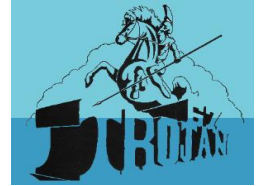


Ribault Senior High School  
Jacksonville, Florida

Class of 1967



July 2024, No. 16

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



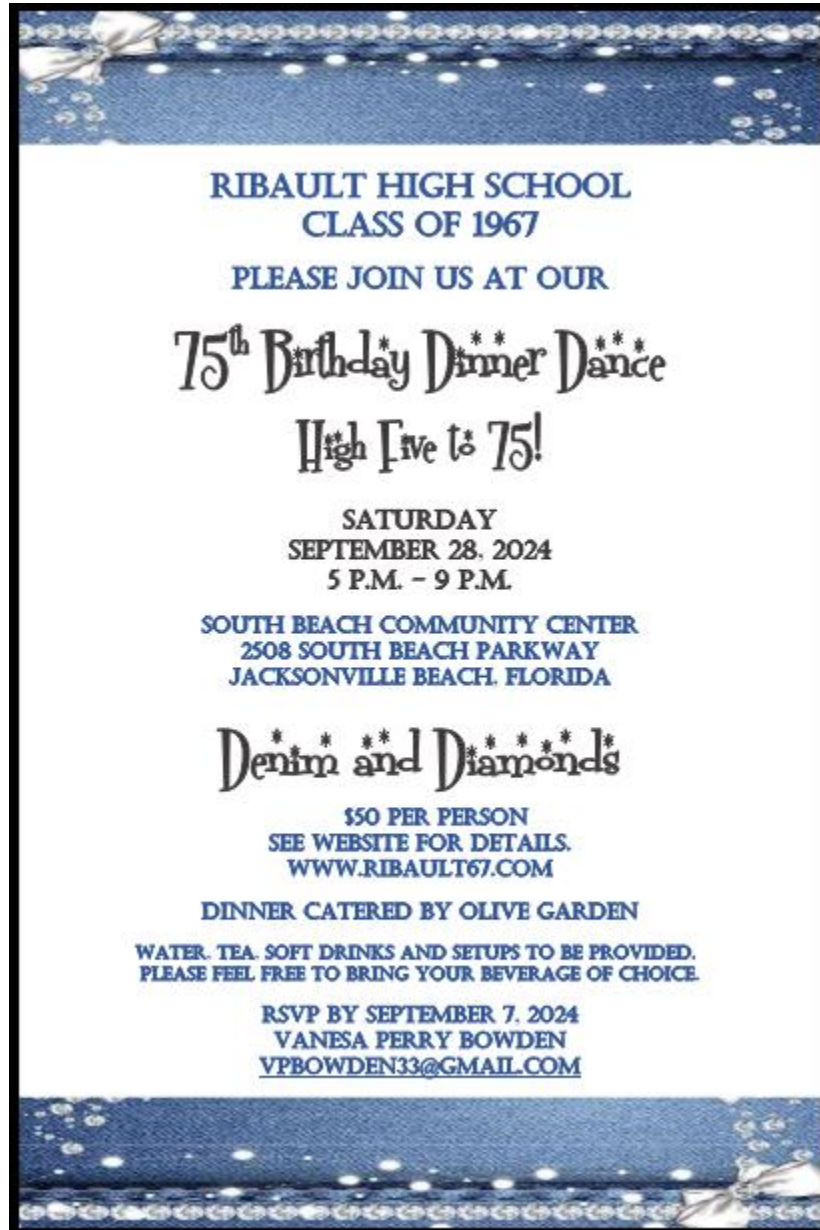
Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Great Class of 1967!

Lee Greenwood may have said it best:

And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men [and women] who died, who gave that right to me. And I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend Her still today. 'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land. **God Bless the U.S.A.!!!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KoXtpZLGM>

## **75<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY DINNER DANCE UPDATE**



### **Behind The Scenes of Our 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner Dance**

By Vanesa Perry Bowden

Your Reunion/Event Planning Committee is reeling with excitement and enthusiasm from the responses we are receiving from our classmates. We have been planning this party for over a year now and thought you might like to know what has transpired and what you can look forward to on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at the Jacksonville Beach Community Center.

Our motivation in planning has been that we are all turning 75 or have turned 75 in 2024 and won't have another reunion until our 60<sup>th</sup> in 2027, over three years away. Our underlying theory has been that many of us still have a lot of partying spirit so we wanted this birthday celebration to be something special.

We all knew that location would be very important. After visiting over 30 venue options all over the City of Jacksonville, we unanimously agreed that nothing could be more special than a party at the beach. We visited several venues at the beach and to a person everyone who walked into the Jacksonville Beach Community Center agreed that "This has to be the place." It is a large space with full kitchen, handicap access, plenty of parking right outside the entrance and fabulous location right off J. Turner Butler Boulevard between a huge recreational park and a fire station.

