



WE MISSED YOU!!!

Wish all of you could have been there. As Mary Poppins said, “practically perfect in every way.” The location, time of year, accommodations and, most of all, the love and warmth we all felt for each other were priceless. Not sure we will ever do a three-day reunion event again but, if we do, we have to repeat the Marriott SpringHill Suites in Fernandina Beach in the month of October. When it is time for our 60th, we will be 78. 🙄

Thanks to Larry Waters, plans for this reunion got underway in early April 2021 when he asked if we were going to have a 55th Reunion. In no time at all, the Committee jumped on it and started making plans. They have worked tirelessly ever since and it sure did pay off. Truly one of the best done and most successful reunions in our 55 years. A huge thanks to **Sharon Lane** who has been the chair of the Committee since 2007. Working together with Sharon as Committee Members were **Cathy Copps Hillis, Darlene Church Friend, Debbie Gandy McBride, Eddie Dedmon, LaTrelle Lee LeFevre, Mary Ann Meares Crumley, Mike Key, Nancy Pace Ford, Pat & Carrie Knezevich and Ray Godbee. Betsy Parks Trimble, Dan Peyton, Dawn Harmon McCord, Judy Baucom Hunter, Linda Parker Dixon, Susan Crause Spalding, Terry (Gentry) Morefield** nor I served on the Committee but we wanted to help.

The Hospitality Room was so well done. First thing you saw when you entered the room was the floor length quilt on a frame built by Eddie. Here is the story behind the quilt as told by Sharon:

Did you know that our class has a Class of '67 quilt? The quilt is the creation of Sharon Lane who designed and did the layout back in 1987. It was first displayed at our 20 year reunion. The name of every member of the class is hand embroidered in the squares. Several members of the reunion committee at that time shared in doing the sewing. The corner squares represent our freshman year with the donut sale, our sophomore year with the WAPE contest, our junior year with our senior rings and our senior year with the crosswalks we added to the senior walkway. The center square is the Trojan Horse and there are two squares with the names of the reunion committee in '87. There is also a square noting the folks we had lost at that time. Since 1987 we denote those who have passed with an embroidered star

by their name. Initially, we auctioned off the quilt as a fundraiser. The winner of the quilt at each reunion would keep it for five years and then return it to be auctioned off again. A chalice was added in '92 that traveled with the quilt. The idea of the chalice was that the quilt would go to the last remaining member of the class and that person would raise a glass in salute! It was decided at the 40th reunion in 2007 that we would no longer auction off the quilt and that it would be housed in one location and displayed at each class gathering. We have found that it is a conversation draw as our classmates search for their name and the name of others. Our quilt has been a unique and true treasure that we all have been able to enjoy each time we come together.

Thank you, Sharon, for the creation of this most special, time-honored gift.

In the Hospitality Room, Judy set up her memorial table which is in four tiers and has a framed picture of every deceased classmate we know of in alphabetical order. On the top tier there are some of the school administration and our teachers who have passed away. She has faithfully maintained this memorial display ever since the 40th reunion. Thank you so much, Judy!

Friday was arrival day, although many of the Committee arrived Thursday evening to begin work. The only planned activity for Friday, other than registration, was a poolside get together from 5-7 p.m. It may have started at 5 but it was not over until long after 7. You knew right then and there the weekend was going to be a blast.

The hotel provided a complimentary delicious buffet and hot breakfast every morning. On Saturday morning, Marriott kept the breakfast going after their normal closing time just for us. After breakfast everyone headed off on their own adventures. Fernandina Beach had something for everyone. The Amelia Cruizers' car show attracted many. Lunch at one of the many great restaurants was the thing to do for others. And, of course, there was the beautiful Atlantic ocean to walk along side across the street.

We were supposed to be in the parking lot by 5 p.m. Saturday afternoon to head to the beach for a oceanside group picture. Lo and behold, the 2022 Zooma Amelia Island Women's Races was being held on Saturday and Sunday, and one of the races was being held on N. Fletcher right in front of our hotel at the exact time we needed to cross to the beach so we had to scrub that. Frankly, not many were terribly disappointed because we were all a little leery of getting sand in our toes while all dressed for dinner. We did meet at 6 p.m. in the dining room for the group picture above.

Then it was time for the "Welcome" and dinner to begin. Sharon graciously welcomed all of us and next Susan sang a cappella *The Lord's Prayer* as our blessing. Some of you will remember Susan's incredible soprano voice throughout high school. There were more than a few teary eyes when she finished. She still sings as beautiful as ever. Thank You, Susan!

For dinner the hotel served a delicious buffet of tossed salad, roasted potatoes, vegetable medley, carved roast beef with creamy horseradish sauce and baked chicken. The best hotel buffet food I have ever eaten. For dessert, thanks to Cathy, LaTrelle and Debbie, we had scrumptious lemon squares, brownies with cream cheese and caramel nut pretzels from *All the Bits*, a catering service owned by a friend of Cathy's, and mini cupcakes from *Bliss Cakery*.

