



# Litton Blast

Isaac Litton High School Nashville, Tennessee

Volume MMXVI Issue 4

October 2016

## IN MEMORIAM – COACH BOB CUMMINGS

By Larry Collier



Legendary Litton football coach Bob Cummings passed away September 4, 2016. He became head coach of Litton's football team in 1947 after former coach Marshall Foster stepped aside due to health reasons. While Mr. Foster would become principal at Litton, Coach Cummings would become a legend. Litton was just another high school at that time but soon thereafter, Coach Cummings put our grand school on the map. The late Henry Bledsoe (class of '52) wrote that Coach Cummings not only produced championship football teams, he had a huge "influence on a lot of young people who became outstanding adults later in life." No other public high school in Nashville could match the longevity of winning which Coach Cummings created. His record during his tenure at Litton was 58-13-3 and came against the toughest schedule year after year of any other school.

It wasn't simply that he won a bunch of games and championships. It wasn't simply that he required maximum effort. It wasn't simply that he demanded near perfection from his kids. It was the way in which he went about doing all those things. Bledsoe said, "No matter how many laps or wind sprints you had to run or how tough the practices were, you never wanted to disappoint Coach Cummings, whether it was in a practice or on Friday night."

By staying calm and stoic, Coach Cummings could get his point across in a way that motivated his players to do exactly as he wanted. He was not only a coach. He was a molder of men. The players could feel the love of this man to the point that they would freely run through a brick wall for him if ever asked. His players believed in him, respected him, trusted him and loved him. Many viewed him as their second father. Whatever Coach Cummings asked of his players, they did their best to give him.

The late John Gordy (class of '53) wrote this: "As far as Coach Cummings is concerned, you can't meet anyone who played for him or came in contact with him that is still not talking about how he challenged all his young men, not only as football players, but as men who must take responsibility for their actions and must approach everything in life with dignity." Gordy shared that he (Gordy) was a kid who had not played any high school

sports. Then one day, Coach saw something in Gordy that even Gordy had no idea was there, and that day changed Gordy's life forever.

Probably the most famous game in Lion history was the game against state powerhouse Oak Ridge. On October 17, 1952 the Big Blue travelled to Oak Ridge to take on the top ranked team in the state. After a long bus ride (remember there was no interstate system back then), the Lions arrived only to receive startling news. Litton hero Kenneth Duke had been killed in action in the Korean War. After having received the news, Coach Cummings announced it to the team prior to the game. Stories of the effect of Coach Cummings' pre-game speech have been handed down for generations. It's a shame there were no reporters or cameras there to capture it. It must have been one whale of a speech. The inspired Big Blue went out and handed Oak Ridge a huge loss by a score of 47-19 in front of at least 9000 fans (some estimated 11,000), 2000 of whom travelled from Nashville to watch this historic game. As for the pre-game speech by Cummings, Lion great George Volkert (class of '53) was quoted in the local paper saying, "After Coach Cummings finished talking to us, someone asked me a question. I tried to answer but my throat was so tight, my voice wouldn't respond. Everyone's eyes were filled with tears." In the remaining 4 games following the Oak Ridge game, only 1 touchdown was scored against the mighty Lions.

Across the state, sports reporters took note of the perfection which the Lion eleven achieved against Oak Ridge. Here are some quotes from east state sports writers: "The Nashvillians captured the fancy of the east state sports writers who denied to the man that they had ever seen a high school team obtain such perfection." One east state reporter described Litton's performance as "a wall of blockers that cleared a path of highway proportion." Another wrote, "Litton's performance was a perfect display of colorful football."



Some 70 years later, Coach Cummings' former players continue to speak in reverent tones about what he meant to them. He taught them so much more than just football. He taught them about life. Without the use of humiliation, sarcasm or curse words, he motivated his charges to achieve more than they ever thought was possible. One reporter once called him one of the most feared coaches in the NIL. In summary, he put Isaac Litton on the map.

A celebration of life was held September 18 at Lions' Hall in the old gym. Some 200 people attended the celebration and told many great stories. Former players and coaches from Litton, Beech, Hendersonville, and Vanderbilt spoke glowingly of Coach Cummings and described how much he meant to them. It was a great tribute to a great man.