Our next objective was to decide on a theme for the party and consider what would go on within the walls of the venue. Many of you have asked about the theme—*Denim and Diamonds*—and what relevance it has. Well, not everyone on the Committee knows this but it was one of our classmates, Donna Wallace Bergren, who pointed out that the symbol for a 75<sup>th</sup> birthday is the "diamond." A little more Googling and research told us the party could be more casual if we incorporated a very common party theme and added some "denim." Beverly Coyner Hadley came up with the slogan "High Five to 75" and we were off and running.

Over the next several months we met and discussed ideas, rejecting several but adopting the most popular ones. Without giving away all the surprises, we would like to itemize just **SOME** of the things you can look forward to:

- ◆ A well-stocked setup table with all you will need to supplement your alcoholic beverage of choice (BYOB).
- ◆ Food catered by Olive Garden, chosen after considering every possible type of menu and following a survey of what types of food most of our classmates prefer.
- ◆ Homemade cakes baked by our very own classmates known for their baking skills.
- ◆ A professional photographer will take a beautiful souvenir picture of you and your guest that you will take home with you after the party.
- ◆ That same professional photographer will provide a fun and crazy photo booth to take photos of you and as many friends as you like. Those photos will be mailed to you after the party.
- ◆ Online viewing of all photos taken.
- ◆ A DJ extraordinaire who will not only play "our" music all evening but will also guide us in a few simple line dances.
- ◆ Dancing to your heart's content, whenever you feel like getting your move on.
- ◆ An opportunity to win half of the proceeds from our 50/50 raffle. Tickets can be purchased at the door and throughout the evening. **\$5 each, 3 for \$10 (bring cash)**
- ◆ A special memory wall featuring all of our classmates who have died.
- ◆ An opportunity to get a much-reduced rate at Springhill Suites Jacksonville Beach Oceanfront by Marriott, a hotel located right on Jacksonville Beach and close to the venue.
- ◆ And much, much more!

Please let me encourage you, if you have not already sent in your registration form and check, to do that right away. This will help us know how to plan for adequate seating and your favorite entree. If you need another registration form, I will personally email one to you or you can visit our website at [ribault67.com](http://ribault67.com)>75<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**Vanesa Perry Bowden**  
**2857 Village Grove Dr. N.**  
**Jacksonville, FL 32257**  
**[vpbowden33@gmail.com](mailto:vpbowden33@gmail.com)**  
**(904) 910-2413**

In closing let me say that planning this party has been a group effort, with contributions from not only the Reunion/Event Planning Committee but from many classmates as well.

All we need to make this special party more enjoyable is **YOU!** Please plan to come and let us know you will be there **ASAP.**

Below are videos of Ken, Vanesa and a group of classmates including Charlene, Mike, Beverly, Ray, Pat and Carrie, promoting the party. Some of you may have the technology required to view the videos.

Ken's video:

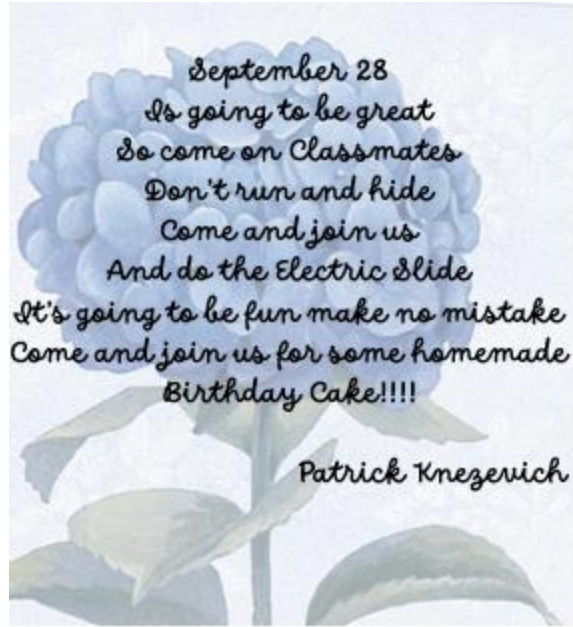
[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=039a3004af&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1802867261707552622&th=19051238f742876e&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f\\_lxuvggqno](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=039a3004af&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1802867261707552622&th=19051238f742876e&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=f_lxuvggqno)

Vanesa's video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Sz7J88slhtEEuTy2-BOGLq1XaUmZHbJc/view?usp=gmail>

Group video:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/441680732008944>



