

November 2015



Richie Rebel says, "Thank you for your service to our country."

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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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

Pride and Respect—

My Stepson's Coast Guard Tour of Duty

by **Dave Dickinson** (California)



At the beginning of August 2015, my wife Ellen and I had the pleasure of attending my stepson's retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard. After 20 years in the USCG, Jonathan Boyd retired as a Petty Officer 1st Class. In attendance were many of the Coasties and spouses that worked with him in Coos Bay, Oregon. If that small sampling of young people is indicative of our next generation, then we are in good shape.

Jon had a varied and historic career in the Coast Guard. After graduation from basic training at Cape May, New Jersey, his first orders took him to Eureka, California. Next on his tour of stations was the island of Guam, accompanied by his new wife. While in Guam, he worked on a buoy tender in the South Pacific. From Guam he went to San Francisco and Station Golden Gate. I visited him at that station and was awed by the fact that his mess window looked straight up to the Golden Gate Bridge. Very cool.

Next port-of-call was Hilo, Hawaii, and while there he was ordered to Oahu to aid in the 2001 search and rescue (SAR) of a Japanese student training boat that was capsized by an American submarine. He never told me the details of that call, but I'm sure it's nightmare material. During his time in Hawaii, Jon became a certified EMT. One great thing happened on the Big Island. Jon's son Sean was born.



His next station took him from fire to ice. Stationed in Coos Bay, Oregon, he started his cold weather bases, and had a second child, Samantha. While stationed in Sitka, Alaska, Jon was promoted to Petty Officer 1st Class. The main jobs out of Sitka were SAR and fishing enforcement. While at that base, Jon and two of his USCG friends rescued the crew of a small fishing boat that had capsized in frigid waters. He was then stationed at a series of small LORAN stations, a ground-based navigation system operated by the U.S. Coast Guard. The stations are located on or near the Aleutian Islands, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor.

While serving on the USCG Munro, a High Endurance Cutter, the boat was called in March 2008 to rescue the crew of a commercial fishing boat, the Alaska Ranger. Jon was personally responsible for saving the lives of two crewmen from that sinking boat.

Jon's next station was Seattle, Washington, where he was the FS1 (Food Service Specialist) for the USCG Midgett, also a High Endurance Cutter. One of the prime duties of that boat took place in Central America hunting the waters for drug smugglers and illegal fishing vessels. The crew of the Midgett was responsible for the capture of thousands of tons of cocaine and weed, a boat-load of drug runners, and the capture and sinking of several semi-submersible smuggling vessels. The final port on Jon's tour of duty was Coos Bay, Oregon.



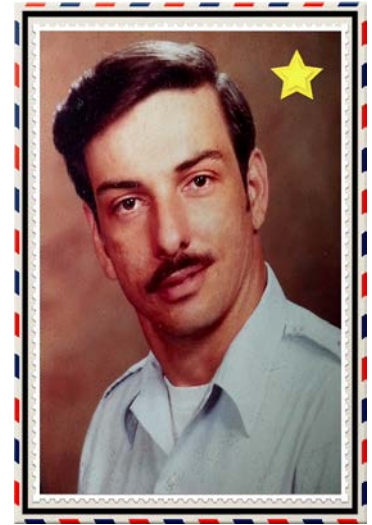
Jon is now retired from the USCG, married to a sweetheart of a girl, raising a Great Dane puppy, and starting a new career in the retail industry. The pride, respect, and love I have for this fine young man is limitless. Jon, to you I can only say, "Thank you for your service."

Four Generations of Military Tradition—

The Hasse and Taylor Families

by Sue Taylor Hasse

As many of you know, my husband and personal hero, T-Sgt. **Frederick P. Hasse** (Kentucky), served with honor and integrity for over 22 years in the U.S. Air Force from 1969 to 1992. Fred enlisted after his 1969 graduation from TF South and served four tours of duty in Vietnam. He retired and moved to Kentucky where we still reside. Fred and I married in 2000, the luckiest day of my life. He is my husband, my soldier at heart, my hero.



