

June 2018[Click here for a printable PDF
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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

Class of 1969 Thornton Fractional Township South High School, Lansing, IL

*As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands—one for helping yourself,
the other for helping others.—Audrey Hepburn*

Keeping Young and Busy

by Jack Yauger (Indiana)



I was lucky to be able to retire at age 53 from the US Postal Service after 30 years. After having a few different part-time jobs, I was going to stay home and take care of the moms. My mom is 95 and my mother-in-law is 87. Since I had extra time now, I thought I would look for volunteer opportunities.

Although I spent 25 years working with the Boy Scouts, I can no longer sleep in a tent. So my wife, Terri, suggested I try the Volunteers in Police Service in Cedar Lake, Indiana, where we live. I applied in March 2016.

The VIPS took me on because of my age. Most of the volunteers are just out of high school and in college studying law enforcement. VIPS gives the younger people a very good taste of what it is to be a police officer and they get experience in police duties, such as patrolling through town in old police cars. While patrolling, we help check on vacation homes and businesses. We are also trained in storm spotting, disaster search and rescue, traffic control, patrolling, and assisting at traffic stops.

We carry pepper spray for defense and wear bullet proof/stab proof vests for our protection. We are the eyes and ears for the police. If danger comes our way, we radio for help and get ourselves to a safer place.

We have very thorough training in what to look for in patrolling, helping with traffic during a traffic stop, and approaching cars late at night in parking lots that should be empty. We can do a pat down to look for weapons and we can handcuff and transport a suspect. We also do complimentary transportation of people who need a ride.

I have been trained in CPR and first aid. I studied for and passed my ham radio test so I am able to operate the VIPS ham emergency radios. I am also certified by Lake County Homeland Security to assist the Community Emergency Response Team with search and rescue.



Since I was more mature, I was given the responsibility of the Emergency Response Unit. The Unit assists people who need to spend the night if a disaster puts them out of their homes. The ERU trailer contains 50 cots, blankets, pillows, and personal toiletries.

Recently, VIPS has kept me really busy putting together the method of operation manual for the Emergency Response Unit and for setting up our emergency shelters and the warming shelters in the winter when the power goes out in town. Currently, I am working on a procedure for how to feed our shelter guests.

VIPS has been really rewarding, especially with the appreciation we get from the residents. I enjoy what I am doing. It's helping me stay young and busy.

Ask Richie—



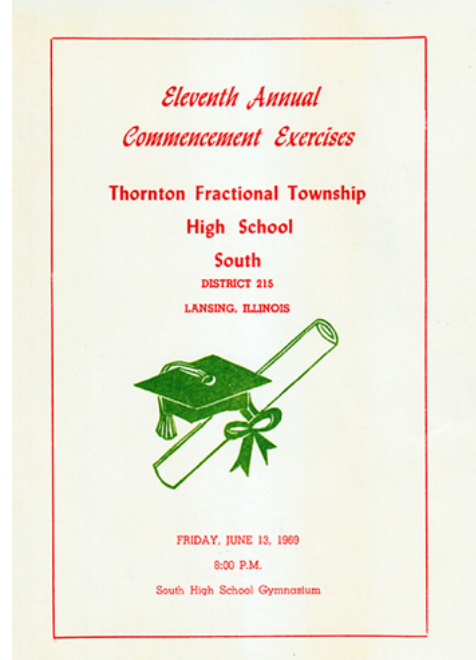
Sandy Fritz Zaborski (Illinois) asks: Hey, Richie! I was just thinking...how many kids graduated in 1969 with us? The reason I ask is that...LOL...I know we're all getting older, but I'm telling you, I seriously don't remember a lot of these names in the newsletter when they pop up.