**JACKSONVILLE BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER**

## **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner . . . so far**

Alice Bartlett Mabry and Neil Mabry  
Betsy Parks Trimble  
Beverly Coyner Hadley and John Hadley  
Cathy Copps Hillis  
Charlene Barrow Catlett  
Debbie Gandy McBride  
Donna Wallace Bergren and Richard Bergren  
Eddie Dedmon  
Elisabeth North Nightingale and Ken Nightingale  
Gary Coulliette and Cynthia Cape ('66) Coulliette  
Jerry Nelson  
Ken Sellers and Cynthia B. Sellers  
Lance Hall  
Larry Waters and LeeAnn Waters  
Laura Munns Barnhart and Richard Barnhardt  
Linda Parker Dixon and Dick Dixon  
Mary Ann Meares Crumley  
Michael Key and Sharon Key  
Nancy Pace Ford  
Patrick Knezevich and Carrie Reid ('71) Knezevich  
Ray Godbee and Lucy Godbee  
Rick Jones  
Rudy Murray and Pam Murray  
Thomas Smith  
Tyra Ingram Cable and Ron Cable  
Vanessa Perry Bowden and Aaron Bowden  
Wayne Williams and Debbie Christoper ('68) Williams

### **Cake Ladies**

Boy are y'all in for a treat! We have eight classmates who have volunteered to bake their favorite homemade cake for our dessert Saturday night.

LINDA SHEFFIELD  
SHEPHERD



Pound Cake with  
Amaretto Glaze

JUDY BAUCOM  
HUNTER



Kentucky Butter Cake

ELISABETH NORTH  
NIGHTINGALE



Pineapple Upside-Down Cake  
(Mr. Nightingale's Favorite)

LAURA MUNN'S  
BARNHART



Chocolate Kuhlau Cake  
with Coffee Ice Cream

ALICE BARTLETT  
MABRY



Boston Cream Pie

SUSAN CRAUSE  
SPALDING



Apple Walnut Cake

LINDA JORDAN  
GREENE



Lemon Blueberry Cake

JERI BROOKER  
CARROLL FRIEND



Hershey Chocolate with Cream  
Cheese Filling and  
Chocolate Buttercream Icing

**SERGEANT JERRY NELSON**  
**POLICE OFFICER OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER AWARD 2024**



During the thirty-five-year international maritime business career of classmate Jerry Nelson, he directed company Risk, Loss Prevention & Claims from multiple locations. He also volunteered to serve his communities in the medical or law enforcement areas, as his family and relatives had done.

When Jerry made a business trip to Miami he would visit and ride patrol with FHP Trooper and classmate Jack Weatherly. Jerry served his community in a NJ rescue squad and his National Registry and NJ certified EMT status was helpful, if required. Jerry and Jack enjoyed talking about the great Ribault days.



In 2009 Jerry retired from his international business career and moved to Jacksonville, Florida. He served his community on the Sheriff Advisory Council and Seniors vs. Crime, a project of the Florida Attorney General.

In November 2011 JSO Sheriff John Rutherford awarded Jerry a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of meritorious service rendered to the Office of the Sheriff and the citizens of Jacksonville. The JSO Zone 6 commander also awarded Jerry a coveted JSO coin reading "Always Ready."

A major case Jerry uncovered was a multi-million-dollar investment scam by a suspect who targeted senior-widowed-church members in multiple states.

Classmate and JSO Officer Ray Godbee and wife attended the ceremony as their JSO daughter received a service award.

In May 2012 the Florida Office of Attorney General awarded Jerry a "Superior Investigator" award for his multiple Seniors vs. Crime civil case resolutions. The project prevents crime and fraud and mediates civil disputes.

Later in 2012 Jerry relocated to Biloxi, Mississippi to be near twin brother Larry and family. To continue serving his community he volunteered to join the Harrison County Sheriff Office (HCSO) as a Deputy. He is now a Sergeant Deputy with over ten years of service.

In May 2020 the Rotary Club of Gulfport, Mississippi named Jerry as the 2020-2021 Safety Deputy for ensuring safety service to the area administration and public of Harrison County. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented at the Great Southern Club.

In February 2024 the Sheriff of Harrison County nominated Jerry as the Deputy of the Quarter to the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce. To summarize the Sheriff's nomination for Jerry's selected award included:

- Long work hours for many years
- Vital role in team task assignments
- Instrumental in covering broad range of details
- Unparalleled dedication to his community and residents
- Honored and blessed his superior leading him as such a true servant

In March 2024 Jerry was nominated for the John & Patty Caranna Service Award in recognition and appreciation for many hours of effort and selfless contributions to the community and volunteer service in Harrison County. He received a Certificate of Award from the TRIAD Group.

Jerry has received numerous work awards from HCSO, community organizations, and law enforcement agencies for his sacrifice, professionalism, and strong moral compass.

While Jerry has enjoyed serving his domiciled communities, he thinks of his Ribault classmates who have had similar experiences. They are the makeup of real America. He

salutes them—primarily the medical and law enforcement classmates that have helped make our society a safe and pleasant place to live.



