



# Litton Blast

Isaac Litton High School - Nashville, TN  
Volume MMXX Issue 4 October 2020

*The MISSION of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association is to preserve the rich heritage of our former school, to provide support to the present Isaac Litton Middle School, and be a positive influence in the lives of ALL the children in our community. We do this with effective communication that continually reaches out to bring the Alumni and the community together to promote our programs and services.*

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**PLEASE NOTE: Typically, we collect our Alumni Association dues in June, along with our celebration at the Annual All-Alumni Luncheon in June. Since this did not happen in 2020, please continue to show your support of everything we stand for by paying your annual dues (\$15) and making your donations. Thank you for your generosity and STAY SAFE.**

**MAIL YOUR CHECK (payable to ILAA) or CASH to:**

**ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. BOX 752**

**MADISON, TN 37116**

**(or to Roy "Buddy" Jones, Treasurer, 100 Windham Drive,  
Hendersonville, TN 37075)**

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This has been an unusual year, to say the least, as we find ourselves still dealing with the Pandemic heading into the fall of the year. May this message find you all being safe and wearing your mask when needed. If you are dealing with the Pandemic, I pray for healing and strength as you deal with the COVID-19 virus.

Even though we have shut down much of what we had planned for this year, we are still here serving as your Alumni Board. Thanks to Kitty Woodson ('65) and Kay Cunningham ('64) for putting together our "Un-Garage Sale" this year for our fund-raising opportunity. It has been a great success so far and I will give you the results on our next Blast that is due out in January 2021. So that still gives you time to consider a donation to the Alumni Board for this year!

We find ourselves losing two of our Board members this fall. Kay (Rayner) Cunningham ('64) and Linda (Ivy) Bain ('64) to be with family. I want to thank them both for all the great work and help they have given to the Board over the years and wish them only the best. They will be missed.

I will close wishing my class, the Class of 1970, a Happy 50<sup>th</sup> as we will come together next July to Celebrate as a Class.

**And Remember: "Lion Pride.....It just makes Sense!!"**

**Don Clark (Class of 1970)  
President  
Isaac Litton Alumni Association (ILAA)**

## **So, how goes the UN-GARAGE SALE you ask?**

Thanks for asking. So far, sales have been moderately brisk. But we're still open for business until the **end of the year!**



Remember, all donations to the Alumni Association are completely tax deductible as we are a licensed 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. We want to see your name on our wall. Thanks for anything you can contribute. Send your love (and donation in form of a check made payable to ILAA or in cash form) today to our Treasurer at the following address:

**Roy (Buddy) Jones, Treasurer  
100 Windham Drive  
Hendersonville, TN 37075**

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



## ROCKIN' 'N ROLLIN' WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX

By Larry Collier and Jody Wills

*The following article is dedicated to our Litton sister, Helen Owen, class of 1970. She passed away recently from Covid-19, the first Litton alumnae to succumb to this dreaded virus. She was positive, funny, and was always looking to have fun. Rest In Peace Helen. You left us too soon.*

Remember when society decided what was best for females? In the 50s and 60s, girls had few options and only had basketball in high school as a sport in which they could participate. In popular music, there were plenty of boy bands, but how many female groups were in existence back then? Basically, there were none, that is until 5 Litton girls changed things.

In 1968 Jo Ann (Jody) Wills ('69) wanted to form a rock group. Jody knew she could sit behind a drum kit and not only keep the beat, but acquit herself very nicely as an excellent percussionist.

To find others for her band, she looked no further than fellow classmates at Litton. Helen Owen ('70) could play guitar and sing. Vicki Cook Burgener ('70) could play keyboard. Both of them also wanted to be part of a band. Soon, two more joined them in Lynne Moore Ritter ('70; base guitar) and Jackie Herndon Black ('69; tambourine and vocals). Thus, the Opposite Sex band was formed.

