

From: TFS Team69 tfsouth69@gmail.com  
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To: Bill wrhutchison@gmail.com

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March 2015

Richie Rebel says, "Read the news!"



## Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

Arizona Baseball Spring Training 2015

### Rebels Cheer on Sox and Cubs



Major League Baseball spring training and blue sky coaxed classmates and their families to Phoenix, Arizona, in March. Shown here as they are about to enter the ballpark are Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis, Bud Jenkins, and three generations of Len Rompca's family—daughter-in-law Nikki, Len, granddaughter Elana, wife Patti, and son Matthew holding his new son Noah. Not shown in the photo because he was waiting at the ticket office is Bill

Haud.

The day before, this group had lunch with Pat Walsh in Tucson and a tour of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base where airmen Matthew and Nikki proudly serve our country.



### ***Ask Richie Rebel!***

**Barbara Homans Schwarz in Michigan asks:** I recently joined the group "I grew up in Lansing" and there is a discussion on the Spirit Rock going on. I was told that our class didn't decide on a class gift so we passed the money down to the next class, Class of '70. They then used the money to buy the boulder which became the Spirit Rock. Does anyone know just exactly what our class gift was and if we had money we donated toward the rock? I was under the impression our class gave the Rock and the Richie Rebel set in the floor of the gym lobby. Have thought that for over 40 years now. Does anyone in our class know the complete story?

I hope this finds all our fellow Rebels of '69 in good health and looking forward to retirement.

**Richie replies:** I don't know the answer to Barbara's question. But if any of our readers know, tell us at [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com), and we'll answer her question in the next newsletter.

## **In Memoriam**



**Diane Anker Van Noort**

Our classmate Diane Faye Anker Van Noort, 63, of Valparaiso, Indiana, completed her life journey September 21, 2014, following complications from lung transplant surgery. During her life, she had a love of caring for and riding her own horse and was dedicated to numerous



**Karen Jean Schmidt Engelbrecht**

Our classmate Karen Jean Schmidt Engelbrecht, 64, recently of Mobile, Alabama, passed away February 19, 2015 of cancer. Our Karen is survived by her parents, a brother John, and children Kate, John, and Jake. Karen was also blessed with a grandson, John.

outreaches as a member of Calvary Church in Valparaiso and as Executive Director of the Quad Town Safety Village of Schererville, Indiana.

Diane and her husband Larry waited nearly a year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for new lungs for Diane. While there, Diane blogged almost daily on her online blog to keep in touch with family and friends. Pat Walsh, shares her thoughts on Diane—

*Diane and I were childhood friends, running the streets and alleys along Chicago Avenue. Five years ago we reconnected—on Skype, on the phone, through emails, and playing online games. We hoped and prayed for new lungs for Diane.*

*Larry, Diane's husband of 45 years, never wavered in his love and care for her. He was steadfast by her side as she struggled with pulmonary hypertension disease, as they waited for a transplant donor, and as she gave it her all to recover following surgery. Diane's strong love, faith, courage, and humor continue to be inspirational for her mom Marie, her two sons Brigsley and Wesley, her three growing grandchildren, and her friends, old and new. Diane, my friend, will always be in my heart.*

Here is Karen's daughter, Kate Engelbrecht's, tribute to her mom posted on her Facebook page—

*I had to say goodbye to my mother Karen Engelbrecht early Thursday morning. Peaceful and quiet. We honored her on Friday. It was lovely and pretty. I am forever grateful that she gave us the best childhood anyone should have with simplicity and creativity. That's all you need in life. My memories of that time are soo vivid that I can rediscover it. I am also blessed that as I got older, I knew her as a different person and enjoyed that of her. Always smiling and made everything fun. Love you MoM forever and always. XoXo.*

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#### **On the Loss of Carolyn White Scofield's Mother**

Our heartfelt condolences to classmate Carolyn "Inky" White Scofield (Lansing, IL) on the loss of her mother, Charlotte White, age 88, who passed away March 7, 2015 in Parrish, Florida. Mrs. White is survived by daughters Sandi, Carolyn (Dave) and one son Jim, 4 grandchildren, and 3 1/2 great-grandchildren. Originally from Chicago, Mrs. White moved to Lansing in 1950, where her father Bill and she owned 2 businesses including The White Pantry, where some of our classmates worked. She will be missed by many.



#### **Paul Jankowski, Jr.**

Mr. Paul Jankowski, 71, our band director at Memorial Jr. High, passed away January 20, 2014, of complications following knee replacement surgery. His home was in Ft. Myers, Florida. Many of us have memories of playing in Mr. J's band. Craig Gutowski, who still displays his battered cornet on a shelf in his Ontario, Canada home, reflects on Mr. J's influence on our lives—

*The reason we all continue to occasionally meet and correspond is because there is a feeling that there was something special in the air we shared in our Lansing*

adolescence. *Yep, you can chalk a lot of that to the tumult of the late 60's. But beyond that, there was a striving for excellence whose origin can be traced directly back to Mr. J ...and spread far beyond the confines of his rehearsal room.*

*Paul Jankowski was young and cool, and he attracted many of us into the band program in fourth grade. By the time we hit Memorial Junior High, we were competing for the number one band in Illinois. Tchaikovsky's Capriccio Italiene, Stravinsky's Firebird Suite, Gershwin's Porgy and Bess....we knocked them all out of the park under Mr. J's deft tutelage. The music he drew from within us was a labor of love for Mr. J.*



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#### Wishing a Speedy Recovery to—

**John Hansen (Bluffton, South Carolina)**  
John writes: I had bicep tendon repair surgery March 6th. I am doing well with PT for six weeks and wearing a sling for a month. Miss playing softball and golf for two months.

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**Happy April Birthday!**  
Dennis Knoerzer, Sue Myers Bredemann, Tom Novak, Donna Nigohosian Magro, Ken Jayne, Bob Ranfranz, Bob Guadagno

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#### Keep in Touch!

To share your news, photos, questions, or reflections on the past, present, or future, email **Team69** at [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com)

And Classmates...Thanks for subscribing to the *Life & Times of the Rebels of '69!*

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#### Subscribe to Receive the Newsletter

It was bound to happen. Our classmate email list got outdated and out of control. So, now we are using the online emailing service MailChimp to organize your data and send out our newsletters. We currently have 114 subscribers! And hope to add many more!

But we need your help to continue to build our list and connect with our classmates. Will you contact those you know who might not be subscribed? You can use the "FORWARD" button at the end of this newsletter to forward this newsletter to classmates and friends of the class.

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