[jnelso151@gmail.com](mailto:jnelso151@gmail.com)

## **TWO TRIPS OF A LIFETIME**

By Nancy Pace Ford

In mid-April, Bruce and I flew to Honolulu, Hawaii and while there we went to Pearl Harbor. We heard all about the World War II from the Pacific theater and saw the USS Arizona and USS Missouri memorials. Why this is important is because it sets the scene for the next trip.

On May 28<sup>th</sup> we flew to Washington, DC and then on to London, England. This was also a World War II trip but set in the Europe theater. There were three highlights in London. First was a visit to Bletchley Park Village outside of London. In this location, there were men and women who were intercepting coded messages which were eventually broken. They lived there for years and were known as the code breakers. We also went to Churchills War Room, which was an underground bunker in downtown London. The D-Day museum there tells a different story about WWII in the Pacific minimizing it very effectively. Finally, we toured the Port of Portsmouth. This is a harbor town where many of the ships and landing craft moved from Portsmouth to go to the beaches. While on that excursion, we went to an authentic English pub where Eisenhower, Montgomery and Patton reconnoitered prior to D-Day.

Next, we moved by bullet train (Eurostar) to Paris, France where we boarded a Viking cruise. While in Paris, we saw Notre Dame Cathedral (only built in 1163) which experienced a disastrous fire in 2019. It will reopen to the public in December of this year. We also ate macarons which were brought to France in 1533. In the Latin Quarter (Paris is made up of 20 quarters, Population 2 million) we saw the walls of a Roman bath. We also were very close to the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty (which faces west toward the United States).

We moved by boat to Normandy and then went to the American Cemetery. There are approximately 9,000 graves which hold the remains of 23,000 American military. We happened upon the military practicing the posting of the colors and playing taps. Quite moving. There were people everywhere; military, tourists, and history lovers even though the anniversary was still two days away. Then we went down to Omaha Beach and eventually to a German Bunker. A detail that I did not remember from World War II history was that Americans landed at Omaha Beach and Utah Beach, while the English landed at Juno Beach and Gold Beach and the Canadians landed at Sword Beach.

On the ship on the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, June 6, 2024, there was a wreath laying ceremony which also honored veterans on the cruise numbering 25 of the 200 passengers.

We next went to a Rouen Farm where they make Apple distilled spirits. Black-faced and black-hooves sheep, beehives, and apple trees figure into the whole farm experience.

A visit to Monet's house and Palace de Versailles finishes out the trip. Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> finds us going to the Charles de Gaulle airport past many venues for the 2024 Olympics which is one month away. We flew from Paris into Washington, DC (or across the pond as it is usually referred) and then back to Jacksonville. Even if you aren't that interested in history, it was an awesome trip and a delightful culinary experience.



Bletchley Park



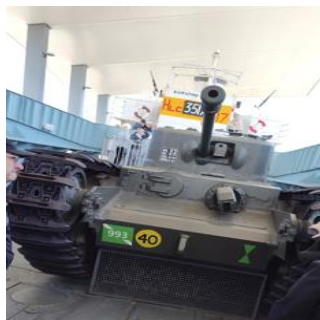
Statue of Liberty



Eiffel Tower



Churchill's War Room



Tank Carrier



Notre Dame



Omaha Beach



American Cemetery



American Cemetery



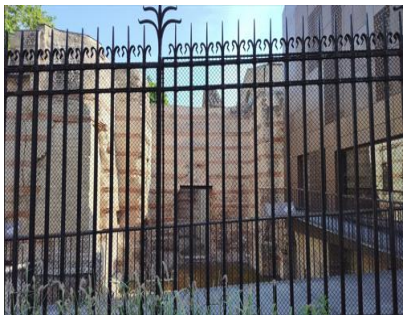
Macarons



German Bunker



German Bunker



Roman Bath



Rouen Farm



English Bar

[npford49@hotmail.com](mailto:npford49@hotmail.com)

### **JERI'S TRAVELS**

By Jeri Brooker Carroll Friend

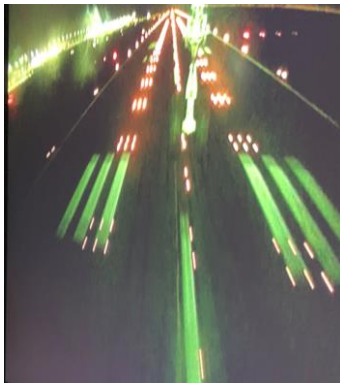
#### **Doha, Qatar trip January 25-February 29, 2024**

The first photo is the plane landing in Doha, Qatar. My oldest son, Larry, and his wife, Nikki, live and work there. Larry wanted me to come visit them and it was a dream come true for me.

