



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.
www.hobartalumni.org

Volume 14, Number 2

December, 2024

Do You Need to Renew Your Membership for 2025?

If you are an annual member of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, your membership is due for renewal at the end of December. There will be a grace period through the end of January. Membership reminders will go out next week, but feel free to save us some postage and mail your \$10 check to: **HHS Alumni Association, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342**. Or, you can become a Life Member for \$100!

Alumni Spotlight

Wally Johnston, Retired Law Enforcement Chaplain

Our Alumni Spotlight this issue is on Walter (Wally) Johnston, HHS Class of 1972. Wally has served as a law enforcement chaplain in many different areas.

Where do you live, and what are you doing these days?

I have been living in Beaverton, Oregon for the past 30 years (near Portland). I am mostly involved with my wife's Honey-Do list, but once in a while, I sneak in some water coloring, reading, and writing.

Can you trace the path from Hobart High School to where you are now?

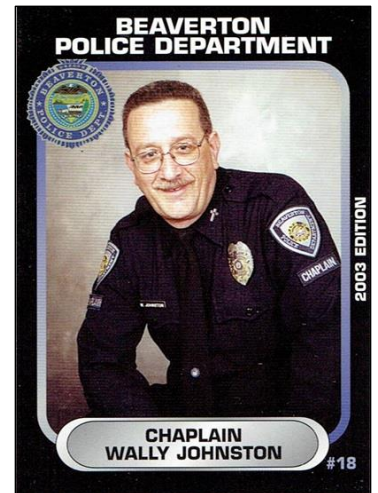
From Hobart, I went to college at Olivet Nazarene University, where I received my AB in Religion. We then moved to Kansas City, MO to work on my Master of Divinity. It was there I received my first church assignment in Santa Monica, CA. While there I began meeting city hall employees weekly for a Bible study. I was asked by a city police officer if I ever considered being a police chaplain. She gave me a card with a contact with Redondo Beach PD. They had an active chaplaincy program. I visited the department and asked questions. A couple of weeks later, I was on a ride along with a Catholic Chaplain at LAPD. I then wrote up a proposal for the Santa Monica chief. Shortly after, I was appointed the first Chaplain of that department in 1984.

After four years, I moved to start a church in Illinois. It was a town of about 3,000. I was appointed Chaplain for the City and worked with a police department of five!

Four years later, we moved to Oregon, where I pursued a Masters in Counseling Psychology, and served as the Chaplain for the Beaverton Police Department. I served there for 14 years and then finished my chaplaincy at the Sherwood Police Department in Oregon.

What are some of your favorite memories of being a law enforcement chaplain?

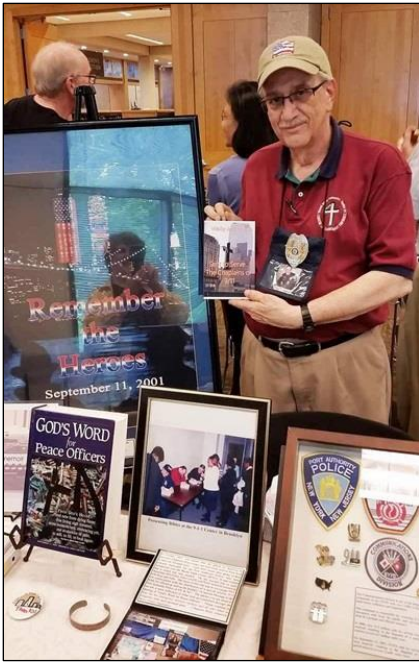
My favorite memories included the many police weddings I conducted, serving our citizens in times of their greatest need, and fighting the INS to keep one of our British officers here in the States. I was on all of the Los Angeles news networks for about a week fighting for my officer, Ian. After the first couple of days, I'd come home and say to my boys, "Your dad was on the news again today." By then their response was, "Yeah, so!" They kept me humble.



Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

The most impactful work I did was being called up to assist public safety following the terrorist attack on New York City in 2001. I can't begin to tell in this limited space what that experience did to and for me. If you care to read about it, I refer you to my book, SENT TO SERVE...THE CHAPLAINS OF 9/11. It is available on Amazon. A special note: The Hobart Historical will be the permanent home of my artifacts and gifts from 9/11. A small display will be available in late August and early September 2025. A larger display will take place for the 25th Anniversary in 2026. I plan to be there in person to meet my fellow Hobart citizens and sign my book. Other events are being planned. Keep an eye out on the Hobart Historical website and Facebook page.

You have a blog, don't you? How did that start, and what do you like about it?



My blog is www.journeyintostory.com. I've been at it for the past few years. The purpose is to unite people by sharing stories. When others share their stories, they begin to understand and appreciate them. This diminishes misunderstanding and brings people together, a refreshing thought given today's political climate. We can learn from each other.

Could you tell us a little about your family?

My wife, Linda, and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in June. We have two grown boys. One is a middle school teacher and professional musician and singer, and our youngest works at our local police department in the records division. We have two grandchildren, a girl 9, and a boy 7. I would say the grandkids keep us young, but they wear us out! But we love it!

What advice would you have for students who might be interested in being a chaplain?

There are all kinds of chaplains: public safety, hospital, corporate, military, etc. Some lend themselves to full-time work, like hospital chaplaincy. Most do not start out being a public safety chaplain. Some are paid full-time, or part-time, but most are volunteer. You have to work to support your chaplain habit. But it is very rewarding work. You'll never know the total positive impact you make on citizens and communities.

Wally Johnston with his book "Sent to Serve: The Chaplains of 9/11".

HHS Alumni Association Board

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors (as of July 1, 2024) are:

OFFICERS

Paul Addison, Class of 1970 *President*
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966 *Vice-President*
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970 *Treasurer*
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978 *Secretary*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Shaun Zoladz, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School, Class of 2006*
Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970
Debbie Scharbach Vega, Class of 1971
Amanda Loy Stillwell, Class of 2000

Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

Reply to: A Bowling Alley Pinsetter's Story

From Tom Gallagher, Class of 1959: The bowlers would throw you tips down the alley at the end of the night.

From Jerry Beach, Class of 1956: My dad and his partner, Elmer Homman, moved the original Hobart Alleys from under the A&P Store that was on 3rd Street between Main and Center Street in 1953. When Harvey's Dime store bought the building (about 1950) from a man named Sam Routes, When Harvey's, in 1952, decided they wanted the basement also, Dad and Elmer moved the business to under the Hobart Shoes Building that had just been built by W. B. Mitchell. (Mitchell Lumber, which was on south Illinois Street across the tracks from the Pennsy Depot).

In 1962, Dad and Elmer decided to close the business as we were the only bowling business other than East Gary Alleys with pinboys. To make a long story short, in 1963 they took on another partner (Curley Popp) and built the bowling center on RT 130. When Elmer passed away, my Dad and Curley bought out Frieda Hamman. My Dad passed away in 1973 and my mother gave me their interest in the business. In 1980 Brunswick Corp approached me about becoming the development site for their newest electronic scoring system and we became the first totally computerized bowling center.

From the time I was about 13 years old until I was a junior in high school, I set a lot of pins. If I had some time to think about that, I probably could come up with at least 100 names of boys that set pins. There were also girls that had bowling in gym class and they took turns setting pins.

My Dad and Elmer bought the original business in 1943 when Hobart had a population of about 5-6 thousand. It seemed to me as a little kid that everyone in town bowled. I can tell stories about people (long gone) that would probably make a good book.

The glass in the sidewalk was removed and cemented over because it leaked badly.

I'll stop now because when I talk about those times one story lead to another and I can go on for hours

Expulsion of Students From School

From Lyle Hatten, Class of 1958: This incident took place during the last few months of 1955. During school hours, in a building on school property, firecrackers were set off. The bangs could be heard from the large study hall air returns throughout the whole building. In the boys' basement restroom, a toilet was even knocked off its base, which flooded the restroom area and water crept into the hallway.

