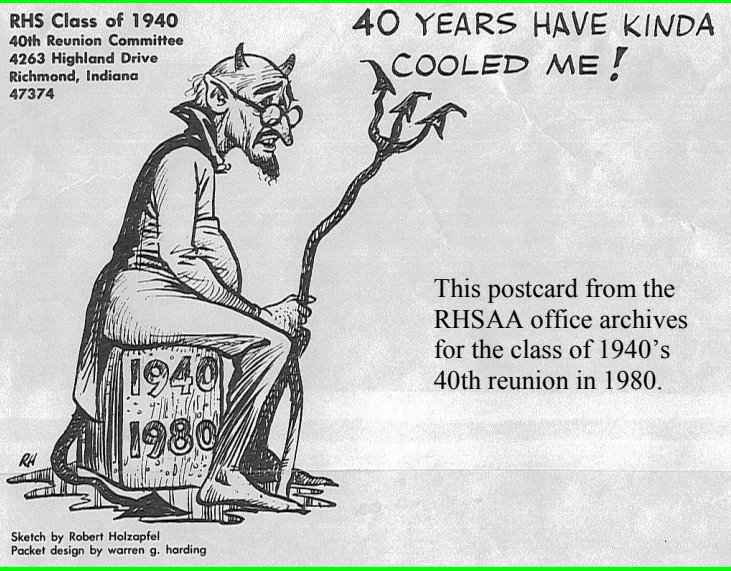
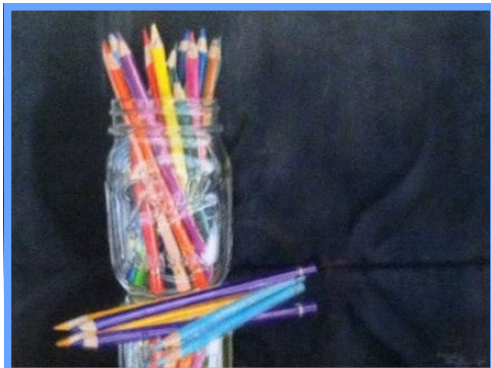
November 5th will kick off the 117th Annual Exhibition at the Richmond Art Museum in McGuire Hall. This legacy began in Garfield School on North 8th Street in 1898. While researching the new history book, RAM Executive Director Shaun Dingwerth, supplied information to verify the location of the early shows. From a book by long-time curator, Mrs. Ella Bond Johnstone, we find that the earliest exhibit were not as professional as they are today.

*A few were genuine paintings, and many were mediocre, others were startlingly bad, as the memorable homemade painting of two blue-eyed cats, and on of a lion done in crayon with a frame having iron bars across the front picture. The result of this motley hanging of pictures... only original works that passed a jury of selection, were accepted.*

This year, there are forty-five entries selected for the amateur division and one hundred and nineteen for the advanced class. A \$2,500 top prize will be awarded by the judges.

This show runs from November 5, 2015 until January 16, 2016.

Visit the website at [www.richmondartmuseum.org](http://www.richmondartmuseum.org)



## Wonderful Donation from the Class of 1985

The reunion committee for the class of 1985 decided to donate their remaining funds to the RHSAA after celebrating their thirtieth class reunion this summer. They purchased a brick for the Memorial Patio and donated \$760.00 to the office fund. The committee members were Jeff and Tracy Spurrier, Rachel Vincent Etherington, Dan and Sandy Davis, all of Richmond and Walt Lukken of Washington, D.C.

The class also sponsored an ad page for \$500 donation for the new book, *“Devils’ Tales, History, Legacy and Memories.”*

(At left is a drawing entered in the advanced category of this year’s exhibition.

At right is the new logo of Infnitprint Solutions, Inc.)

## Business News in Print

Mike Gibbs, class of 1972 and his son, Paul, class of 2006, own a new business in Richmond, InfnitPrint Solutions, Inc., formerly Augustin Printing and Design Services. President Mike Gibbs purchased Bumblebee Quick Print (formerly owned by Larry Parker, class of 1958.) They also purchased Paust Printers, owned by (Ken Paust, class of 1954, and Linda Burris Paust, class of 1960 of Richmond this summer.

The family-owned hometown business is part of a legacy of Morton and RHS alumni going back four generations to the class of 1928.



# Memorial Bricks

**THE  
CLASS OF 1959**

*This brick was purchased  
by  
class of 1959*

**DWIGHT HORNER  
JANCIE HORNER  
CLASS OF 1954**

*This brick was purchased by  
Daryl Robertson, '58  
Warner Robin, GA*

**IN MEMORY OF  
BETTY HEUNG  
CLASS OF 1955**

*This brick was purchased  
by Bernice Chandler  
Creech, '55 New Port Rich-  
ey, FL*

**EARL GOBEL  
GRADUATED 1960**

*This brick was purchased by  
Donna J Coulter, '55  
Richmond, IN*

**IN HONOR OF  
THE  
CLASS OF 1955**

*This brick was purchased  
by the class of 1955 in  
honor of their  
60th Class Reunion*