*L to r: Jackie Herndon Black, Vicki Cook Bergener, Lynne Moore Ritter, Jody Wills, & Helen Owen*



They got together and began experimenting with various songs, sounds and harmonies. Practice was held at Jackie's house in the room above her garage, as well as at Helen's house. After much trial, error and rehearsals they began their journey. To show how serious they were, as well as how good they were, they hired a booking agent who arranged gigs from fraternity parties and music festivals to dinner parties and state fairs. Sure they were a novelty, but they were also very good. How did they transport all the equipment? They obtained an old hearse. Nothing was going to stand in the way of the dream these young ladies were going to achieve.



The band even recorded a single, “Thinkin ‘Bout Me, Thinkin ‘Bout You.” It was produced by Shelby Singleton, Jr. and released by Plantation Records.

Lasting impressions from these members abound to this day. Lynne Moore recalls a gig at Jim Reed Chevrolet. It was televised by Channel 5. She said recently, “It felt very big time to me because it looked like a real concert. There were lights and people everywhere. It felt like we were somebody.”



Vicki Cook remembered playing the Music Festival at the bandshell in Centennial Park in 1969. She recalls, “there were people everywhere, even in the trees. It was the biggest audience ever.” Vicki recalls being backstage, “It was the first time we met so many famous people.” At the state fair in Mobile, AL, Jody recalls, “It was packed as far as you could see. We played several songs in the set. The crowd liked “I’ll Be There” so much that they cheered for us to play it a second time and sang along with us.”

Helen eventually purchased a pink paisley guitar, which seemed to set a trend. Today, we can see guitars with similar patterns used by many stars. These girls were simply ahead of their time.

The group had a “one for all and all for one” motto. Said Vicki, “If one got into trouble, we all got into trouble. We took care of each other like we were sisters.” That’s just the Litton way, isn’t it?

The band made sure none of their success went to their heads. They created a bond that hasn’t been broken yet, except for the unfortunate death of Helen Owen. Tears were shared by many on the day the news was announced about her untimely demise. Those of us who knew her will never forget her. Her sense of humor was the “pick-me-up” everyone around her cherished. It was impossible to be in a bad mood for long if Helen was around.

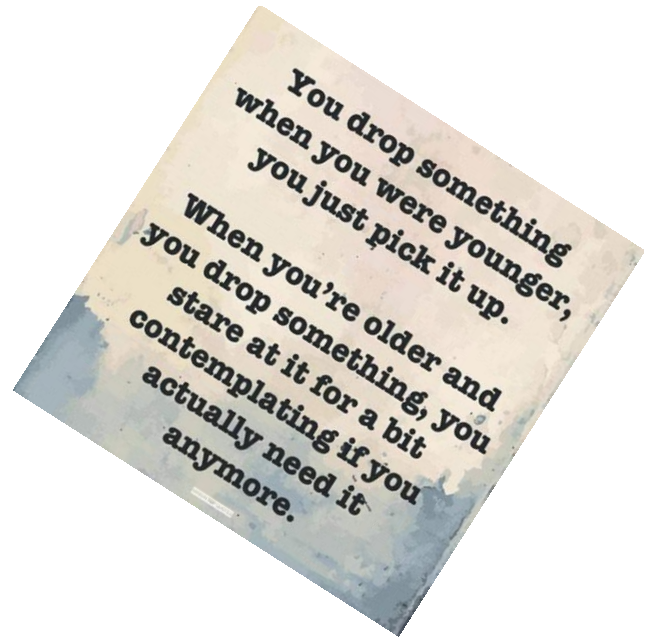
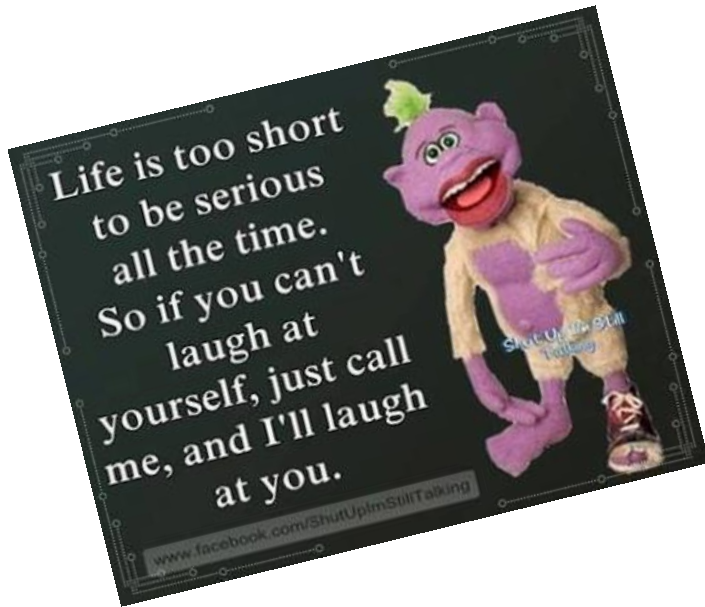
Just as we cherish our memories of good old Isaac Litton High School, so too do these ladies cherish the memories of their days as a band called The Opposite Sex. Also cherished is the sisterhood they still have for one another. Their innovation and drive showed everyone that girls can do anything they set their mind to, just like everyone else. So let us salute these ladies for their courage, motivation and their caring attitude for one another which continues today.