Soon afterwards, an investigation began. A school team was made up of Mr. Deal, Mr. Bailey, Miss Thompson, and 1 or 2 other teachers. The team found a group of boys with the fireworks in their possession and discovered that the group got the fireworks from some members of the '56 and '58 classes. The teachers then checked the student lockers for fireworks.

When two boys in particular heard this, they gave their fireworks to other students to hide. One gave his to the class president, and thought the team wouldn't check the president's locker. Somehow my name got to the teachers, and I was called in to be questioned. Asked if I had fireworks, I told them yes. When they asked me if I had them at school, I replied no, and that my dad allowed me to have fireworks, but I couldn't take them to school—which I honored.

One teacher said he didn't believe me and asked for my locker number. After he checked my locker, he returned and threw a jacket down in front of me which had fireworks in a pocket. He asked me if that was my jacket, and I said no, that it belonged to my locker partner. (The fireworks were Alligator Brand that 2 other classmates and I had purchased earlier in the summer.) Well, my locker partner happened to be the '58 class president!

Your Brickie Stories (cont.)

Three of us were then expelled and told to turn our fireworks over to the Hobart Police Department. I turned in 3 shopping bags full of fireworks. The other two boys turned in a larger quantity as they had bought more. The 3 of us returned to school the following day with a report from the police department which said that we had surrendered our fireworks. About 3 or 4 weeks later, another member of the class of '58 showed up in school with Alligator fireworks. I wonder how he got them. Contact Paul Addison at paul@hobartalumni.org if you have any additions to this story or any other stories of students being expelled.

Class Reunion Roundup

Please send reunion information to us at info@hobartalumni.org. Updates are posted on our website, at: <https://www.hobartalumni.org/ClassReunions.htm>. These events are listed in order of their occurrence.



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REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

CLASS OF 1960: The Class of 1960 is having their luncheon the second Saturday of each month at the Paragon Restaurant at 1:00 PM. Any questions, contact Linda (Quinlan) Koziol at larry58koziol@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 1958: The Class of 1958 is having their monthly luncheon the third Saturday of each month at the Paragon Restaurant at 1:00 PM. Any questions, contact Larry Koziol at larry58koziol@gmail.com.

CLASSES OF 1952 AND 1953: The classes of 1952 and 1953 are having breakfast the second Thursday of each month at the Paragon at 8:30. Any questions, call Marlene (Baier) Krawczyk (Class of 1952) 219-942-6301, or Martha (Jordan) Nichols (Class of 1953) 219-942-3062.

CLASS OF 1970: The Class of 1970 usually meets for brunch on the third Saturday of the month. To check the latest information, go the Facebook page for the HHS Class of 1970, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/110625168719>.

*The Brick & Mortar Board is a publication of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. It is an electronic publication, delivered by email to members of the Association. Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership, and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to: **HHS Alumni Association**, and mail it to: HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342. Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org. The editor of The Brick & Mortar Board is Paul Addison.*

Recent Obituaries (since our September 2024 newsletter; in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

DECEMBER 2024:

[Kevin Galka, Class of 1995](#)

[Adam James, Class of 1998](#)

[Kathleen Alexander Ford, Class of 1954](#)

[Angeline \(Angie\) Rocoff Grandys, Class of 1956](#)

NOVEMBER 2024:

[Sandra Kay Pott Fisher, Class of 1956](#)

[Jeffrey \(Jeff\) Council, Class of 1986](#)

[Diane Swartzlander Paske, Class of 1960](#)

[Amy Beckner Mears, Class of 1968](#)

Recent Obituaries (cont.)

[Sharon Anderson Whittinghill, Class of 1961](#)

[Bruce Wilkinson, Class of 1963](#)

[Donna Kuechenberg Gill, Class of 1960](#)

[Kenneth \(Ken\) Black, Class of 1965](#)

[Allen Sell, Class of 1973](#)

[Jack Caldwell, Class of 1957](#)

[Connie Mills Roberts, Class of 1967](#)

[Greg Peyovich, Class of 1969](#)

[Raymond Flanigan, Class of 1959](#)

[Kathleen \(Kathy\) Ryba Needs, Class of 1964](#)

[James \(Jim\) Sliger, Class of 1974](#)