**IN HONOR OF  
AREND H. REID  
CLASS OF 1951**

*This brick was purchased  
by Diane Frijia  
Fallston, MD*

**DUANE HODGIN  
SANDRA HODGIN  
CLASS 1962—1963**

*This brick was purchased by  
Duane, '62 and Sandra Ar-  
macost Hodgin, '63  
Richmond IN*

**IN HONOR OF  
THE  
CLASS OF 1985**

*This brick was purchased by  
The class of 1985 in honor of  
their  
30th Class Reunion*

**IN MEMORY OF  
KATHY HASSON  
CLASS OF 1969**

*This brick was purchased by  
Debbie Hardman Ninde, '69,  
Richmond, IN,  
Linda Randall, '69, Littleton, CO  
and Carol Wagers Creech, '69,  
Plano, TX*

**These memorial bricks have been purchased since our spring magazine. To purchase a brick for your loved one, classmate, favorite teacher or coach, or even for yourself, just complete the form below and return to the RHSAA office at 380 Hub Etchison Parkway, Richmond IN 47374. This donation is tax deductible. Bricks will be placed in the Memorial Patio at RHS next summer.**

## Brick Order Form

Yes, I would like to order a memorial brick(s) for the patio at \$65.00 each. (Call us at 765-973-3338 for questions.)

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The brick should read as follows (14 spaces per line including blanks, up to 3 lines per brick)

Please charge my  Visa  Master Card \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (card number) \_\_\_\_\_ (expire date)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Card Holder

Bricks can have fourteen letters, numbers or spaces. Please complete

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(Cut this form and mail to: RHS Alumni Association, 380 Hub Etchison Parkway, Richmond IN 47374)

# In Memory of our Deceased Alumni

<b>Helen B. Duckworth</b> 1936 9/21/15 Richmond IN	<b>Richard Meyers</b> 1949 Unknown Haines City FL	<b>Mary K. Evans Dudas</b> 1961 3/20/15 Richmond IN
<b>Dorotha Peden Rash</b> 1937 5/05/15 Kingwood TX	<b>John H. Bredwell</b> 1950 5/15/15 Eaton OH	<b>Emily Robinson Ball</b> 1961 6/20/15 Richmond IN
<b>Irene Kaucher Klute</b> 1938 10/10/15 Richmond IN	<b>Bob Goldenberg</b> 1952 2/12/15 Richmond IN	<b>Becky Benner</b> 1961 4/28/15 Richmond IN
<b>Russell H. Coulter</b> 1940 3/18/15 Richmond IN	<b>Donald L. Bostick</b> 1952 9/13/15 Richmond IN	<b>L. Diane Plover Hines</b> 1961 9/29/15 Richmond IN
<b>John P. Juhasz</b> 1941 5/03/15 Richmond IN	<b>David L. Rohe</b> 1954 2/14/15 Richmond IN	<b>Daniel I. Robinson</b> 1964 4/01/15 Richmond IN
<b>Mary L. Gibbs Reichter</b> 1942 5/30/15 Richmond IN	<b>Ernie Jarvis</b> 1954 6/15/15 Richmond IN	<b>Jane Burnell Thornburg</b> 1966 3/15/15 Indianapolis IN
<b>Barbara Daughtery Yogart</b> 1942 September 2014 Lexington MI	<b>David L. Bridgford</b> 1955 7/02/15 Richmond IN	<b>Mark Klingman</b> 1968 8/10/15 Richmond IN
<b>Robert J. Beckman</b> 1942 6/19/15 Richmond IN	<b>Thomas R. Raper</b> 1956 4/14/15 Richmond IN	<b>Ronald G. Puterbaugh</b> 1969 8/06/15 Richmond IN
<b>Alice L. Keiser Bostick</b> 1943 4/12/15 Richmond IN	<b>Shirley Barth Barton</b> 1956 7/17/14 Boynton Beh FL	<b>Rebecca Endicott Demuth</b> 1969 Unknown Richmond IN
<b>Myron Brown</b> 1945 9/16/15 Huntington TX	<b>Marilyn Kelley Dowdell</b> 1957 12/31/14 Yellow Springs OH	<b>Clyde Smith</b> 1969 September 2015 Fountain City IN
<b>Armina Clements Juhasz</b> 1945 9/23/15 Richmond IN	<b>Betty Beckley Mayberry</b> 1958 9/01/15 Fountain City IN	<b>Michael D. Rosar</b> 1970 6/28/15 Richmond IN
<b>Viola Portanova Foust</b> 1946 7/09/15 Richmond IN	<b>Edward L. Dintaman</b> 1958 10/30/14 Richmond IN	<b>Gwendolyn Grimes Smith</b> 1970 7/11/15 Richmond IN
<b>Thurflow W. Harter</b> 1947 8/14/15 Richmond IN	<b>Melva Shephard Brown</b> 1959 1/17/15 Oxford, OH	<b>Betty J. Miller Lawman</b> 1970 10/04/15 Richmond IN
<b>Mary D. Miller Lahmann</b> 1947 9/08/15 Richmond IN	<b>Mary E. Holloway Lay</b> 1959 5/04/15 Richmond IN	<b>Raymond B. Durham</b> 1970 10/14/15 Richmond IN
<b>Barbara Vossler Lybarger</b> 1948 12/02/14 Indianapolis IN	<b>Barbara M. Ellis Glover</b> 1959 10/25/14 Richmond IN	<b>Michael J. Null</b> 1972 7/28/14 Richmond IN
<b>Opal A. Laswell Kates</b> 1948 8/25/15 Richmond IN	<b>Robert King</b> 1960 9/11/15 Richmond IN	<b>Robert D. Vanlandingham II</b> 1973 3/28/15 Indianapolis IN
<b>Mary Wilhelm Nicholson</b> 1948 10/02/15 Richmond IN	<b>Myron Trotter</b> 1960 9/14/15 Richmond IN	<b>Mary L. Seifer Lawson</b> 1974 10/16/15 Richmond IN
<b>Dorothy Zuber Dare</b> 1949 10/19/14 Richmond IN	<b>Timothy G. Davis, Sr.</b> 1960 10/18/15 Richmond IN	<b>Robert Wettig</b> 1975 1/23/15 Witchata KS