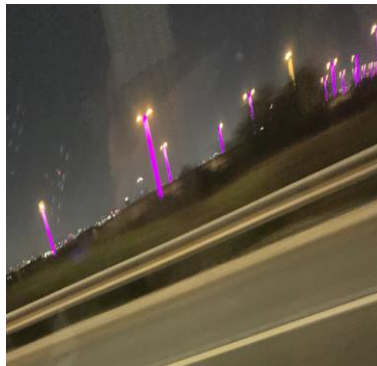
Doha is absolutely beautiful and amazing. The architecture is like none I have ever seen. The food is wonderful and, as you can see from the pictures, we ate brunch quite a few times. The people are so friendly and welcoming.

I was able to ride a camel for an hour. I have now ridden a horse, elephant and camel. I guess my next adventure will have to be skydiving!!! Just kidding!

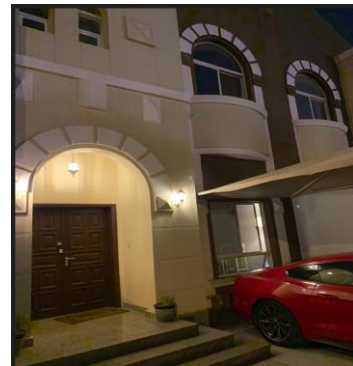
Before I came home, we spent the weekend at a beautiful hotel, the bathroom mirror frame was solid gold. The food and fellowship with my children's friends were great and I got to dance with my son (last time we danced together was when he was 20). As with all good things, my trip was over and the last pictures are of the beautiful Qatar Airport. Its gardens inside the airport are amazing. One of the last pictures was taken from inside the plane and is an aerial view of Qatar. I hope Bobby and I will get to go there someday soon.



Landing in Doha, Qatar



On my way to my oldest son and daughter-in-love's home. Qatar highways are beautifully lit.



Arrived at my children's Villa. It was my home for the next month.



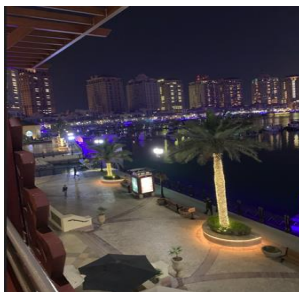
Highway in Doha



View of Doha from one of our hotel windows.



Downtown Doha



Part of Doha called The Pearl.



Another hotel we stayed in.



Welcome to Qatar cake.



My oldest son, Larry, and his wife, Nikki, and me.



Larry and Nikki



Mother and Son



Resort where we had one of many brunches.



The food is wonderful anywhere you go.



And beautifully displayed as you will see in the following rows of pictures.





Getting ready for my one-hour Camel ride.



I made it up.



And I didn't fall off!



Thanks for the ride, Buddy!



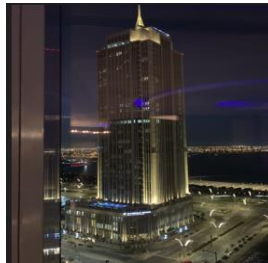
Views of desert from camel's back.



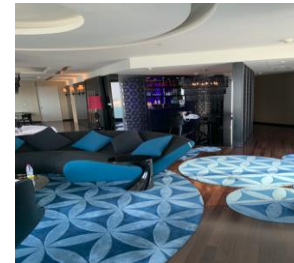
Another view from camel's back.



Hotel we stayed in my last weekend.



View out of the Presidential Suite window where we stayed my last weekend.



Living Room in the Presidential Suite.



Ladies bathroom in hotel.



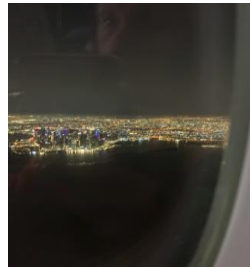
Solid gold mirror.



Gardens inside Quatar AP



More of the gardens.



Aerial view of Qatar from airplane window.



**LAST DANCE!**

### **Bobby Friend and Jeri Brooker Carroll Get Married Cruise May 4–9, 2024**

I moved back to Jacksonville in September of 2022. In October I was able to go to our [55<sup>th</sup>] class reunion and spoke briefly with Bobby. We really didn't know each other. One day I got a message from him on Facebook and we started chatting. He asked for my phone number and we started talking on the phone. I invited him and a few other classmates over for dinner and he and I talked for a long time after everyone else had gone home. He began coming over helping me with my yard work and I would cook for him. At Christmas he asked what I was doing and I told him just staying home. He invited me to his church Christmas service and from there we began being together as friends. Little by little we became closer and I think we were both surprised when we realized that our friendship had grown into love. In December 2023 he asked me to marry him. We planned on a year to be engaged, but in May 2024 we decided to take a cruise. Bobby had never been on one so we just took a 5-day cruise out of Jacksonville. Bobby said we should get married on the cruise, so on May 5, 2024 we became husband and wife. We have been blessed to have each other to grow old together with.





Swan Lake Date Night



Leaving out of port in Jacksonville on our cruise.



Relaxing in the Bahamas.



Bobby relazing!



Just the two of us.



On board the ship.



