

Ribault Senior High School
Jacksonville, Florida

Class of 1967



July 2022, No. 8

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Happy 4th of July Great Class of '67

As so many of you know, we lost a great classmate Darlene Church Friend on June 12, 2022. Darlene was the beloved wife of 25 years of our classmate Bobby Friend. Later in this newsletter there is a tribute to Darlene.

55th REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SHARON LANE, CHAIR

Greetings to the Great Class of '67!

Hope each of you are well and happy, living the good life!

Our 55th year reunion is just 104 days down the road. The big question: What are you gonna' be doing on October 14, 15 and 16? We sure hope you will be celebrating with old friends at the SpringHill Suites in Fernandina Beach. It promises to be a relaxing weekend of sharing memories and catching up on current happenings.

So what say you? Will we see your smiling face in October? Will you be there to hear our chorus and see David Byrd's artwork and talk to Ken Sellers about his book and hear the familiar sounds of Dan Peyton and his brothers (Peyton Brothers)? Please go to our

website www.ribault67.com and complete your registration form for the reunion and make the reservation for your room at the hotel. We are anxious to get a count ASAP so would appreciate hearing from you right away. The deadline dates are listed below. Please reach out to me if you have any questions. guslane35@gmail.com

We are also still looking for all you talented folks out there to share your talent or hobby during the reunion. Are you a poet, painter, photographer, author, quilter, woodworker or ????????. We would like to highlight you and your talent over the weekend. Be sure to note what you would like to share on your reunion registration form. Don't be shy! We want to see what you enjoy doing!

We are excited to hear from you and can't wait to see you in October!

REUNION REGISTRATION AND HOTEL RESERVATION

Reunion Registration

\$80 per person for the weekend
\$60 per person for Saturday night dinner only
Check or money order made payable to "Ribault Class of 1967"

Mail to:
Nancy Pace Ford
Unit 2201
4300 South Beach Parkway
Jacksonville Beach FL 32250

Registration Form found at www.ribault67.com

Hotel Reservation

SpringHill Suites Amelia Island
2700-2 Atlantic Avenue
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

The hotel is across the street from the beach.

Room Cost:

2 Queen or King \$129

Balcony \$149 (reduced rate but not part of block)—
NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Ocean View Balcony \$169 (reduced rate but not part of block)—
NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Pet Friendly \$100 deposit

Hotel room reservations can be made directly with the hotel by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1647003695293&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Date Deadlines

September 1	Price <u>per person</u> increases to \$100 for the whole weekend and \$80 for the Saturday night dinner only.
September 14	Blocked hotel rooms are no longer on hold. Discounted rate no longer available.
September 30	Reunion money is due.

Agenda for the Weekend

Friday	Registration Hospitality Room open Talents and hobbies on display in Hospitality Room Photo Booth Informal cocktail party by the pool
Saturday	Visiting with each other Hospitality Room open Talents and hobbies on display in Hospitality Room Photo Booth Rehearsal for Trojan singers with Peyton Brothers Other area activities of choice
Saturday Night	Dinner and entertainment performed by Peyton Brothers and Trojan singers
Sunday	No official planned activities though in the past we have met with others for breakfast and goodbyes.

LOOK WHO'S REGISTERED SO FAR

Alice Bartlett Mabry & Neil Mabry
Alan Jones
Betsy Parks Trimble
Beverly Coyner Hadley & John Hadley
Bill Barrow '65 (Guest of Cynthia (Cindy) McElhaney Barrow)
Cathy Copps Hillis

Carrie Reid Knezevich '71 (Guest of Patrick (Pat) Knezevich)
Charlene Barrow Catlett
Charles Pallman & Denise Pallman
Cindy Sellers (Guest of Kenneth (Ken) Sellers)
Cynthia (Cindy) McElhaney Barrow & Bill Barrow '65
David Byrd
Debbie Christopher Williams '68 (Guest of Wayne O. Williams)
Deborah (Debbie) Gandy McBride
Denise Pallman (Guest of Charles Pallman)
Dick Dixon (Guest of Linda Parker Dixon)
Eddie Dedmon
George Diaz
Janie Bryan Hathcock
John Hadley (Guest of Beverly Coyner Hadley)
Judy Baucom Hunter & Wally Hunter
Ken Morefield
Kenneth (Ken) Sellers & Cindy Sellers
Larry Waters & Lee Ann Waters
Lee Ann Waters (Guest of Larry Waters)
Linda Parker Dixon & Dick Dixon
Lucy Godbee (Guest of Raymond (Ray) Godbee)
Lynda Kabrich Mihalchik
Mark "Rocky" Lord '68 (Guest of Sharon Dewberry Lord)
Mary Ann Meares Crumley
Michael Key & Sharon Key
Nancy Pace Ford
Neil Mabry (Guest of Alice Bartlett Mabry)
Patrick (Pat) Knezevich & Carrie Knezevich '71
Raymond (Ray) Godbee & Lucy Godbee
Rudy Murray & Pam Murray
Sharon Dewberry Lord & Mark "Rocky" Lord '68
Sharon Key (Guest of Mike Key)
Sharon Lane
Sharyn Vann Myles '66 (Guest of Mary Ann Meares Crumley)
Susan Crause Spalding
Terry Gentry Morefield
Vanesa Perry Bowden
Wally Hunter (Guest of Judy Baucom Hunter)
Wayne O. Williams & Debbie Christopher Williams '68