[Deane Cook Camarata, Class of 1960](#)

[Ellen Kimberly \(Kim\) Peters, Class of 1977](#)

[James Donald \(Don\) Lawrence, Class of 1981](#)

OCTOBER 2024:

[Pamela \(Pam\) Boynak Hutchins, Class of 1972](#)

[Janet Schmelter Rigoni, Class of 1956](#)

[Robert \(Bob\) Berg, Class of 1967](#)

[James \(Jim\) Dunn, Class of 1964](#)

[Carol Kramer Sohn, Class of 1957](#)

[Robert Burns, Class of 1973](#)

[Judith \(Judy\) Heinold Miller, Class of 1963](#)

SEPTEMBER 2024:

[Michael \(Mike\) Kaczmarek, Class of 1969](#)

[Joyce Potts Locke, Staff](#)

[William \(Bill\) Stoltz, Class of 1958](#)

[Pedro \(Pete\) Rodriguez, Class of 1957](#)

[Jerry Mayes, Class of 1978](#)

[James \(Jim\) Larson, Class of 1966](#)

[Diana \(Diane\) Wilfong Evens McCord, Class of 1974](#)

[Daniel \(Dan\) Silich, Class of 1978](#)

OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED:

AUGUST 2024:

[Jamie McConnell, Teacher](#)

[Steve Lazar, Class of 1949](#)

[Norma Paige, Class of 1958](#)

JULY 2024:

[Maureen Richmond Clark, Class of 1948](#)

[Milton \(Milt\) Hamann, Class of 1958](#)

[Christy \(Chris\) Murray-Flores, Class of 1983](#)

JUNE 2024:

[Karen Summerhill Sefton, Class of 1969](#)

FEBRUARY 2024:

[Donal Harrigan, Class of 1950](#)

JULY 2023:

[Phillip Millus, Class of 1954](#)

MARCH 2023:

[John William \(Bill\) Morrison, Class of 1959](#)

NOVEMBER 2022:

[Carolyn Little Medrano, Class of 1961](#)

MAY 2022:

[Charles Erwin, Class of 1948](#)

MARCH 2022:

[Frank Schutt, Class of 1950](#)

JANUARY 2022:

[Cheryl Wilfong Gjuraj, Class of 1979](#)

2021 (MONTH UNKNOWN):

[Mldred Katunich Glass, Class of 1949](#)

DECEMBER 2021:

[Clara Skomp Unland, Class of 1958](#)

[Norma Dowd \(Dowd\) Ondo, Class of 1950](#)

[Kenneth Westmoreland, Class of 1958](#)

AUGUST 2021:

[Antoinette Zrabkowski Clark, Class of 1958](#)

JULY 2021:

[Kathryn Kleine Roberts, Class of 1946](#)

JUNE 2020:

[Gene Bray, Class of 1947](#)

[Lana Gott Berleman Bethel, Class of 1961](#)

APRIL 2020:

[Louise Brown McGhee, Class of 1955](#)

DECEMBER 2019:

[Alma Hoddy Seiss, Class of 1949](#)

SEPTEMBER 2019:

[Lois Butler Cook, Boyd, Seehausen, Class of 1954](#)

[Jeanne Sloan Guarnerly, Class of 1967](#)

JULY 2019:

[Margaret Mann Wineinger, Class of 1948](#)

[Mary Matsey Fulkerson, Class of 1964](#)

JUNE 2019:

[Florence Leszczynski \(Lesczynski\) Nowasadski, Class of 1947](#)

MAY 2019:

[Marie Gottschling Szostek, Class of 1947](#)

OCTOBER 2018:

[Betty Carter Rose, Class of 1947](#)

MARCH 2018:

[Jacquelyn \(Jackie\) Gilger Warner, Class of 1938](#)

Recent Obituaries (cont.)