Litton High Forever



*Lynne Moore Ritter, Helen Owen, Vicki Cook Burgener, Jody Wills*

# A Time to Laugh



## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM BACKFIELD IN MOTION:**

Here is a letter we recently received from Todd Campbell, Executive Director of Backfield in Motion regarding what we of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association and our supporters mean to them.

“Dear Isaac Litton Alumni,

As CEO of Backfield in Motion, I cannot say enough about the importance the partnership with the Isaac Litton Alumni Association is to us. This partnership has given us not only a place to keep our kids engaged, but also serves as a HOME for our kids to be a part of. They love being hugged, loved on, and catered to by the members of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association. I hope you know how much it means to them when you greet them at not only Christmas, but anytime they get to interact with you.



In our continued commitment at Backfield in Motion to stay aligned with the curriculum and instruction of MNPS, we are in the process of preparing our program to serve students both virtually and in person. Our goal mirrors that of MNPS, in which we aim to provide high-quality, personalized learning opportunities that support the growth and success of each student. In addition, we will continue our efforts to support the whole child by providing opportunities for their families as well, in such ways as food deliveries, parental meetings offering financial planning and health related practices, and student/parent academic support. We already have a few financial institutions and healthcare providers who have stepped up to the plate to offer their services to our cause, but we welcome any of you who want to support this commitment.



I reach out to you today to ask that you help us in our efforts to keep our students' educational experiences as close to "normal" as we possibly can. It is through your support that you can aid BIM in adjusting our instruction methods and interaction with the students. This year will require more educational services to be provided virtually, which means the need for more internet options, computers, etc. Thankfully, we have supporters who have already provided financial help with some of these things. Because instruction is a moving target right now, we want to ensure we are ready to adjust and that our students continue to see seamless instructional practices from our staff. Also, please know that we employ only certified teachers for the delivery of the core academic areas. Because students will have to do a lot of their work independently until coming back on campus, we are prepared to offer academic help hours outside of our regular contact time with students.



Please visit our website at [www.backfieldinmotion.org](http://www.backfieldinmotion.org) to donate to our program, or you can send donations to our office at 920 Woodland Street, Nashville, TN 37206. Also, we welcome anyone who has a skill set that you think would benefit our students. Feel free to call me directly at 615-294-0302 should you have further questions or ideas that would add to our mission to EDUCATE, ENGAGE, and EMPOWER all the young men of Backfield in Motion.”

Donations can be made to Backfield directly (please note on your check that you are a Litton Alumnus) or to the ILAA (in which case, please designate you want this donation to go to BIM). Thank you for your support.

