

Ribault Senior High School
Jacksonville, Florida

Class of 1967



January 2025, No. 18

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



“Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.” —

Oprah Winfrey

RECAP OF 2024

How in the world did *Dictionary.com* name “demure” as its **2024 Word of the Year**? Just another good reason to stay away from Tic Toc whose Tic Tocker Jools Lebron coined the phrase. (Google it!) According to Merriam-Webster “demure” means reserved or modest in manner. I can tell you what was not demure—our Denim and Diamonds 75th Birthday Dinner Dance nor should it have been. No matter what your politics, the reelection of Donald J. Trump was not demure. The Alabama Tigers’ worst season in almost two decades (sorry, Annie) and Georgia’s lost to Notre Dame were not demure. I could go on and on about what in 2024 was not demure but . . . I won’t.

Recap:

- We lost four more classmates in 2024: Herman Hansen, Kathy Overstreet Allen, Theresa Costango and Raymond J. Allen.

- Many of our classmates lost loved ones, including Debbie Gandy McBride, Linda Raines Harrell Nelson and LaTrelle Lee LeFevre who lost their mothers; Susan Crause Spalding who lost her husband; Cathy Copps Hillis and Brenda Budd Russell who lost their sisters and Pat Jacobs Tschappat who lost her brother.
- Judy Baucom Hunter took us to Banff, Canada; Frances Stewart Hanson-Grow took us to the Azores (Europe's Hawaii); Nancy Pace Ford took us to Honolulu, London, Paris, Normandy, Omaha Beach and Jeri Brooker Friend took us to Doha, Qatar, on a cruise where she and Bobby Friend got married on May 5, 2024 and then on a trip previously planned with a friend to France via Savannah, New York and Germany.
- We learned the history of our website started by Elisabeth North Nightingale and continued by Frankie Cribbs, Richard Birdsall, Judy Baucom Hunter, Debbie Gandy McBride and now me, Alice Bartlett Mabry.
- We recognized our Valedictorians, Linda Davis Conahan, Molly Sue Bishop Smith and Barbara Bahl Salvage, and our Salutatorian, Ed Roberts, and learned what they had been doing since graduation 57 years earlier.
- We put our Denim and Diamonds 75th Birthday Dinner Dance on September 28, 2024 in the books and what a celebration it was!!!

REUNION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Reunion Committee has a new slate of officers, except for Nancy Pace Ford who remains the treasurer. Pat Knezevich became Chairman of the Reunion Committee on October 21, 2024 upon the resignation of Mary Ann Meares Crumley. Charlene Barrow Catlett resigned as Secretary on November 7, 2024. Pat called a special meeting on Saturday, November 9, 2024 to elect a new Vice Chairman and Secretary. Vanesa Perry Bowden was elected Vice Chairman and Jeri Brooker Friend was elected Secretary.

The Committee took a break over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. First order of business in this new year will be to completely revise the bylaws to make them more user friendly. After that, the fun will begin. The Committee will start planning our 60th Reunion to be held in the spring of 2027. Lesson learned: Never plan an event during hurricane or college football season. We know our 60th Reunion will probably be our last **BIG** hooray and the committee wants to make it as memorable as possible.

New committee members are welcome. Planning a reunion is a lot of work but also a whole lot of fun. Those who worked on the 75th Birthday Dinner Dance can share with you just how gratifying it was to be a part of such a successful event. Please let our officers, Pat, Vanesa, Jeri or Nancy, know if you would like to join the committee.

The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Highlands Regional Library on Dunn Avenue on Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 2 to 4 p.m.

BACKPACKS FOR THE HOMELESS



Jeri and Bobby Friend graciously invited the Reunion Committee to their home for a Christmas Party. In making plans to celebrate, Vanesa Perry Bowden suggested the group take this opportunity to reach out in the community to help someone in need. Sharon Lane's son, Chris, knew of some folks who could use a little Christmas joy. This wonderful idea quickly developed into the idea of putting together backpacks for the homeless, which grew from two backpacks to six with the generosity of the group.

The backpacks consisted of blankets, skull caps, gloves, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Vienna Sausages, Peanut Butter Crackers, Canned Fruit w/Pop Tops, Plastic Utensils, Junior Mints, Cashews, Foam No Rinse Soap, Dry Shampoo, Hand Sanitizer, Water, Deodorant, Brush, Comb, Feminine Hygiene Products, Chap Stick and Money/Visa Cards. All of these items were donated by the members of the Reunion Committee.

