

Blue 'n' Gold

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HVRHS Alumni Association

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Alumni Association Holds Second Wall of Honor Ceremony



INDUCTEES IN THE 2019 WALL OF HONOR are, from left: John Berti, Wendy Hart Ross, accepting in memory of her father, Peter Hart, Dolores Branche James-Johnson, Bunny McGuire, Patricia Mechare, Jeffrey Tyburski, Frank Perotti and Peter Smith, accepting in memory of his brother Laurence Smith. **BACK ROW:** Principal Ian Strever and nominators Fred Baldwin, Richard Gustafson, Rhonda Folks, Ed Kirby, Edward Epstein, Edward Tyburski, Sam Herrick and Margaret Fracaro.

FALLS VILLAGE – The rich legacy of many who graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School was showcased Sunday, Nov. 3, during the second induction ceremony into the school's Wall of Honor. Hosted by the Housatonic Alumni Association, the afternoon featured a luncheon for the inductees, their families and association members, as well as a reception for all following the ceremony. Ed Kirby, class of 1945 and a retired teacher, principal and regional assistant superintendent, was the emcee.

More than one hundred attended the event which saw 10 alumni join the elite ranks of those who were named two years ago, the first set to be honored for their professional achievements, volunteer commitments and character traits. Those recognized Sunday were: Miles Novy, class of 1955; Dolores Branche James-Johnson, class of 1952;

Clementine "Bunny" Cecchinato McGuire, class of 1955; Robert Stone, class of 1966; the late Laurence Smith, class of 1952; the late Peter Hart, class of 1959; John Berti, class of 1956; Patricia Allyn Mechare, class of 1964; Frank Perotti, class of 1954 and Jeffrey Tyburski, class of 1982.

In his opening remarks, Principal Ian Strever said the accomplishments of these people proved "they could go anywhere with the education they received here" and thanked them for distinguishing the school. The wide range of talents included those in the field of education, science, the environment, psychology, geology, public service and conservation. Many of the biographies brought laughter, tears and most of all pride for those who walked the halls of this small rural high school.

Many were touched by the acceptance speech of Wendy Hart Ross, daughter of Peter Hart, who was introduced by Richard Gustafson, class of 1959. Her father had a stellar career with the National Park Service, serving as superintendent in parks throughout the country. "In each situation, he was the face of the National Parks," Gustafson said. Ross is now superintendent of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, sitting in the same seat her father occupied when he held that position. His ashes were spread on the land he loved.

Berti is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, the first Housatonic graduate to attend a military institution, and had a 20-year military career earning three Bronze Stars before retiring and going into teaching. Frederick Baldwin, class

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of 1956, said seldom is a man good and great, but Berti fits that bill. He said Berti is a devout Christian and has a deep understanding of his classmates.

Branche James-Johnson spent her life fighting racism, said Rhonda Folks in her speech. Branche James-Johnson took part in the 1963 March on Washington with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and marched for black voters' rights in Selma. She was a founding member of CONCERN, a Northwest Corner group formed in the 1960s to encourage racial compatibility. She traveled to Haiti four times to help orphans. Folks told her, "You faced racism and classism and you fought for freedom, justice and equality."

Novy is a renowned physician who specialized in women's reproductive health and was a professor in the area of obstetrics and gynecology. He and his family escaped Czechoslovakia on foot in 1950 and thanks to former Principal Paul Stoddard, received a scholarship to Yale. Berti, and Novy's daughters nominated Novy for the honor.

Frank Perotti, noted Region 1 Business Manager Sam Herrick, went into the family plumbing business upon graduation and has been an integral part of the community ever since. He is the longtime chairman of the high school's standing building committee and has worked tirelessly to keep the facility in top shape. "He delivers for us every time," said Herrick. Perotti said, "the heartbeat of Housatonic will always be with us."

Peter Smith, class of 1954, said his brother spent his career as a clinical psychologist helping young people address their issues. He was also an avid athlete well into his senior years. Peter Smith credited their single mother for the important role she played in their lives and the senior psychology course taught by Stoddard for giving his brother deep roots in his eventual career.

Stone has had a notable 50-year career in atmospheric science, traveling from "pole to pole" to conduct research, said Margaret Fracaro, class of 1966. They have been close friends since their births on the same

"The Alumni Association provides a bridge between current students and the rich traditions and history of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Its continued involvement and interest in the school informs our decision-making and promotes school spirit and pride. Moreover, the members' support for initiatives such as the expansion of our Advanced Placement program ensures that the Alumni Association maintains its relevance and influence on the school and its current students."

Principal Ian Strever

day. She said he embodies the qualities of leadership, tenacity, friendship and commitment.

Tyburski has worked in the geology field and has developed numerous environmental services, working for six companies over the years, said his father Ed Tyburski, former teacher, athletic director and coach at Housatonic. He is also an active volunteer in his North Carolina community. The younger Tyburski recounted his early years of playing with his brothers in the halls of Housatonic when his dad worked there.