We, the alumni of Isaac Litton High School, are forever grateful to Coach Cummings for coming our way, for teaching us to always give our best effort, and to always do so with class. He is responsible for creating much of the tradition of excellence that we came to expect from Isaac Litton. On behalf of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association, we offer our heartfelt condolences to Coach Cummings' family. Moreover, we thank his family for sharing this great man with us.



# ANNUAL ISAAC LITTON ALL CLASS PICNIC



Saturday, October 8, 2016 at 4:00 PM

Winingham Farm, 400 St Blaise Rd

Gallatin, Tennessee

Directions From Nashville: I-65 N to Hwy 386, Vietnam Veteran's Parkway. Exit 14 right onto Greenlea Blvd. Turn right on Little Drive (just before the sign that says "Green and Little"). Continue on this road and go under the railroad and the bypass. The road name changes to St Blaise Road.

Winingham Farm is directly on the right after going under the by-pass.

Directions From Gallatin: Take 31-E (Nashville Pike/Gallatin Rd) toward Hendersonville. Turn right on St Blaise Road (at light opposite Fairvue) Continue to stop sign and turn left. Go under railroad and bypass. Winingham Farm is directly on the right after going under the by-pass..

**Bring plenty of food to share, lawn chairs, and your  
fellow Classmates**

# MNPS Sports Hall of Fame Inducts Bobby Tillman

By Larry Collier

In the spring of 2005, the Metropolitan Nashville Public School Sports Hall of Fame inducted Litton great Bobby Tillman. As a little boy, I remember watching Tillman play for the Boston Red Sox on TV. He was the catcher for the Red Sox. The story on him below has been taken from the program at the hall of fame ceremonies.

## John R. (Bob) Tillman

*Isaac Litton High School  
Class of 1956 - Inducted Posthumously*



Bob Tillman was a triple threat at Isaac Litton High School, playing and excelling at football, basketball and baseball. In football, he was named to the All-City, All-State and All-American teams. In basketball, he earned All-City and All-State Tournament Team honors. In baseball, he was named to the All-City team two years and was chosen NIL MVP for two years.

Tillman was captain of the freshman basketball team at Georgia Tech and played quarterback on the MTSU football team. Later, Tillman played for several professional baseball teams, including five seasons with the Boston Red Sox, one season with the New York Yankees and four seasons with the Atlanta Braves.

Tillman was married to Delores and enjoyed fishing and playing golf. His brother, Jamie Tillman, high school principal at Montgomery Bell Academy, says of his brother "He excelled in football, basketball and baseball; he was a natural athlete."



# Litton Wins 1966 State Track Championship

By Larry Collier ('69)

Fifty years ago on May 22, 1966, Isaac Litton's best track team in the history of the school won the state track and field championship. In a memorable performance, Jerry Ballou led the mighty Lions with blistering performances in the 100 yard dash and the 220 yard run. He matched his own state record in the 100 by speeding down the track in 9.8 seconds. Given that the weather did not cooperate, with a steady rain and storms in the area, and given that the meet was held on a cinder track, one must wonder what his time would have been in good weather and if run on the modern tracks of today. Some figure it would have been in the 9.5 to 9.6 range.

In the 220 yard run, he obliterated state records with a 20.6 time. However, because of a 7 mph wind, it was disallowed as a state record. The Tennessean counted his 220 time as an NIL record since the NIL had no such rule regarding the wind.

Herbert Patterson scored the other individual victory for the Lions with a win in the 880 yard run, covering the route in 1:58.5. Litton Coach Richard Hewitt said, "He (Patterson) just got out in front and dared anyone to pass him. It was a victory that put us over the hump." For the Lions to have any chance at the state title, Patterson had to win his event. He reassured his nervous coach with this remark before the race: "Don't worry Coach. I'll win it." He proceeded to do just that.

Bobby Petty also scored points for the Lions with a second place finish in the pole vault. Petty cleared the bar with a jump of 13 feet, 4 inches. Petty was the first man to break the old TSSAA record of 13 feet, ½ inch. However, he was bested in the finals by an athlete from Oak Ridge.

Harold Patterson also earned points for the Lions by coming in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the mile run. The Nashville Banner's Edgar Allen called the Patterson twins "gritty" after their determined performances.