# NASHVILLE'S LOWER BROAD

By Don Hoover, Class of 1961

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Nashville's Lower Broad  
Don Hoover

Last night I went down to Nashville's lower Broad,  
And man, that place has changed from what I knew,  
Wall to wall people, milling all about  
From the river up to Seventh Avenue.

Whatever happened to our lovely Lower Broad,  
Where drunks and happy hookers did their thing?  
Now the place is covered up with honky-tonk bars,  
And Yankees, dressed like cowboys, trying to sing!

The old Acme feed and grain store is now a honky-tonk,  
And the hardware store sells cowboy hats and boots.  
They've got a fancy restaurant in what used to be a bank,  
They sell made-in-Japan Hank Williams suits.

Growing up it was a place where a man could get a lay,  
Or at least that's what I heard, back in the day.  
Now they play ice hockey in steamy Nashville town,  
And folks rake in a different kind of hay.

A hundred different places tried to copy Tootsie's Lounge,  
And music screams from every open door:  
From the ground floor to the rooftops, and each floor in between,  
Bands play country music through the roar.

The Ryman has a new front door in what used to be the rear,  
But the Opry's moved a few miles up the stream.  
Wannabe country music stars are just as thick as thieves,  
They come to Nashville to fulfill their dream.

Whatever happened to our lovely lower Broad,  
Where drunks and happy hookers did their thing?  
Now the place is covered up with honky-tonk bars,  
And Yankees, dressed like cowboys, trying to sing.

(Update)

Well here we are again tonight down on lower Broad...  
That Chinese virus shut the whole scene down.  
The tourists and pickpockets have scattered to the winds,  
We're all alone here in our old hometown.

What on earth has happened to our lovely lower Broad?  
All the honky-tonks have closed and locked their doors.  
Vince and Brad and Marty play to an empty mother church,  
And the bands, alone at home, rehearse their scores.

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## BAND TRIPS PART II: THE MACY'S PARADE

Contributed by Larry Collier

The year 1964 was quite momentous for the Marching 100+. The year began in the warm sunshine of Pasadena, California, marching down Colorado Avenue in the Tournament of Roses Parade. Eleven months later, the year would be coming to a close as the red, white and blue clad group marched through the cold canyons of New York City's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The large group of Litton Lions boarded 6 Greyhound Buses for the long ride to the Big Apple. Along the way, they made various stops but none as emotional as a visit to President John F. Kennedy's gravesite. It had been only a year since the brutal killing of our beloved president. Though dozens of people were there paying their respects to a great man gone too soon, it was eerily quiet as the eternal flame flickered quietly in the breeze. The rest of the trip was more joyful and uplifting. Once they arrived, they settled in at the Sheraton Atlantic Hotel.

The legal age in NY at the time was 18. Some of the older students were brave enough to go to a restaurant and have a beer with their food. Of course, had they been caught, they would likely have been sent home. This was a school trip after all. But it was just the right challenge for Mickey Collier and Steve Shelton.



One group of band members went for a ride on the Subway. The group included Pam Altrichter, Christie Duke, and Dixie Herndon. The first mistake they made was wearing their majorette jackets with their names on them. The second mistake they made was exiting the subway several blocks into Chinatown. When they got off, some NY guys were calling their names while giving themselves manicures with their knives. The girls quickly ran up the steps and boarded another train which would return them to their hotel. Lesson learned. On the morning of the parade, Carol Draper Bourque, a freshman at the time, was so nervous she was feeling

ill. She was standing in the beautiful hotel lobby trying to find a bathroom. Realizing she couldn't make it, she had a choice: either throw up on the beautiful red carpet or on the beautiful marble floor. She decided that the marble floor could be cleaned much easier than the carpet. So, she let it rip.