Fred's son and my stepson, our precious Sgt. Donald J. Hasse, served in the U.S. Army for 10 years. Regretfully, Donald did not make it home from his second tour in Iraq. He was killed in action 29 November 2005 in Taji, Iraq, by a roadside bomb while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This November is the 10-year anniversary of Donald's death. Donald loved his job in the Army and believed so much that had we not gone to Iraq, Iraq was coming to us with war. Donald served multiple tours overseas, including two tours in Korea. We miss him every day of our lives. He is our Fallen Hero. Rest in Peace, Donald.



The Hasse family goes back two generations of proud military service. Fred's father Frederick D. Hasse served in the U.S. Army in WWII. He served during the Freeing of France as a messenger for Gen. George S. Patton. The jeep he was driving was hit by a missile as he delivered one of those messages to the front line. Fred's dad spent eight months in hospitals in London, England, and Texas. He passed away Our Hero in 2012.



Also, Fred's grandfather Frederick Hasse served in the U.S. Army for three years in WWI.

And there's me, Sue Taylor Hasse. I served in the U.S. Navy for 8 years. I served in a non-wartime capacity, but I was always ready to serve.

Our Taylor family also has a proud tradition of service.

—My brother Sgt. Danny N. Taylor served in the U.S Army from 1970 to 1979.

—My brother Bobby Taylor was a U.S. Navy Radioman, serving from 1968 to 1975. He also served in the uniform of a Michigan State Policeman and Shelby County Sheriff's Deputy for a total of 38 years. He served his country proudly and honorably.

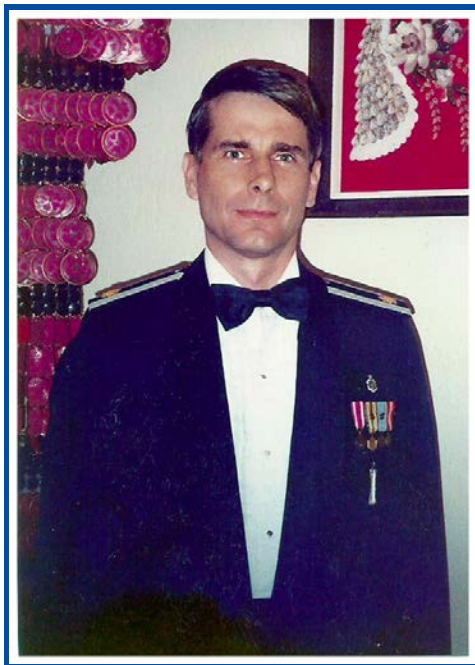
—My brother Cpt .Charlie Taylor served in uniform, too, as a member of the Memphis Police Dept. for 33 years.

—And my first cousin Sgt. Jerry Dean Olds was our first Fallen Hero. Jerry served eight years in the U.S. Army and then re-enlisted as a Sargent in the U.S. Air Force. He was killed in action in Vietnam in 1966.

I take pride in the honor of the service the Hasse and Taylor families have given to our Country. We are a Military Family.



Honoring Classmates and Family Who Served



Maj. Ken Jayne (ret.), U.S. Air Force 1969-1993
Served in the U.S., Philippines, and Turkey

U.S. Air Force

Greg Bossick
Fred Hasse
Ken Jayne
Dale Robinson

U.S. Navy

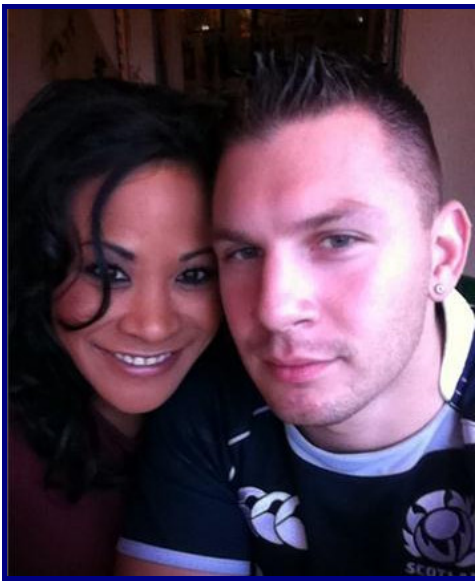
Dean Groom
Mike Wright
Bill Hutchison
Dennis Knoerzer