Richie says: I know what you mean, Sandy. Postscript Yearbooks from 1965—1969 are always at hand next to my computer to help us with names and faces! As to your question, we can't find an exact number of TFS '69 graduates, but, here's what we know—

393 Graduates in the June 13, 1969 Commencement Exercises program

417 Seniors in the 1969 TFS yearbook (35 do not have a Senior photo with their name.)

443 Classmates in **TEAM69**'s Class of 1969 database. The database includes classmate names and contact info that was researched and collected over the past 10 years by classmate volunteers.



Our **TEAM69** database number is higher than the other numbers because **TEAM69** counts everyone. We count classmates who graduated in 1969; those who moved away during high school; our two foreign exchange students, Gerd and Lena; and sadly, classmates lost to accidents or illness during our high school years. From Abell to Zygowicz, all are included, because Once a Rebel, Always a Rebel!



TFS Prom 1969

Christine Markiewicz Paryl (Illinois) remembers it like it was yesterday, because this prom date turned out to last a lifetime. Christine and her prom date on the right, Ron Paryl (TFS '68), have been married for 45 years. Double-dating with Chris and Ron are (on the left) **Denise Troppman** (Indiana) and her date Barney (last name now forgotten).



A Message from Kathy Orban

Our Class of '69 is truly unique in the fact that we have kept up a communication through the efforts of our classmates with our newsletter. It would be a tremendous success to make the 50th Class Reunion a memorable and enjoyable experience for all who attend. Be a part of it and attend the Reunion!!

—Kathy Orban (Illinois)



TFS Class of 1969—50th Reunion Update

The next planning meeting for our TFS High School 50th Reunion will be Friday, June 29, 2018, 6:30 pm at Benny's Place, 2549 Glenwood-Lansing Rd, Lynwood, IL. Bring your ideas and your commitment to create the best reunion ever!

Email us if you can come to the planning meeting. TFS69.50thReunion@gmail.com

AND... Watch for our quick survey hosted by Survey Monkey that will appear in your email inbox **June 4**. It's an easy way to give our classmate planners direction as they make decisions for our TFS69 50th Reunion Celebration!

Life & Times Heard from...

Patricia Bain Mansker (Illinois)—Another great newsletter. John Link must have been an awesome brother. Thank you, John, for sharing your memories. ["Having a Twin Sister, Losing a Twin Sister," John Link, May 2018] Thanks to everyone for their time and work to keep us in touch!

Paul Warn (Indiana)—The newsletter looks good. Thanks for all your work.

John Giles (Wisconsin)—Very good. Sorry to hear about Pat Link Cox. Stay strong John. ["Having a Twin Sister, Losing a Twin Sister," May 2018]

Rob Garrison (Illinois)—John, Very nice article. Thank you so much for sharing. ["Having a Twin Sister, Losing a Twin Sister," John Link, May 2018]

Kathy Orban (Illinois)—Another wonderful issue. John's memories of Pat were priceless. ["Having a Twin Sister, Losing a Twin Sister," John Link, May 2018] Also, thank you for sharing my home vista! ["What's in Your Vista, Kathy?" May 2018]

Grace Demanuele Talbot (California)—Loved the warm memories John shared about his life with his twin sister Pat! ["Having a Twin Sister, Losing a Twin Sister," John Link, May 2018]

Linda Jensen (California)—Lovely story, John.... You must miss her! ["Having a Twin Sister, Losing a Twin Sister," John Link, May 2018]

Denise Steinberg Johnson (North Carolina)—Great issue. Went to grade school and high school with John and Pat Link. Great memories. ["Having a Twin Sister, Losing a Twin Sister," May 2018] Kathy Orban's house and landscaping are really beautiful. ["What's in Your Vista, Kathy?" May 2018] Thanks for keeping all of us in touch.

Sherry Nondorf Bingham (Indiana)—Great issue and a wonderful article, John. Was so sad to hear about Pat's passing. ["Having a Twin Sister, Losing a Twin Sister," John Link, May 2018]

Janet Ferko Carey (Florida)—Love the monthly newsletter. My thanks to everyone involved in its publication. I'm sure it takes up a lot of your time and energy, but I do believe that like me, all the readers appreciate your efforts.