*Representatives from Macy's meet with Mr. Swor, Diane Shupe, Patsy O'Connor, Mickey Collier, Brenda Brent and Anita Tune (kneeling).*

While Carol was indisposed, everyone else in the band had already boarded the buses. When she finally got all cleaned up and began to feel better, she strolled out to the waiting buses. Mr. Swor was waiting at her bus with a stern expression that would send shivers down the spine of anyone. She was sure he would remove her from participating for holding up the entire band. When she told him what had happened, and what she had for breakfast which included milk, he warned her to never drink milk before a performance again.

It was quite cold and windy on that Thanksgiving morning in NYC. The best high school band in the land had to rise early before sunrise in order to be in formation for the parade. As they waited in formation to begin their march, many members noticed the musical group from which Mr. Swor became inspired enough to begin Litton's Spanish sound. The group was the Hawthorne Caballeros Drum and Bugle Corp from Hawthorne, NJ. After seeing them at a drum and bugle corp competition several years prior, Swor took on many of their musical selections, wrote his own arrangements, and the rest is history. So being able to view the Caballeros in person was quite a treat.

The parade began and the band marched down Broadway with their window-shattering sound and soon were in front of the national TV audience. The TV commentators were quite impressed with the band's huge sound. *Espana* never sounded better or louder.



*Pictured on the Macy's trip are Debbie Dawson, Nancy Wilson, Kathy Hatcher, Carolyn Sue Cook and Sue Whitaker. Standing are Ronnie Pearson, John Copeland, and Don (Tex) Pate.*

There are surely more stories that could be told about this adventure. These are but a few. Suffice it to say that everyone involved has been forever linked to the Macy's Parade each Thanksgiving. When all band trips came to an end, parents would gather at the school awaiting the arrival of the busses. When each bus would pull into the parking lot, everyone would honk their horns as they welcomed home the very tired band members. The school community as well as the Inglewood community were so proud of all the accomplishments that this great musical organization achieved.



*Christie Duke, Judy Davis and Pam Altrichter lead the Marching 100+ down Broadway.*

In 1964, The Marching 100+ was shown on national TV twice in 11 months. There would be 4 more national TV performances in the coming years. Up next in 1965 would be a performance for a nationally telecast NFL game. That story will be told in another issue of the Blast.

The '50s and '60s were such a magical time for Litton and for the Inglewood community. Those who experienced being the absolute best of the best continue to swell with pride as they recall the sweet memories of their time at Isaac Litton High School as a member of the Marching 100+. We were surely blessed.



## Litton High Forever

**IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN or GRANDCHILDREN,  
YOU CAN RELATE TO THESE . . .**  
**(From Lewis Lampley, Class of 1958)**

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, 'Mom, that lady isn't wearing a seat belt!'

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. 'Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle.'



A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, 'What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?'

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, 'Are you a cop? Yes,' I answered and continued writing the report. My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?' 'Yes, that's right,' I told her. 'Well, then,' she said as she extended her foot toward me, 'would you please tie my shoe?'



While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'



While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased bird. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes.'

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'



**NOW IF THIS DIDN'T BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY,  
GO BACK TO BED AND FORGET IT.**



## LOSS OF A LEGEND WE ALL REMEMBER

Olivia de Havilland, the last living star from the epic film "Gone with the Wind" and the oldest living actor to have received an Academy Award, has died.

The two-time Academy Award winner died "peacefully from natural causes on July 26 at her residence in Paris, France," her publicist, Lisa Goldberg told "Good Morning America."

She was 104 years old.

De Havilland was best known for playing the role of Melanie "Mellie" Hamilton Wilkes in the Civil War drama "Gone with the Wind" -- a role that her younger sister Joan Fontaine had reportedly turned down and suggested go to de Havilland instead. After appearing in "Gone with the Wind" in her early 20s, de Havilland went on to star in dozens of movies and TV shows.



She was often paired with Errol Flynn, starring opposite him in eight films, including, "Captain Blood," "The Charge of the Light Brigade" and "The Adventures of Robin Hood."