# Becoming a Member

Dear RHS Alumni,

The Alumni Association works totally from donations. Our twelve hundred members keep us up and running. Our office budget is about \$50,000.00 a year. This includes the director's salary, printing and postage, all overhead for the office, and the printing of two *Register* magazines a year. Our income has been less than \$40,000.00 the past two years, asking us to rely on the kindness of alumnus Rod Weiss, class of 1976 for the printing of the magazines.

Will you help us with an end-of-the-year donation specifically for the office fund? This donation, like the donations for scholarships, are one hundred percent tax deductible. **I am looking for twenty alumni who will contribute \$500 each before the end of the year to allow us to make our budget.**

And if you are not currently a member, please consider becoming one. We will put you on our mailing list for the magazine too. As your alumni director, I thank you in advance for your support. Without our alumni, we would not be able to do all that we do.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Griffey, Executive Director RHSAA

**You may find all 2015 donations given by our wonderful alumni and others on the website at [www.rhsalum.org](http://www.rhsalum.org)**

Yes, renew my membership for \$30 per person  \$50 per couple  \$ Other amount for 2015

Yes, I would like to support the office fund with an end-of-the-year gift

\$25.00  \$50.00  \$75.00  \$ other  \$ donation for Scholarship

My Name \_\_\_\_\_ My spouse \_\_\_\_\_

I graduated \_\_\_\_\_ My spouse graduated RHS \_\_\_\_\_  Not an RHS Alumni

My phone # \_\_\_\_\_ My email address \_\_\_\_\_

My address \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed  Charge my  Visa  Master Card # \_\_\_\_\_

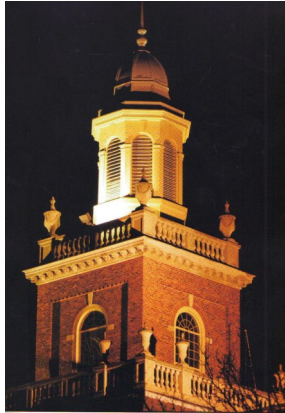
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ VIN number \_\_\_\_\_

Amount total on charge \_\_\_\_\_

My signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the office at  
RHS Alumni Association 380 Hub Etchison Parkway Richmond IN 47374 765-973-3338  
mgriffey@rhs.k12.in.us We are a 501 ( c ) 3– your donation is tax deductible

RHS Alumni Association  
380 Hub Etchison Parkway  
Richmond IN 47374-5339  
Return Service Requested



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#### The 2015/16 RHS Alumni Board Members

<b>Sharon Sanders, '63, President</b>	<b>Bonnie McClain, '60</b>
<b>Nancy Wright Manning, '65 VP</b>	<b>Duane Hodgin, '62</b>
<b>John L Hitch, '56, Treasurer</b>	<b>Debbie Hardman Ninde, '69</b>
<b>Sandie Rans Rowe, '64, Secretary</b>	<b>David Brumfield, '73</b>
<b>Joyce Hill Owen, '55</b>	<b>Pam Lawrence Hagy, '76</b>
<b>Nancy Van Etten Cox, '56</b>	<b>Dean Stephens, '78</b>
<b>Sandra Wiles Gore, '57</b>	<b>Sherrri Dillon Bergum, '86</b>
<b>Doug Oler, '58</b>	<b>Jane Taube Niccum, '88</b>

#### Our Mission Statement

*“ The success of Richmond’s economic competitiveness and quality of life depends, to a large extent, on the quality and number of years of higher education our young people receive.*

*Employers in our community require employees that can not only read, write, and solve problems, but also communicate and demonstrate leadership skills.*

*Without skilled employees, Richmond’s economic future is uncertain.*

*To be an economic leader in our community, state, and nation, we must first be a leader in education of our children.”*