We have heard from some of you that you are hoping to come but are still working out the details. Hopefully, you will be able to do that and register soon.

CELL PHONE PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

With cell phone pictures what they are today, the reunion committee has decided to save money and not hire a professional photographer for this reunion. Our webmaster, Debbie Gandy McBride, would like about 7-10 volunteers to sign up to take pictures with their cell phones (portrait mode) at different times over the weekend. She will then post the pictures in a gallery on the website following the reunion. If you would like to volunteer for "Project Pictures," please email Debbie at mcbridedebbie20@yahoo.com.

PEYTON BROTHERS/TROJAN SINGERS TO BE FEATURED

Saturday night, during the featured performance of the Peyton Brothers, alumnae of the Ribault Chorus will be presented in a Doo Wop improvisation. The goal is fun with a seasoning of songbirds (us). There will be a scheduled time for getting the act together prior to Doo Woping. There is no need for anyone to feel left out if you want to be a songbird. Just join us for the rehearsal Saturday afternoon. Dawn Harmon McCord, harmonmccord@gmail.com, will be coordinating the event along with the creative genius of Dan Peyton. If you are on board or if you are still on the wire, let us know your thoughts. [Click here to complete the form to be a Trojan songbird.](#)

CLASS FUNDRAISER

Item #1 Cabin in North Carolina

Nancy Pace Ford and hubby Bruce have graciously donated a week at their mountain home for us to auction off as a fundraiser. Their four-bedroom home is located in western North Carolina in the Smoky Mountains, near the cities of Sylva and Waynesville. It sleeps eight and has a wonderful porch with lots of rocking chairs so you can kick back, put your feet up and relax. The date for use will be set up directly with Nancy. The opening bid is \$500 and you can bid as often as you wish. The high bid will be posted daily and up bids must be in a minimum of \$5. Bidding will run through Saturday, October 15 and the winner will be announced at our Saturday night dinner. The highest bidder must be present at the reunion to win and payment must be made by check that evening. To make a bid, see *Class Fundraiser* on our website www.ribault67.com





Item #2 Autographed Steve Spurrier Jersey

Patrick Knezevich has donated his Spurrier jersey for auction. The framed jersey measures 42” high x 33” wide and weighs about 10 lbs. The picture of Steve is autographed and a letter of authenticity is on the back. The opening bid is \$80 and you can bid as often as you wish. The high bid will be posted daily and up bids must be in a minimum of \$5. Bidding will run through Saturday, October 15 and the winner will be announced at our Saturday night dinner. The highest bidder must be present at the reunion to win and payment must be made by check that evening. To make a bid, see *Class Fundraiser* on our website www.ribault67.com



We fundraise in order to replenish our class general fund and to help offset the cost of our events. Your support is most appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO DARLENE CHURCH FRIEND



By Sharon Lane

Over the years since our high school days, sadly the Class of '67 has lost quite a few of our classmates. Each one held/holds a special place in our hearts and memories. Most recently Darlene Church Friend transitioned to heaven after some time of declining health. As I started to write this, my mind's eye kept going back to the last time I saw Darlene. It was at a reunion committee meeting. She was in the midst of chemo and her shock of red hair had turned into an adorable salt and pepper, curly short cut. She was as vivacious and excited for life as ever. As she was hit with several health issues, one after another, she never lost that upbeat spirit and that warm, wonderful smile that was always present. Darlene holds a special place for me and for those of us who have worked alongside her on the reunion committee for a bunch of years. She has rendered service to the Class of '67 as both the secretary and the chair of the reunion committee. She is someone who always had her finger on the pulse of the class and gave of her time and energy freely and without ceasing. In a conversation I had with her during this time of strife, she said that if it was her time, she was ready and that dwelling on the negative was of no use. During her funeral service, her pastor described her as the life of the party who always brightened up a room just by entering it and that she just never met a stranger and that was certainly exemplified in her everyday life. Although Darlene will be sorely missed, I have to smile when I think of her dancing and singing with all the angels up yonder. I'm confident she continues to be the life of the party!!!