De Havilland won two Oscars, for 1946's "To Each His Own" and 1949's "The Heiress," making her and her sister Fontaine the only siblings to have won lead acting Academy Awards (Fontaine won for 1941's "Suspicion"). The reported rivalry between the sisters, born 15 months apart, was considered something of Hollywood legend.



British actress Olivia de Havilland sits for a portrait session, circa 1935.

Olivia Mary de Havilland was born July 1, 1916, in Tokyo to British parents. Her parents, Lilian Augusta, a former actress, and Walter Augustus de Havilland, an English professor and patent attorney, divorced when de Havilland was three, and she moved with her mother and sister to Los Angeles.

Both sisters expressed an interest in acting but de Havilland broke into the business first after she was spotted in a community production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." She later appeared in the Warner Bros. film version of the play and was signed to a seven-year contract with the studio. De Havilland famously challenged the rules of the studio system in court and won, changing the way performers were treated thereafter.

She made her final appearance on camera in the 1988 TV movie, "The Woman He Loved," before stepping away from the spotlight and enjoying a quiet retirement in France.



"The Woman He Loved" in 1988 with Jane Seymour

## NOW YOU KNOW –

Q: Why are many coin banks shaped like pigs?

A: Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made with a dense orange clay called "pygg". When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as "pygg banks." When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a bank that resembled a pig. And it caught on.

Q: Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called "passing the buck"?

A: In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility, he would "pass the buck" to the next player.

Q: Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

A: It used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would then just touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

Q: Why do ships and aircraft in trouble use "mayday" as their call for help?

A: This comes from the French word m'aidez -meaning "help me" -- and is pronounced "mayday,"

Q: Why are zero scores in tennis called "love"?

A: In France, where tennis first became popular, a big, round zero on scoreboard looked like an egg and was called "l'oeuf," which is French for "egg." When tennis was introduced in the US, Americans pronounced it "love."

Q: In golf, where did the term "Caddie" come from?

A. When Mary, later Queen of Scots, went to France as a young girl (for education & survival), Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scot game "golf." So he had the first golf course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot and when she returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into "caddie."

Now YOU know!

## CURRENT ILAA BOARD MEMBERS (2020-2021)



**President**

Don Clark  
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Dc925@comcast.net



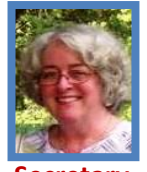
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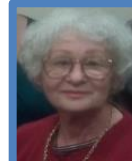
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Bill Beck, Honorary  
(Non-Alumnus)

# *GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN*



*July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020*

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DATE OF DEATH</b>
44	ELAINE LAWRENCE COLBERT	September 5, 2020
49	MARY EVALYN COWAN BROWN	July 2, 2020
52	EVERETT WAYNE EVANS	July 30, 2020
53	MARTHA JEAN CLARK COOKE	August 22, 2020
53	MARY LOU HAVERLY BUCHANAN	August 24, 2020
54	LURA ANN MORGAN CAMMUSE	September 9, 2020
55	ROBERT JOSEPH YOUNG	July 18, 2020
57	DORIS JEANETTE MEGUIAR PRITCHETT	August 24, 2020
58	SAMMYE JANE WOMACK MORRIS	August 29, 2020
59	JAMES RONALD (JIMMY) SUMMERS	August 31, 2020
59	ROGER GORDON SIMPKINS	August 25, 2020
65	GARY ALLEN GATLIN	July 18, 2020
65	WILLIAM DUNCAN HAGEMEYER	August 3, 2020
66	DONNA MARIE PERRY REEVES	August 23, 2020
68	JOSEPH CARROLL BOYCE	September 9, 2020
70	HELEN FAYE OWEN	July 13, 2020

**NOTE: Due to the publication deadlines for each quarterly issue of the BLAST, the names of those departed alumni received after the 25th of the quarter will be included in the next issue. Please send us any notices as soon as possible, Thank you.**