Here is a story Sharon shared with the group after the backpacks were delivered:

Chris (my son), Megan (Chris's daughter) and Wendy (my daughter) headed out this afternoon [December 20] seeking out folks to share the items with. Chris said that he for some reason went a route that he has never gone before out in his area which is Oceanway. He and I have talked about locating and engaging the homeless population. Today was truly a Godwink thing! They ran into one man that Chris described as truly needy. This man had no shoes. He had rags wrapped around his feet. He was hungry and definitely had no shelter. He received one of our backpacks. The kids left him and ordered a pizza and got him some shoes and socks and they went back to take those items. The man was eating the food we provided in the backpack and was very appreciative of everything. He had two Christmas ornaments that were apparently handmade and he insisted on giving those ornaments to Wendy. What a kind gesture from someone who has so little.

Chris was not sure if this guy had made the ornaments or if someone had given them to him. This certainly touched my heart.

Some pictures from the party:



Pat Knezevich and
Charlene Barrow Catlett



Eddie Dedmon



Bobby Friend



LtoR: Vanesa Perry Bowden, Cathy Copps Hillis, Charlene Barrow Catlett, Beverly Coyner Hadley, Jeri Brooker Friend, Eddie Dedmon, Richard Barnhart, Laura Munns Barnhart, Pat Knezevich, Bobby Friend and Carrie Knezevich
Front: Sharon Lane

RIBAULT ALUMNI DINNERS CONTINUE



January 2, 2025 was the first Bono's alumni dinner of 2025. During the winter months dinner will begin at 4 o'clock since it gets dark so much earlier. Bono's address is 4907 Beach Boulevard and the dinner is held on the first Thursday of every month unless a holiday. Please let Vanesa know if you would like to attend so she can make sure enough space is reserved. vpbowden33@gmail.com



Thursday, January 2, 2025

PRAYER REQUESTS

For **Susan Crause Spalding** and her family. Susan's husband, Don, passed away Sunday, December 1, 2024. He had been hospitalized for several weeks after a serious fall but was home recovering reasonably well when he took a sudden turn for the worse and

died. They were married 46 years and had a wonderful son, Donnie. In 2022 Susan and Don moved to Henderson, Nevada to be closer to Donnie and his family. As one good friend, Janet Griffin Bradley, put it, Susan and Don “walked as one.” And they did!

For those of us lucky enough to have known and loved Don, our hearts are broken as well. The Class of '67 sends its heartfelt sympathies to Susan, Donnie, Jodi and precious granddaughters, Savannah and Sydney.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:65e11c39-26c7-40dc-8c12-810b65058253>

Susan’s email:

donsusan9648@gmail.com



REACH OUT AND TOUCH (SOMEBODY’S HAND)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZIWLH8SiF8>
by Diana Ross

What if we started this new year by reaching out to one of our classmates? For those of us who have worked together on the committee, we have found that we have developed friendships we might not otherwise had. Most of us were not necessarily close in high school but we have become close since working together. It’s never too late to make a new friend or reunite with an old one. On the website are all of our active email addresses. www.ribault67.com >Class Email Addresses. Take a look and see who you might want to reach out to and say “Hi!”

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 let us know. We promise if you will let us know, we will do our part to keep you well informed.

If you are not already on our “Ribault High School ‘67’ FB Friends” page, please join us. This is our most direct form of communication and we have over 100 classmates on our page. We have rules that keep our page fun and safe. In order to join our page, you have to have a connection to our class.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/336958183371434/>

Contacts:

Pat Knezevich, Chairman of the Reunion Committee: knezpd1949@gmail.com

Vanessa Perry Bowden, Vice Chairman of the Reunion Committee:
vpbowden33@gmail.com

Jeri Brooker Friend, Secretary of the Reunion Committee: jeribcarroll@icloud.com

Nancy Pace Ford: Treasurer of the Reunion Committee: npford49@hotmail.com

Alice Bartlett Mabry, Editor of Quarterly Newsletter, FB Admin. and Webmaster:
abmabry49@gmail.com

Terry Gentry Morefield, Class Facebook Chief Admin.: terrymorefield@comcast.net

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

AUDE LANG SYNE

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And the days of auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of auld lang syne*

*And surely you will buy your cup
And surely I'll buy mine!
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of auld lang syne*

*We two have paddled in the stream
From morning sun till night
The seas between us Lord and swell
Since the days of auld lang syne*

*For old acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind
Should old acquaintance be forgot
For the sake of auld lang syne?*

*For old acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind
Should old acquaintance be forgot
In the days of auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of auld lang syne*

Author Robert Burns