Bobby had never been on a cruise before.



Just chilling



Happily Married  
May 5, 2024



So happy!



Ahhhhhhh!



Another ah-ha moment!



Surprise birthday cake on cruise.



Another b-day cake at home.



Yep, another one. The way to man's heart is through his stomach—right?

**Trip to France via New York and Germany, May 25-June 21,2024  
(Bobby stayed home to babysit our three cat babies.)**

My friends, Francesca and David, have bought a chateau in France and Francesca invited me to go with her. She was taking her Chow dog over there and didn't want to go alone. For me it was such a great adventure. I had always wanted to go to New York and it didn't disappoint. From there we went to Germany and had a great time exploring the beautiful castle that is now a museum. We also went to a garden that is at Jardin Botanique University of Strasburg, France. We got stuck in Germany for a few days longer than we had planned due to rain and flooding. Bobby was calling with weather reports every day. We drove from Germany to Puisserguier, France and the weather and trip were perfect. My friends' Chateau Clarisse is in the middle of vineyards and it's so beautiful and peaceful there. We visited so many small towns and I fell in love with the countryside. We shopped in Bordeaux at the flea markets and ate so much food and pastries. We spent my last few days in Paris. It was fun to see and the food was great, but there were way too many people and the traffic is terrible. Plus they drive very fast and very recklessly. I loved the countryside and I could see us living there.

I was really glad to get home to my honey and my cat children. I have had three wonderful trips this year and I'm very thankful for each one of them.



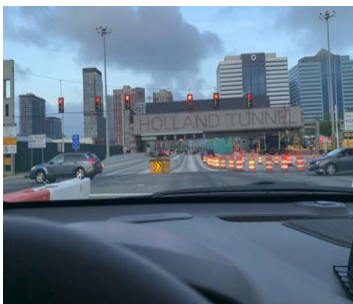
My friend, Francesca



First stop, Savannah



Great meal in Savannah.



Coming into New York.



New York Skyline



First time to go through a door like this and I was scared.



Inside the Freedom Tower



World Trade Center



The City



Grand Central Station



Arriving in Munich.



Munich



This museum was once a castle.



Part of the museum.



Breathtaking ceiling in the museum.



Beautiful displays in the museum.



Cold and rainy in Munich.

[jeribcarroll@icloud.com](mailto:jeribcarroll@icloud.com)

### **RIBAUTL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI DINNERS**

Linda Wolf Turner, a Ribault teacher extraordinaire all will remember, reached out several months ago to remind us that the Alumni Dinners are still going on but at a new location. They are held on the first Thursday of each month (unless a holiday) now at the original location of Bono's at 4907 Beach Boulevard at 5:30 p.m. Below are pictures of some of our '67 classmates attending the May and June dinners. You figure out their last names. Good practice for our upcoming party.

The next Alumni Dinner will be held on **Thursday, July 11, 2024** since the first Thursday of July 2024 falls on July 4<sup>th</sup>.



May 2, 2024  
L-R: Eddie, Cathy, George, Ray,  
Charlene, Vanesa, Susan and Ken



June 6, 2024  
L-R: Richard, Laura, Vanesa, Charlene,  
Eddie, Hal, Cathy, Mary Ann, Lucy, Ray,  
Carrie and Pat (Ken was taking the  
picture.)

### CLASS WEBSITE HISTORY

We truly have an incredible website. If you have not gone to our site recently, please take time to do it today at [ribault67.com](http://ribault67.com). Our first Webmaster, Elisabeth (Liz) North Nightingale, started our site some 27 years ago. Since then Frankie Cribbs (RIP), Richard Birdsall, Judy Baucom Hunter and Debbie Gandy McBride have worn the hat of Webmaster. They all contributed countless hours of hard work, together with their own unique skills, styles, creativity, resourcefulness and ingenuity, to maintain the incredible site we have today. This is our treasure trove of class history—the **Great Ribault Class of '67**.



[Home](#)   [Alice's Newsletter](#)   [75th Birthday](#)   [Birthdays](#)   [Class Email Addresses](#)   [Class Veterans](#)   [Contact Us](#)  
[In Memory](#)   [Links To The Past](#)   [Prayer Page](#)   [Presentations](#)   [Reunion Photos](#)   [Senior Class Pictures](#)

WELCOME TO THE RIBAUTL HIGH SCHOOL  
Jacksonville, Florida  
CLASS OF '67  
WEBSITE

Home of the Mighty Trojans



**By Elisabeth (Liz) North Nightingale**  
**Class of '67 Website Originator**  
**1997-2006**

I can't remember exactly what year I started the website but I believe it was 1997. I was bored at home being a caregiver for my mom and, together with Ken working out of town, I had nothing else to do. My son Michael was a program tester and suggested I might want to start a class website. I believe the reunion committee, which I was a charter member, was working on planning a reunion [30th]. Michael suggested Homestead Technologies because at that time it was free. Today it is \$100 yearly.