U.S. Army

John Hansen



Bill Hutchison, U.S. Navy 1969-1971
Served in warm seas of Cuba and cold North Atlantic on AO 97 USS Allagash and AOE 4 USS Detroit



Nikki and Matthew Rompca, U.S. Air Force, daughter-in-law and son of Patty and **Len Rompca**. Airman Nikki served in Korea, Germany, and the U.S.
Sgt. Matthew had tours of duty in Germany, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan. He currently serves in the U.S.

Military Spouses

Maxine Hinze Rogers—Air Force wife
Barbara Homans Schwarz—Navy wife
Carol Noort Jabaay—Army wife

Military Moms & Dads

Linda Westerhoff Norton—3 sons serve in U.S. Military

Laurie McVicker Norris—son served in the U.S. Army

Donna Franklin—son served in the U.S. Army

Dave Dickinson—stepson Jon served in the U.S. Coast Guard

Len Rompca—son Matthew serving in the U.S. Air Force; daughter-in-law Nikki served in the U.S. Air Force

Fred Hasse—son Donald served in the U.S. Army. Sgt. Donald J. Hasse was lost Nov. 29, 2005 in Iraq while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Our apologies to our classmates not included in this honor list. These names are the ones we know. To all of you, we are proud of you, and we thank you for your service. —**TEAM69**

Rebels Remembered



TFS History Project Honors Our Veterans

Our classmate **Dennis Knoerzer** (Missouri) contacted Mr. Christopher Roberts, teacher at Thornton Fractional South, about the TFS History Club project "Rebels Remembered Veterans Project." Here is Dennis's interview with Chris.

Dennis: Chris, could we start by finding out what you do at TFS?

Chris: I am a Social Studies Teacher, Head Sophomore Baseball Coach, and Sponsor of The History Club and Mock Trial.

Dennis: We want to know more about the Veterans project you are heading.

Chris: Sure. The TFS History Club started the project to honor our Veterans. We are calling it the Rebels Remembered Veterans Project. It will be located in the Grand Lobby of the school and will be a Wall of Honor.

Dennis: What does the project include?

Chris: One wall will focus on the TFS graduates who have given the ultimate sacrifice. There are 10 Vietnam casualties. Each one will receive a bronze plaque with their likeness represented. We also have two recent deaths—Phil Martini and Rachel Lacey. The second wall will be an ongoing project of recognizing TFS graduates who served in the military. We will have four plaques covering the different branches of the Armed Forces and their bronze seals.

Dennis: Sounds like an awesome memorial to those who went to TFS and gave their lives in battle. It also gives recognition to those who served. How are you raising the funds to do this?

Chris: We have multiple ways to donate. Our first pancake breakfast in September raised over \$4,000. We are also selling t-shirts at home football games. The t-shirts are \$20 each with all proceeds going to the Wall of Honor. Here's the t-shirt design—

Dennis: Do you have a Facebook page?

Chris: Yes, we do. You can find us on Facebook by searching for Rebels Remembered Veterans Project.



Dennis: How can someone make a donation?

Chris: A check made out to the T.F. South History Club can be sent to me, Christopher Roberts, at Thornton Fractional South High School, 18500 Burnham Ave., Lansing, IL 60438. Eventually we will have a website for donations.

Dennis: Having been involved with the Lansing Veterans Memorial at the Lansing Airport, I know how hard it is to raise funds for any Veteran project. We wish you much success.

Chris: Thank you very much!!



Ask Richie!