At that time, Litton was the only NIL team to win a state track championship besides East, who won the title in 1959 and 1960. A jubilant Coach Hewitt had this to say after receiving the state championship trophy: "I can't tell you how happy I am. Jerry (Ballou), of course, is a fantastic little athlete who runs one time a week (He played baseball as well). He's not only a runner with great speed a boy who will compete. But, how about the run Herbert Patterson made? It was sheer guts."

Ballou was named NIL Trackman of the Year. He also made the NIL All-City baseball team that same spring. He was truly a remarkable athlete, which is why he is in the Metro Nashville Public Schools Sports Hall of Fame.

In an article by Jimmy Davy of the Tennessean, Ballou was called the NIL's best sprinter ever. Davy said Ballou's record in the 220 will "stand for years." What a year it was!

In addition to the state championship, the Lions won the Banner Relays, and were runners-up at the Optimist Invitational Track Meet. The team brought home lots of hardware and added significantly to the record books. At season's end, the team had broken 28 records and tied one. The records were:

11 school records , 4 District 3 records, 3 Banner Relay Records

4 NIL records, 3 Midstate records, 3 Optimist Relay records, 1 State record (tied)

## Track Records Set in 1966

100 Yard Dash	Jerry Ballou	9.8 seconds
220 Yard Dash	Jerry Ballou	20.7 seconds
880 Yard Run	Herbert Patterson	1:58.5 minutes
880 Yard Relay	Ballou, Petty, Smith, McDonald	1:32 minutes
Mile Run	Harold Patterson	4:32 minutes
Low Hurdles	Dwaine Kirby 15' 10"	21.2 seconds
High Hurdles	Dwaine Kirby	15.6 seconds
High Jump	Herbert Patterson	15' 10"
Shot Put	Bonnie Sloan	50' 1-1/2"
Pole Vault	Bobby Petty	13' 1/2"



**Jerry Ballou is shown shooting past Pearl's John Smith in the record breaking time of 9.8 seconds.**

### STATE CHAMPIONS

**L to R: Bobby Petty, Jerry Ballou, Herbert Patterson, Harold Patterson, Eddie Smith, Bonnie Sloan, Chris McDonald and Stuart Byrom. Back Row: Mike Edwards, Tommy Hooper, Ronnie Spurlock, Tommy Fite, Mark Accas, David Eubank, David Collins, Phil Taylor, Randy Boyce, Wilburn Bates, Wayne Hobdy, Jerry Proctor, Larry Emery, and Ronnie Merville.**



## TEACHER TRIBUTE

Coach Richard Hewitt



In March, Coach Richard Hewitt celebrated his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Coach Hewitt served as Litton's last football coach from 1961 through the 1970 season. He also coached the men's track team, B-team basketball and served as the official score keeper for home basketball games.

To celebrate Coach Hewitt's birthday, well wishes were posted on Litton Alumni's Facebook page. Over 125 alumni responded. Some of the alumni who sent best wishes to Coach Hewitt were Sherrie Sanders Hamer, Beth Watkins Luttrull, David Eubank, Herbert and Harold Patterson, Mac Carney, Wayne Phelps and Sue Stevens.

*Coach Richard Hewitt proudly displays the championship trophy from the 1966 state track meet*

Under Hewitt's leadership, the Lions played in the 1966 Clinic Bowl, the last team from Litton to participate in the biggest high school bowl game in the state. One of his teams also played in the first live telecast of a high school football game in history, when the Lions faced Madison. Perhaps the crowning achievement of Hewitt's tenure was when his 1966 track team won the state championship. This was the best track team in the history of our great school. At the time, only one other NIL school had won the state track championship before Litton. What an accomplishment it was!

Coach Hewitt continues to live at home under the watchful eyes of his children, Danny and Lee Ann. We salute Coach Hewitt and send him belated birthday wishes.



COACHES: Jim Younger, Richard Hewitt, Charles Cate, James Boyd, Wayne Forehand

# DRAWERS OF DRAWERS

By Lewis Lampley (Class of 1958)

I would just like to comment on those that have served in our military in regards to this narrative. I could never compare my service with those that survived or died in circumstances beyond imagination. All I had to contend with was the tropic heat and the usual sprinkling of flakes that are there no matter where you do. I just wanted to do the best I knew how and somehow avert the ranks of the flakes. Upon return to the states, there were six men on the ship awarded letters of commendation for their service while in Vietnam and I was fortunate to be one of the six.

