

May 2018

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# Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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

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## Having a Twin Sister, Losing a Twin Sister

by John Link (Illinois)

In Memory of Our Classmate Patricia Link Cox 1951–2018

**Patricia Link Cox** was my older sister by a few minutes. (I always reminded her of that.) We were six weeks premature at birth; she was healthy and I struggled in the hospital for three weeks before they finally sent me home.

Pat was a beautiful girl with a great sense of humor that we shared as twins.



In our early youth, we were very close playmates. I recall long trips in the car where we would take turns lying in the back seat or up on what my Dad called the “poop deck,” the area in front of the rear window. As we got taller, the rear floor was the second bed and not very comfortable.

As we got older and found neighborhood friends, I, of course, would play outside with boys in the neighborhood. Thinking back, all the neighborhood kids on Chicago Avenue were boys. Who did my sister play with? Shame on me for not knowing the answer to this.



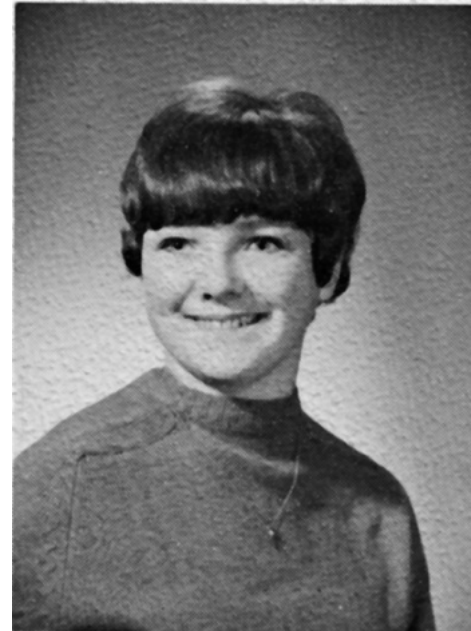
We lived at 173rd and Chicago Avenue. We were the first ones on the school bus to St. John's Lutheran School in the morning and the last ones dropped off in the afternoon. We sang songs on the bus to pass the time. I recall many of them being TV commercial songs and of course Mickey Mouse Club songs. We would get off the bus and run to the house to sit in front of the small black and white TV screen to watch the Mickey Mouse Club. "*Meeska, Mooska, Mousekateer, mouse cartoon time now is here.*" What kids in the '50s and '60s didn't watch that program?

My classmates at St. John's will attest to my growth issue. Pat was always much taller than I. As a matter of fact, all 20 kids in my 8th-grade graduating class were taller than me except for, I believe, Sherry Nondorf Bingham, whom I passed up starting in 8th grade. Finally, in the summer of '67, I flew past Pat on my way to bragging rights. I no longer had to stand on my tippy toes when pictures were taken of the two of us.

At the age of 16, she developed juvenile diabetes, and a few episodes of her going into a diabetic coma during the night were the scariest events I've ever experienced. But Pat was a brave and determined girl, and the only thing that was going to slow her down were our parents, who became very protective of her as good parents would.

She dated the likes of Rich Krilich, Fred Hasse, Joe O'Malley. Dad didn't like any of her boyfriends (just kidding guys). She got married in 1971 to a guy from Dyer named Brooks and moved to Warsaw, Indiana, where they had two sons, Brian and Brad.

Her first marriage didn't work out, but she found the best guy a woman could ask for, Mike Cox. Mike was a police officer, and Pat made a little extra money cleaning homes for clients that she had for many years.



Her struggles with diabetes continued. She had kidney and pancreas transplants, both of which were highly successful. Pat and Mike retired a couple of years ago and were looking forward to enjoying time on the lake in Indiana with the pontoon boat they purchased last year.

On March 14th of this year, Pat had emergency heart surgery to replace her mitral valve and to bypass two arteries. Due to complications with her lungs and inability to breath on her own, other internal organs failed three weeks after surgery. Sadly, on April 9th, she got her Angel Wings.

Pat was my only sibling. After having twins in 1951, I can't blame my mom for not wanting more kids. I love and will miss Pat dearly, but I have one thing I can continue to brag about—I knew her nine months longer than anybody else.





# Classmates Out & About in Their Communities



**Patricia Walsh** (Arizona), Life & Times editor, was invited to a book signing at Barnes & Noble, Tucson, Arizona, in Nov. 2017. Pat's story, "Lest We Forget," is one of 101 stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Military Families*. Pat's story is about her uncle who lies at rest in the WWII American Cemetery in the Netherlands, and the Dutch volunteers who care for the graves of the American soldiers. Pat and fellow Tucson author Linda Jewell also collected donations for Cookie Deployment, an outreach program that annually mails thousands of Christmas cookies to deployed troops.