JANUARY 2018:

[Arlene Soderquist Leonard, Class of 1950](#)

DECEMBER 2017:

[Patrick Beattie, Class of 1947](#)

[Betty Harner Mitchell, Class of 1947](#)

NOVEMBER 2017:

[Glee Huge Krantz, Class of 1949](#)

OCTOBER 2017:

[Dorothy June Dees Wolfe, Class of 1948](#)

APRIL 2017:

[June Danbro Dominick, Class of 1947](#)

[Wilma Raschka McLain, Class of 1935](#)

MARCH 2017:

[Pearl Kratkoczki Lucier, Class of 1949](#)

JANUARY 2017:

[Natalie Vitelli Wilander, Class of 1951](#)

FEBRUARY 2016:

[Ann Iwan Ruzga, Class of 1948](#)

DECEMBER 2015:

[Mary Jane Harrigan Bradley, Class of 1943](#)

AUGUST 2015:

[Philip Ehrhardt, Class of 1947](#)

FEBRUARY 2015:

[Laurette Butler Stewart, Class of 1947](#)

JANUARY 2015:

[Ruth Wolfe Cronch Beck, Class of 1948](#)

2014 (MONTH UNKNOWN)

[Raymond Ciszek, Class of 1943](#)

NOVEMBER 2014:

[Leonard Ols, Class of 1936](#)

OCTOBER 2014:

[Virginia "Peggy" Wright Abraham, Class of 1932](#)

SEPTEMBER 2014:

[Carol Geddes Pinkington, Class of 1950](#)

[Mary Betty Stevens Worthington, Class of 1938](#)

AUGUST 2014:

[Herbert Jones, Class of 1943](#)

APRIL 2014:

[Marcella Leszczynski Kos, Class of 1945](#)

FEBRUARY 2014:

[Charles \(Chuck\) Wittman, Class of 1950](#)

DECEMBER 2013:

[Mildred Lenburg, Staff](#)

OCTOBER 2013:

[Robert Hutchens \(Hutchins\), Class of 1951](#)

JUNE 2013:

[Anton \(Anthony\) Galich, Class of 1939](#)

MARCH 2013:

[Victor Silich, Class of 1946](#)

FEBRUARY 2013:

[Christene Bray Tavalacci, Class of 1943](#)

JULY 2012:

[Elaine Ludvigson Tromble, Class of 1940](#)

[Marie Woods Swanson, Class of 1946](#)

[Charles Flick, Class of 1943](#)

MARCH 2012:

[Donald \(Don\) Dowd, Class of 1952](#)

[Vernon Bergman, Class of 1950](#)

[Annette Peterson Johnson, Class of 1945](#)

[Kenneth Schammert, Class of 1967](#)

JANUARY 2012:

[Joseph \(Joe\) Vidal, Class of 1948](#)

[Steve \(Stefan\) Szewczyk, Class of 1939](#)

OCTOBER 2011:

[Jean Fiester Mathe, Class of 1943](#)

AUGUST 2011:

[Rick Sigman, Class of 1980](#)

JUNE 2011:

[Dolores Butler Marshall, Class of 1949](#)

MAY 2011:

[Calvin Gafford, Class of 1949](#)

APRIL 2011:

[Elsie Erwin Marvin, Class of 1950](#)

[Stanley Joseph \(Joe\) Klos, Class of 1967](#)

DECEMBER 2010:

[Paul Hepner, Class of 1948](#)

[Marguerite Jones Frederick, Class of 1931](#)

OCTOBER 2010:

[Alice Cogley Krawczyk, Class of 1955](#)

[Herbert \(Herbie\) Hamilton, Class of 1947](#)

SEPTEMBER 2010:

[Gerald \(Jerome, Jerry\) Ranus, Class of 1953](#)

APRIL 2010:

[Irene Krawczyk Jankowicz, Class of 1945](#)



Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Membership is \$10 per year per person, or \$100 per person for a Life Membership
(proceeds go towards student scholarships and teacher grants)

Check one: New member ___ Renewal ___ Scholarship donation only ___

If membership, check one: 1-year membership (\$10) ___ Lifetime membership (\$100) ___

First Name _____

Last Name (in high school) _____

Married Last Name _____

Your class graduating year at HHS _____

(Renewing members only need to fill out the following if anything has changed)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Work phone _____

"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"
Thank you for your support!

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association

Mail to: HHSAA, P.O. Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org