Our Saturday night dinner entertainment, performed by Dan, John and Mike Peyton, three of the four *Peyton Brothers* (Lee could not make it), was the **HIGHLIGHT** of the evening. As all of you know, Dan is one of us. Several months ago, he asked his brothers John and Mike if they would join him in performing at our reunion and, much to his surprise, they both agreed. They gave of their time and wonderful talent free of charge. Thank you so much, Peyton Brothers, for a wonderful evening of bluegrass music and your hilarious original songs and commentary.

Dawn Harmon McCord (VP of the Senior Chorus) will tell you she was arm twisted into helping with the Saturday night entertainment and I will tell you she was indeed. Actually, so was Dan. Dawn and Dan put together a fabulous doo whop arrangement to the Del-Vikings version of *Come Go With Me*. The Trojan Songbird volunteers were Dawn and Dan, of course, joined by Judy Baucom Hunter, Susan Crause Spalding, Charlene Barrow Catlett, Ann Smith Nowlin, Larry Waters, Pat Knezevich and me. The Songbirds had the chorus and Dan the lead. We practiced all of about 20 minutes. Dan said it didn't matter if we goofed up so we went with that. We goofed up and it didn't matter. We finished the night with all present singing our Alma Mater. It never sounded more beautiful or dear.

Message from the Reunion Committee Chair, Sharon Lane

It is just so hard to understand how in the world the Great Ribault Class of '67 got to a 55-year reunion so darn quickly! But, we sure nuff did and, in the famous '67 style, we did it up right! Fernandina and the hotel were a perfect backdrop for our weekend together! The weather surely could not have been better! We were blessed with a cool breeze coming off the ocean, a car show in town for entertainment, a chance to walk on the beach or just to gather around the pool or in the hospitality room. All that made for a time to relax with old, dear friends, catch up on all our life happenings and share sweet memories from back in the day!

Just a little info:

Total in Attendance 87

Classmates 54

Silent Auction Winners

Rudy Murray—Week in Ford's NC mountain cabin

Bill Barrow—Framed autographed Steve Spurrier Jersey

Pat (Jacobs) Tschappat—Garden Gift Basket **AND** Mystery Gift Card

Roberta (Adkins) Ludwig and **Jeri (Brooker) Carroll**—Kitchen Gift Basket

The Silent Auction Fundraiser made \$1135 and we had cash donations of \$127. The profit from the fundraiser is used to replenish our coffers as a financial base for our next gathering.

Want to note that every member of the reunion committee and several volunteers donated most every item that was used at the reunion. These included, but were not limited to, the silent auction kitchen, garden and wine & cheese gift baskets, framed autographed Steve Spurrier jersey, a week at the Ford's NC cozy mountain cabin, new class banner, welcome bag and contents, printing, frame for quilt, hospitality room and dining room decorations, Hershey's hugs & kisses for table favors, memorial display, lanyards and name badge holders, just to mention a few plus the donation of their time, talent and a variety of other resources. These folks are (in alphabetical order):

Alice (Bartlett) Mabry
Betsy (Parks) Trimble
Cathy (Copps) Hillis
Darlene (Church) and Bobby Friend
Debbie (Gandy) McBride
Eddie Dedmon
Judy (Baucom) and Wally Hunter
LaTrelle (Lee) LeFevre
Linda (Parker) Dixon
Mary Ann (Meares) Crumley
Mike Key
Nancy (Pace) and Bruce Ford
Pat and Carrie Knezevick
Terry (Gentry) Morefield

A really big thanks to each and every one of these folks for their generosity and loyalty to the class!

Other donations: The Saturday night table favor medicine bottles were donated by Walgreens on Soutel Drive in Jacksonville. The bottles were then filled with Hershey's hugs and kisses with a label that said "*Hugs And Kisses Are The Best Medicine!*"

Susan (Crause) Spalding began our dinner by singing beautifully in a cappella *The Lord's Prayer*.

A highlight of the weekend was Dan Peyton and brothers John and Mike. They put on a dynamic musical performance at the Saturday night dinner that was enjoyed by all!

Also a big thanks goes out to Dawn (Harmon) McCord who, along with Dan and the Trojan Songbirds, graced us with a doo whop ditty and then closed out the evening with our Alma Mater!

Other classmates who shared their talent included the paintings of David Byrd and Debbie (Gandy) McBride virtually displayed by Debbie and a book entitled *Young Love* by Ken Sellers.

Gotta tell you! I woke Monday morning filled with that sense of warmth that comes with those special connections we enjoy with people who have graced us with an imprint on our hearts and minds that is forever present. For those of you who were able to come be part of the weekend, it was mighty good to see you. For those who were not able to join in, know that you were missed and we all had lots of fun making up all kinds of stories about you as we let our imaginations run wild. I surely hated to leave and rejoin the daily grind and know that I look forward to seeing you the next time we come together!!!

I encourage you to visit our website - ribault67.com - to see pics from the reunion. Please send to Debbie at mcbriedebbie20@yahoo.com any pictures you may have taken and want to share. Go to our site frequently as things are added on a regular basis! Job well done, Debbie!

Also, visit our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/336958183371434>

Wishing you and yours health and happiness until we meet again!



Sharon Lane