Mechare taught at Kent Center School for 37 years and then was first selectman of Falls Village for 12 years. Her long list of volunteer services covers a huge number of volunteer organizations and athletic activities. She was nominated by Ed Epstein, the principal under whom she worked at Kent Center. Mechare is currently chairman of the Lee H. Kellogg Board of Education and the Region 1 BOE. She said that civic involvement was ingrained in her by her parents.

Legions of Housatonic students were helped by McGuire when she was the executive secretary to the principal for 26 years. Ed Kirby, her former employer, presented her with the award. Dorothy Cecchinato nominated her. McGuire is also very active as a volunteer for many community groups and received the school's Community Award of Merit. "This is Region 1. We are number one," McGuire said to cheers.

A running video about all the inductees is in the school's front lobby.

🌀 Thanks for Your Support 🌀

Members of the Alumni Association are very gratified by the response received so far for donations to help keep the Blue 'n' Gold going. Envelopes to make it easy to contribute are again found with the newsletter. Please consider helping in allowing us to continue to keep you informed about your alma mater. Thank you very much.

Alumni News by Class and Decade

1950s The class of 1958 held a mini-reunion in August overlooking the shores of Twin Lakes in Salisbury. Heretofore, the class has held a reunion every five years, but under the coordination of **Jean Wells Reynolds** and **Ann (Pat) Zimmermann Miller**, it planned a luncheon for a summer afternoon. Twenty individuals attended and a good time was had by all. The event will likely be held again next year. Coming the farthest was **Glennis**

Metcalf Lahr from Idaho Falls, ID.

Stan Jennings, '56 has received word he has been accepted into the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut. After much research, he can trace his family back eight generations. He said he pursued the project to instill an interest in history in young people.



THE CLASS OF 1959 HELD ITS 60TH CLASS REUNION THIS FALL. Marie Fife Hewins writes that, "A little over half of the remaining class attended. Everyone talked and laughed with each other. No matter what we did or didn't do didn't matter. We were all classmates enjoying each other's company. We're hoping to do it again in a few years and we hope the rest of our classmates will join in with the laughter and good memories."

1960s Michele Markey Witowski wrote, "A great time was had by all at the class of 65 reunion. Hope you will all try to come to our 55th anniversary reunion next year—mark July on your calendars for a trip to the Northwest Corner."



Front Row, from left to right: Donna Castagna Getchell, Jane McGarry Caron, Bill Goodsell, Fern Cubley Hammer, Madelein Durand Byrne and BJ Ducillo Christinat. **Row 2**, from left to right: Nancy Waldron Smith, Kathy Larkin, Bill Wood, Carol Kinsman Gillette, Sally Gustafson Schoonmaker, Linda Carley Pierce, John McGuire and Paul Hammer. **Back row**, from left to right: Harold Posselt, Forbes Loverin, Roxann Roulin Lehberger, Celia Moss White, Peter Marston, David Byrnes, Kathy Wohlfert Boughton, Bob Christinat, Gerry Routhier and Michele Markey Witowski.



The class of 1969 held its 50th reunion on Sept. 14 at the Town Grove in Salisbury. Nearly 100 classmates attended.

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ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED

1970s Members of the class of 1970 will hold their 50th reunion on Sept. 12, from 5:30 to 11 p.m. at the Lakeville Town Grove.



The class of 1979 held its 40th reunion this past fall.

2000s

Andrew Moore, '07, is a partner enablement manager with onestream software. Living in Boston, he travels nationally and internationally. Moore graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in economics.

Sawyer Thornton, '08 has been named the administrator of Sharon Health Care Center. She earned a degree in recreation and leisure from Southern Connecticut State University and a certificate for long-term health care management through UCONN.



IN MEMORIAM

Anna Madeline Cantele Miller, '42	JoAnn Segalla Dube, '65
George Schaefer, '50	Pamela Rutledge Packard, '65
Mary Barton Manning, '51	David Brown, '68
Nancy Newkirk Tedder, '53	Peter Sherwood, '68
Katherine Genito, '54	Robert Tompkins, '70
Carol O'Brien Hall, '54	George Holst-Grubbe, '72
Judith Becker, '57	Geraldine Kenny Solan, '73
Leroy "Bing" Irving, '58	Patricia Strattman Nash, '75
Virginia Drake Mugler, '58	Timmy Drumm, '76
Dan O'Connell, '58	James "Gigi" Smith, '76
Eve Rudd, '58	David Schultz, '77
Laura Griffin, '60	Sharon Smithwick
Jack Murtagh, '60	Koneazny, '85
Grace Nutt Smith, '60	Diana Ghi, '86
Donna Hall, '62	Courtney Worthington, '98
David Rivard, '64	Sean Van Deusen, '04
Frank "Butch" Sherwood, '64	Ben Paley, '11
	Steven Wingard, '12

"Fellow HVRHS Alums, please share your stories and activities with the Blue & Gold. It is a marvelous way to stay in touch and inform all of your accomplishments." [Ed Kirby, Class of 1945]



HVRHS Alumni Association

c/o HVRHS

246 Warren Turnpike, Falls Village, CT 06031

To reach the Editor: Ruth Epstein

Telephone: 860-927-4057; Email: KCSRuthe@aol.com

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