It became an obsession with me. It was easy to use and I began contacting classmates we had not heard from. I tried different sections like the addresses, where our classmates had spread out across the US, etc. I remember a poll for formal or casual dress for a reunion.

Frankie Cribbs began sending me lots of suggestions of things I could do with the website or how to do something, since he was way more experienced with a computer than I was. Larry Waters was also helpful in providing information. Thankfully, as my mother began needing more care in 2006, Frankie was willing to step up and take over. He really expanded it and turned it into a more professional website. I was truly thankful for him. I had really enjoyed every moment of it.

Recently, I was asked to update the website *In Memory* page with all missing dates of death, obituaries, etc. I had expressed a passion in doing genealogy work. Today every deceased member of our class (that we know of) has at the very least, a date of death below their name. I hated to see so many of our classmates with no info on their deaths.

I am a genealogy junky. I love learning about people and their history so I have been doing this for years. I don't call it stalking but usually "hunting dead people." I know more about my ancestors than I do about my living relatives.

First, I start with known facts. Full name (very important). Thankfully they used their proper names in 1967 year book. First stop is Google. Sometimes this is all it takes. But if no luck there, I go to my Ancestry.com account. I use the 1950 census to find parents' names or addresses. Sometimes I can find an obituary for a parent which would give me the name of a married female or where the surviving child lived. Marriage records in *Ancestry* help also. I have had to find spouse obituaries. I rely on *Ancestry* a lot as they have city records by year of where folks live so I could go to North Carolina, for example. Begin looking for property records. *Fold 3.com* is a military website and sometimes has enlistment and discharge dates. All of this leads me to the last known area folks may have lived. Then I began to look for death notices in *Find a Grave.com*, *Newspapers.com* and *Family Search*. About 90 percent of the time by now I have the info I am looking for. Sometimes I am stumped. No obituary or any record. I always feel sad that no record is left for a person's life.

[enightinga@aol.com](mailto:enightinga@aol.com)

### **Frankie Cribbs (RIP)** **June 2006-September 2007**

As mentioned above in Liz's story, Frankie took over full time in mid-2006 just in time to promote our forthcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion held at Jekyll Isle. Frankie brought much to the site and certainly was a big reason for our huge turnout at our 40<sup>th</sup>. Only a few short months following our reunion, on September 26, 2007, Frankie died from injuries sustained in an automobile crash.

### **Richard Birdsall** **November-December 2007**

After we lost Frankie, Cara Catlett (one of Charlene's daughters) helped out on our website for a while. Among others, Larry Waters and Gerald Anderson were asked to take over. All declined. Darlene then asked Richard Birdsall and he accepted. Very shortly thereafter Richard and Darlene decided this was not a job for him.

### **By Judy Baucom Hunter** **January 2008-June 2021**

My dear friend Alice has asked me to write about my time as Webmaster for the Great Class of '67. When she asked me to do this, I thought to myself, "Well, this is going to be short . . . and boring." But she always did have a way of dragging me into things. I will say most of the time I went willingly. So here I am . . . again! It will be brief.

After our great Webmaster and classmate, Frankie Cribbs, unexpectedly passed away, the Class was left for several months without anyone to manage the site.

Alice and I had several conversations regarding the webmaster opening. I told her that I might be interested but knew nothing about the subject. Alice encouraged me to **JUST DO IT!** In fact, we agreed to be Co-Webmasters. Alice would write to classmates soliciting information. She would write stories about our days in high school, among other things. She would make sure everything would be grammatically correct, punctuation perfect, and, of course, no misspellings. I would take her input and place it on the website, along with photos. Basically I handled the technical side of it. That, by the way, strikes me as hilarious, because I am anything but technical. Seriously!

I remember calling Darlene (reunion committee chairman at the time who was tasked with finding a new webmaster) to tell her that Alice and I wanted the job. We spoke for about an hour. I thought she would be ecstatic. Her search was over! Instead, I'm not certain she shared my enthusiasm. But, nevertheless, no one else stepped forward, so we got the job. OK . . . so now what? Where do I start? I didn't know a thing about websites.

I called Homestead which hosts our website. I was told there was an instruction manual that I could download. That's where I started. There was also a 1-800 number for technical support. After numerous calls, I had it memorized. So, bottom line, under the tutelage of these two methods, I taught myself.

If I had to point to my favorite experience in working with the website, it had to be when we asked for input from classmates and they actually responded. To me that is what made the website interesting. It was in that view that the *Go Ask Alice* page came into being. I just loved it and thought it was so clever. Who else knew the scoop on everyone better than Alice? It was always Alice who knew everything about everybody from way back in the day and still continues to this day. You want to know something? Just go ask Alice. We added the song by Jefferson Airplane entitled *White Rabbit* with the line "go ask Alice when she's ten feet tall," which of course was controversial and caused a little bit of a dust up among a few of the classmates. We asked those classmates not to take it literally (after all, Alice only got to 5'8"). I think we kicked it off with a question about the dead horse on Mary Lee Walker's front porch. That was a good one. Thank you, Tom Brunofsky!