By John Hasbrouck

Darlene and Bobby visited us while we lived in Wisconsin as a result of a business related meeting in Chicago. They stayed with us for the weekend and we had a great time. I offered to take them on a motorcycle ride around town but Darlene was very hesitant since she had never been on one. This picture of us pulling onto the driveway shows how excited she was to have made it back in one piece. Her face shows her typical excitement and her smile just speaks volumes of the wonderful person we remember.



By Debbie Gandy McBride

I wanted to do something special for the committee members because of their service to our class. I work at White Oak Conservation in Yulee and have employee tours that I can bring guest free of charge. It worked out that Darlene and Bobby could join me. She was so excited to go on the tour. It was a rough ride that day but everyone made it through. She had a smile on her face the whole time seeing the animals close up and even feeding them.

I knew that day there was something special about her. After that she invited me to join the committee. I was honored that she asked so I did.

I had no idea at that time of her difficult road ahead. We talked a lot before and during. I found her to be a delightful and kind lady. I also saw how brave she was and yet remaining strong in persona. Not because she wanted to mask her pain, but to shield others from knowing about it. As a true spiritual warrior, she grasped the best in life even to the end. A woman of grace, bravery, and a lovely soul.

I am truly grateful and blessed to have had even a year of being in her presence. I am also happy I could take her to see God's creations up close and to see the sheer joy in her eyes.



PRAYERS

For **Terry Leachman** and family. Terry lost his beloved wife of 47 years, Marilyn Carroll Leachman, on May 27, 2022. Marilyn battled Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome for many years until her death. Terry was always by her side.

<https://www.jacksonville.com/obituaries/pfla0222131>

Terry's Email:
terryleachman@comcast.net



For **Vanesa Perry Bowden** and family. Vanesa lost her brother Everett Perry on June 10. Everett was a 1969 Ribault High School graduate. Vanesa also lost a brother Bruce Perry in 2017 who was a 1970 Ribault High School graduate and a brother Gary “Roger” Perry in 2015 who was a 1964 Ribault High School graduate. Vanesa only has her baby brother, Kevin, left. Following Everett’s death, Kevin came to Jacksonville to be with her. Vanesa said they shared a lot of tears and memories together and with other family members.

Vanesa's Email:

vpbowden33@gmail.com



For **Bobby Friend** and family. As stated above, Bobby’s wife Darlene passed away on June 12 after the most courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Our prayers are with Bobby and their family, particularly Darlene’s daughter Tonya. Darlene was the love of Bobby’s life and he was the love of hers. They would have celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary on June 15. Their love story is so beautiful. If you would like to read it, you will find it in *Quarterly Newsletter September 2021, No. 4* on our website www.ribault67.com

<http://www.peoplesfamilyfuneralhomes.com/obituary/darlene-church-friend>. There is a lovely video at the very end of Darlene’s obituary.

Bobby’s Email:

peace2go@aol.com



For **Marion Nowlin**, husband of classmate **Ann Smith Nowlin**. Here Marion and Ann are enjoying lunch recently in St. Augustine with Wayne and Debbie Williams. Marion has made great progress from his serious health condition the end of last year. Thanks for all the thoughts and prayers.

ann.nowlin@yahoo.com



For **LaTrelle Lee Le Fevre**. LaTrelle continues to do great. She is in her third year of chemo battling lymphoma. She says she has much to be thankful for—“God is more than sufficient.”

r.lefevre@att.net



MISSING EMAIL ADDRESSES

Below is a list of class members who no longer have a viable email address. Please reach out to anyone on this list you are in touch with and ask them if they would like to be included on our master email list. If so please send me their email address.

Ann Turner Cannon	James Gibson
Bob Pruitt	Janice Belflower Lafear
Carol Doyle Dunn	John McCabe
Charmaine Weaver Ward	Kathleen Houde Childers
Chuck Pickering	Kathy Stewart Britt
Duane Wilson	Phillip Floyd
Esther Selph Stone	Phillip Givens
Evelyn Dausy Grosklaus	Sherion Ann Jackson Graham
Gary Smith	Steve Peel

WEBSITE

Debbie has much planned for our website this weekend in celebration of the 4th of July. Please check it out at www.ribault67.com.

GOD BLESS AMERICA



PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU

We welcome news and information from all of you for inclusion on our website and FB page and/or in our newsletter. In addition, please know there is no way we can know about every illness or death or when your email address changes unless you let us know. We promise to do our part to keep you well informed.

Sharon: guslane35@gmail.com

Debbie: mcbriedebbie20@yahoo.com

Alice: abmabry49@gmail.com

CLOSING

As we say goodbye to another one of our beloved classmates, it seems more important than ever to get together with those remaining. Please join us in Fernandina Beach October 14, 15 and 16 for our 55th class reunion.