Hey Richie—I read the *Life & Times* every month. Can I get the newsletter as a .pdf [Portable Document Format]?—**Keith Gardner** (Illinois)

Richie says—Hi Keith! Great question. **TEAM69** turned to our Technical Consultant **Bill Hutchison** (Indiana) for the answer:

"The free email service we use, MailChimp, will not let us email a PDF file with the newsletter. I post a PDF copy of the newsletter on the class website tfsclof69.weebly.com for those that prefer to read it in that format. There is a problem with the PDF copies on the website though. PDF files require page breaks, and the web format of the newsletter is not in page format. So sometimes images and paragraphs are clipped and divided between two pages on the PDF copies.

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the link in the upper right-hand corner of the newsletter that says *View this email in your browser*. With the newsletter in your browser, go to File in your menu and choose Save as PDF. You'll probably find that under Print. This gives you a PDF version of the newsletter for reading, saving, or printing. Here's a link to get more info on this: <http://www.novapdf.com/kb/convert-a-web-page-to-pdf-100.html> ."

We hope this answers your question, Keith!



"Love Wins" Benefit for Diane Pranske, Nov. 21

Lake Effect with **Dean Groom** and **Bill Hutchison** will be 1 of 5 bands rockin' the roof to raise funds for **Diane Szumski Pranske** (TFS '80) on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Bottoms Up Bar & Grill, 1696 Thornton-Lansing Rd., Lansing, IL.

Diane, of Lansing, was the victim of a very violent crime in September. This benefit will help Diane with her extensive bills, including medical bills, while she recovers. Bill wants us to know that "Diane is a kind and hard-working woman who is loved and respected by all who know her." The benefit begins at 2 pm. Lake Effect plays at 3:30 pm.

Happy November Birthday!

Paul Warn, Barb Homans Schwarz, Craig Gutowski, David Bulla, Donna Zentz Diver, Patricia Bain Mansker, Cindy Graham Kats, Dave Bulla, Barb Elliott Rudow, Diana Steinweg Plese, Dean Danks, Mark Inman

Celebrating October Wedding Anniversaries
Juno and **Marion Luszyk Bunge** (Indiana)—33 years
Bobbie and **Chris Cooper** (Illinois)—38 years

TEAM69 Heard from...

Craig Gutowski (Ontario, Canada): Kudos on the newsletter. Interesting and personal. Cheers.

Becky Bonnar Eck (Minnesota, Florida): Thank you for this month's great issue [October 2015] and all your ongoing work to keep us all connected! It has been fun for me to catch up on folks! Right after graduating from nursing school, we moved away. My folks left Lansing, and I never had contact with anyone from there until the 40th class reunion. I always envied my mother-in-law's "round up" group of elementary school friends that met monthly until their late 80s. Not many of us have that history any more! Hoping to reconnect at the 50th!

Harry Smith (New York): Huge thank you to all who put together the "Life and Times."

Grace Demanuelle Talbot (California): Thank you **TEAM69** so much for putting my travel article together so great! [Touring the American West, *Life & Times*, Oct. 2015] You all do such a great job with the newsletter. I know how hard it is to get info from people at times and then have to put it all together. You guys are amazing!

Sue Taylor Hasse (Kentucky): Thanks for Honoring Our Heroes.

Ken Jayne (Illinois): Thank you for remembering our class Veterans.

Help Us Contact Our Classmates

These classmates are not subscribed to the *Life & Times*. If you are in contact with them, please invite them to subscribe at our website fsclassof69.weebly.com . You can use the **Forward** button below to share the newsletter with classmates, family, and friends.

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Scott Southard
Angie Schurman
Sue Schultz Graunke
Karen Schultz
Dick Schoon
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Harold Rossi
Bill Rosenthal
Jim Roesel
Linda Rodriguez

Jim Robbins
Alan Richardson
Tanya Reynolds Furr
Shirley Reiter Wolstenholme
Patricia Reidenbach Luedtke
Sharon Reid
Bob Regman
Tom Reeb
Marilyn Reading Spencer
Mike Rappatta
Bob Ranfranz

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Mike McNary @comeridethwhale

***Our Mission:* 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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