I was webmaster for over 13 year and then decided it was time to move on and let someone else have a go at it. The website was eventually turned over to Debbie. **WOW!!!** The site is so professional looking now. When I pull it up I think, "this could be the website for the City of Jacksonville." It's absolutely beautiful. Well done, Debbie! You go girl!

So there you have it. Not much to see here. But . . . if you haven't been to the website lately, please do so. You will be amazed at what Debbie has done.

[jhunterbp@yahoo.com](mailto:jhunterbp@yahoo.com)





## **BFFs Since Tenth Grade**

**By Debbie Gandy McBride**  
**March 2021-January 2024**

It has been my honor to step in and take over many years of hard work and dedication from fellow classmates. I thank each of them and applaud them for the tireless work and the many hours they put into learning how to use Homestead.

My skills started in the early 90s when I worked for the State of Florida's then Department of HRS. I was hired as a Telecommunications Specialist at HQ for support of the statewide HRS network, which at that time was connected to the IBM mainframe. The State sent me to a plethora of computer software programs. One such class was FSU Webmaster Certification. So among others, this was added to my skill set. I also had graphic art experience. I started when you had to code a website with HTML language and upload it to the internet.

Along came (believe it or not) Homestead Website Builder. I began a new skill webhosting and site building. I retired as a Computer Network/Software Analyst from the State in 2007 with then, Department of Health, where I transitioned from mainframes to server-based network.

I volunteered for the Reunion Committee at the invitation of Darlene. The Committee was talking about shutting the website down as there was not a webmaster. Thanks to Alice, it was being maintained with up-to-date information. The Committee did not know I had webmaster skills. So I volunteered to take it over to keep it from being shut down. I immediately started in conjunction with Alice who became a great partner!!! I had to sharpen my skills a bit and work with Homestead. I hope the site will continue as it is a time capsule of our journey. It is an honor to serve all of you.

[dktalker@yahoo.com](mailto:dktalker@yahoo.com)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

For the Family of Classmate **Kathy Overstreet Allen**

Cathy Copps Hillis let us know that Kathy Overstreet Allen passed away of February 13, 2024. Cathy and Kathy grew up living next door to each other. They were best of friends throughout high school

<https://vacremationsociety.com/obituary/kathryn-lynn-allen/>

For **Debbie Gandy McBride** whose mother, Margie Pylant Gandy, passed away on June 4, 2024. Debbie and her two brothers, Paul and Scott, also Ribault graduates, were by their mother's side during her last few weeks. Mrs. Gandy was a vibrant, fun loving 94-year-old who always enjoyed life to the fullest.

<https://www.jacksonville.com/obituaries/psar0848556dktalker@yahoo.com>

For **Linda Raines Harrell Nelson** whose mother, Mildred Raines Johnson, passed away on June 19, 1924 at the age of 93. She lived only two RVs down from Linda and her husband, James. Linda will miss walking outside and finding her mom sitting on their gazebo.

<https://www.jacksonville.com/obituaries/psar0857834sbnelson70@gmail.com>

For **Cathy Copps Hillis** on the loss of her oldest sister, Frances, who had just turned 90 on June 12 when she passed away on June 24, 2024.

[hillis.cathy@comcast.net](mailto:hillis.cathy@comcast.net)

For **Darlene Dennette** and her family on the loss of her five-year-old great grandson, Jasper McKinney, who died after a boating accident last Wednesday, June 26, 2024

<https://www.kxii.com/2024/06/28/name-released-young-boy-killed-after-boat-capsized-lake-texoma>  
[d\\_dennette@yahoo.com](mailto:d_dennette@yahoo.com)

## PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU

There is no way we can know about every illness or death or when your email address changes unless you tell us. We promise if you will let us know, we will do our part to keep you well informed. [abmabry49@gmail.com](mailto:abmabry49@gmail.com)

**Vanesa Perry Bowden**, Chairman of Event Planning Committee:

[vpbowden33@gmail.com](mailto:vpbowden33@gmail.com)

**Mary Ann Meares Crumley**, Chairman of the Reunion Committee:

[tcrum07@comcast.net](mailto:tcrum07@comcast.net)

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[abmabry49@gmail.com](mailto:abmabry49@gmail.com)

**Terry Gentry Morefield**, Class Facebook Chief Admin.: [terrymorefield@comcast.net](mailto:terrymorefield@comcast.net)

**I pledge allegiance to the Flag  
of the United State of America,  
and to the Republic for which it stands:  
one Nation under God, indivisible,  
with Liberty and Justice for all.**