Christine Nelson Haro (Indiana)—Look forward to the TFS issues every month! It's nice to catch up with classmates!

Sue Mullen Kotur (TFS '70)—Thanks for letting this TFS 1970 grad get the newsletter. It's awesome.

Art Banet (Alaska)—Thanks for another great and touching issue. [May 2018]

Happy June Birthday!

Nancy Hekkema, Paul Carter, Harrison "Butch" Porter, Lynda Schneider Gleim, Kathy Neumann Smith, Donna Franklin, John Valco, Rich Wold

Classmates Celebrated May Wedding Anniversaries

Bill & Janet Truman Clark (Indiana)—49 years

Rich & Donna Fazio Mrskos (Indiana)—34 years

Jane (TFS '73) & Dave Kats (Indiana)—46 years

Debbie & John Valco (Texas)—36 years

Our Heartfelt Condolences to...



Mr. Gene Flowers, Dean of Men

family, friends, colleagues, and former students of TFS Assistant Principal and Basketball Coach Gene Flowers, who passed away in April at the age of 81. Coach Flowers is fondly remembered by many of our classmates.

Mr. Flowers was Dave Dickinson's drivers' ed behind-the-wheel instructor one summer. "We had a lot of fun and learned the right way to drive. Thanks Coach."

Marilyn Rea Beyer recalls that the Coach "defined the image of a man's man for so many of us. He had a great sense of humor, too."

And Cindy Graham Kats remembers Mr. Flowers as a gentleman. She remembers his shoes, too. "He had those fancy cleats! You always knew when he was coming down the hall. He always gave us girls a ton of respect! He was a gentleman who had a powerful position, and yet I felt like I could be one of his kids who could go to him in confidence!"

Class of 1968 Celebrates 50 years!

Friends, Siblings, Spouses—The TFS Class of 1968 will hold its 50th Reunion Sept. 15, 2018, at Teibel's Family Restaurant, Schererville, IN.

Weekend activities are also planned. For information, send an email to the TFS Class of '68. tfs50threunion@gmail.com



We're Always Looking for Classmates

We've lost touch with some of our classmates. If you are in contact with anyone listed below, or if you are forwarding the newsletter to a classmate, please invite him or her to subscribe to the Life & Times through our website TFSClassof69.weebly.com or by contacting us at TFSouth69@gmail.com

Randy Hollis
Bill Hodge
Linda Hill Huggy
Anne Hildebrand Timm
Donna Hielema Slager
Joan Hein Carlson
Patricia Hasting

Randy Hartge
Tom Harrington
Nancy Hansen Ledford
Sharon Gulley Esalante
Bob Guadagno
Penny Griffin Deren
Tim Greider

Stay in Touch!

Our 223 classmates and "friends of the class" stay in touch by subscribing to our free monthly newsletter. Not subscribed?

Visit our website tfsclassof69.weebly.com or email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com to sign up.

And...Help us keep our database current. Send changes in your phone number and email and snailmail addresses to TFSouth69@gmail.com



Share Your Vista

Send a photo of where you live and tell us what you like about the place you call home. Email your photo to the Life & Times TFSouth69@gmail.com

June 2018 Life & Times

Editorial: TFS **TEAM69** Communications
Photos: Jack Yauger, Christine Markiewicz
Paryl, Kathy Orban, TFS Class of 1969
Postscript

Send in Your News

We love hearing from you and about you. Email us TFSouth69@gmail.com or message us at our Facebook page [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine](https://www.facebook.com/TfsouthClassofsixty-nine)

 Forward the Life & Times to Friends and Family

 [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TfsouthClassofsixty-nine)

 [Our Website tfsclassof69.weebly.com](http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com)

Mission of the TFS Class of 1969: To promote and grow our network of TFS

Class of 1969 friendships by sharing information and planning reunion events to keep the spirit of the 40th Reunion alive and vibrant.

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