Twenty-eight photos taken by our Life & Times photo editor **Bill Hutchison** (Indiana) are now on permanent display at St. Vincent Brownsburg Ambulatory Care Center in Brownsburg, Indiana, which opened in Aug. 2017. Bill has been taking photos since his Memorial Jr. High days and now embraces landscape and nature photography as his post-retirement career. "I'm doing what I love and learning all the time."

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## What's in Your Vista, Kathy?



This month's vista comes from **Kathy Orban** (Illinois). Not a vista from the house, but a vista of the house itself—the house the "Kathys built."

Kathy says, "We put every nail and piece of wood into the main house. We started in June 1978 and moved in February 1979. The back overlooks the woods, and we have a wrap-around deck. It is a cedar home, and we still enjoy living here in Macomb, Illinois. Our home is a great source of pride for us."

*Share your vista with our classmates. Send a photo of where you live and tell us what you like about the place you call home. Email your photo to [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com)*

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**TFS '69—50th Reunion Committee Gears Up**





**The first** gathering to begin planning our TFS Class of 1969 50th Reunion was held April 27. Attending (from the left and around the table) were **Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis** (Illinois), **Butch Porter** (Michigan), **John Link** (Illinois) and Peggy Link, **Rich Krilich** (Illinois), **Alan Liptak** (Indiana), Joan Porter, and Patty and **Len Rompca** (Indiana). Also at the meeting was **Carolyn White Scofield** (Illinois), who had to scoot out early.

**The next** reunion planning meeting will be in June, date and place to be determined. If you are interested in being part of the 50th Reunion planning committee, send your email address and phone number to our Class of 1969 50th Reunion committee [TFS69.50thReunion@gmail.com](mailto:TFS69.50thReunion@gmail.com)

**In the meantime**, watch your email inbox for a questionnaire that will help us get your valued and needed input as we plan YOUR 50th reunion!

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### **Happy May Birthday!**

Marlene Koster Taylor, Wayne Wilson, Kathy Orban, Tony Perovich, John Jones, Christine Markiewicz Paryl, Rebecca Bonnar Eck, Kathy Prondzinski Fabanich, Donna Torgerson Clark, Brent Brinkman, Alan Eckhardt, Paul Warn, Christine Nelson Haro, Alan Grudzien, Barb O'dell Johnson, Norma Albertson Koch, Bud Jenkins, Pat Walsh, Maxine Hinze Rogers, Anita Harris O'Dell

### **Classmates Celebrated April Wedding Anniversaries**

Terri & **Jack Yauger** (Indiana)—32 years

**Tim & Linda Kuechle Wells** (Indiana)—46 years

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### **Life & Times Heard from...**

**Chris Markiewicz Paryl** (Illinois)—We enjoy the newsletters. Thanks for all your time and commitment. We are looking forward to my husband Ron's (TFS '68) 50th reunion this year.

**Gina Langbeen Russell** (Arizona)—I would like to update my info for the upcoming 50th reunion. Dave and I moved to Arizona in July 2015. My email address was changed, and I've not been able to keep up with all of your wonderful newsletters! The other day I decided it was "past" time to get online and re-register.

**Lynda Schneider Gleim** (Indiana)—News worth reading. Thanks for your efforts.

**Rich Krilich** (Illinois)—The newsletter and articles are really terrific and are a tribute to your team and the great people of our Class of 1969. Keep up the excellent loving work and effort!

**Grace Demanuele Talbot** (California)—Thank You for keeping us all informed. Great Job. I know it's not easy!

**Darlene Barzda Snell** (Florida)—Thank you for the time you all put into our newsletter. It really keeps us interested in what everyone else is doing now. What an interesting group we went to school with! If there's anything I can do from Florida to help out [with the reunion] I will. So excited to have our 50th! Blessings to all!

### ***Attention 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 Class of '68. [tfs50threunion@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://TFSClassof69.weebly.com) or by contacting us at [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com)

Louise Kohut

Vita Klos

Keith Kieres

Liz Kersten Kocharoff

Patricia Kerr Karasov

Dennis Kane

Karen Johnson Sons

Nancy James Johnson

Linda Illo Faron

Nancy Horvatich Tschischik

Jean Horgeshimer Schwingendorf

Richard Horgan

Jim Hopp

Ralph "Skip" Hoover

## Stay in Touch

Our 220 classmates and "friends of the class" stay in touch by subscribing to our free monthly newsletter. Not subscribed?

Visit our website [tfsclassof69.weebly.com](http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com) or email us at

[TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com)



## May 2018 Life & Times

Editorial: TFS **TEAM69** Communications

Photos: John Link, Pat Walsh, Bill

Hutchison, Kathy Orban

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 [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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