In the fall of 1964, I was stationed in Long Beach, California aboard the USS Guide, an ocean going minesweeper. In the presidential race of that year, we had the choice of Lyndon Johnson or Barry Goldwater. Since Johnson had committed to not get us involved in Vietnam, I made a point to vote for him even if I did have to do it by absentee ballot. As everyone knows, Johnson won the election. He was inaugurated in January and on a Monday morning in early April, we were given notice that we would be leaving for Vietnam the following Monday morning. We could only tell our immediate families as this was top secret. Could our president have lied during his campaign? NAAAAH!

Now, a week is not a very long time to prepare for months at sea, especially since I was looking at this with almost landlubber eyes as the longest I had been at sea at this point was five days. That was going to change really quick as it was going to take ten steaming days just to get to Hawaii and an additional sixteen days at sea to get to Guam and on to the Philippines and Vietnam from there. It helps to understand some things about the ship. It was constructed of wood and had a crew of 66. The crew had a saying that the ship would fall apart if the termites ever quit holding hands. If we remember our high school physics, wood is not magnetic and a magnetic field is not something desired when trying to sweep magnetic mines. At 172 feet long, this was the smallest ship the Navy sent across the ocean. You could actually feel the ship move while tied up at the pier. In Vietnam waters, our job was to search sampans and junks around the coast in our assigned patrol area and seize any weapons found. (A navy book concerning local definitions gives this info about boats: if a water buffalo couldn't ride sideways or even make the trip in the boat – it was a sampan – otherwise, it was considered a junk.)



But pertinent to this story is the water supply. Ships while at sea have to generate fresh water by evaporation. And the evaporators on these ships were notorious for not being able to keep up with the demand. Since water for drinking and cooking is an absolute need, other uses for water were curtailed. Water for showers is not an absolute need. Water for washing clothes is not an absolute need. Therefore to ensure a supply of water for necessities, the showers and washing machine (yes, singular as in one washing machine) were secured upon leaving port for any length of time at sea (in short, this means no washing clothes for extended periods while at sea and no showers until water hours – really minutes – were declared.

Just so you know, a Navy shower on board ship bears no resemblance to a shower we take in our homes. To simulate a Navy shower aboard ship: renovate your bathroom (and henceforth always refer to it as the “head”) by building a wall across the middle of the bathtub (shower stall) and move the showerhead to chest level. When you take a shower, make sure you turn the water off while you soap up. Turn on water, wet down, turn water off, soap up, turn on water to rinse down! This would be a Navy shower. Hollywood showers are showers that last more than one minute with the water on during the entire duration. It is guaranteed to get you royally chewed out to take a Hollywood shower while at sea under any conditions.

The uniform of the day while in Western Pacific tropic waters was T-shirts, jeans (or shorts or even a Navy bathing suit as long as you had on a T-shirt) and shower shoes. The low temperature at night was 86 degrees.



Air conditioning? You gotta be kiddin'! People literally slept all over the ship as the lower berthing area was stifling. (Just a side note, a crew member missed muster one night. This particular man was notorious for getting sea sick after the ship would just get out of the breakwater. It was feared he was lost overboard and the entire ship was searched. He was finally found sleeping on the fantail – rear of the ship). The forward berthing area had better ventilation but I was in the lower berthing area and I only went there to get to my locker. A common thought among crew members was that it was time to get a bath when you smelled a goat behind you and there was no goat there. "Marine showers" were always an alternative – that is a spray of deodorant under each arm. Since none of this appealed to me, I managed to bath every night (how this was implemented will not be discussed here – bird bath might give you an idea while using enough water to shave.)

Now bathing without clean under clothes is the same as not bathing to me. And since I couldn't get around the washing machine obstacle and we would be continuously at sea for over 30 days, I needed lots of underwear and T-shirts (drawers). I sent mail home asking my wife for more drawers. (Mail service was pretty good – while in Vietnam, all we had to do to send air mail home was to write "FREE" where the stamp went.) She lovingly responded by going out and buying me some more drawers. While she was at it, she made 2 packages – one with homemade fudge and one with the drawers. At the post office, they told her the packages would go through just fine with special handling which would be much cheaper than air mail especially since it was overseas. She could have written "FREE" in the upper right hand corner as long as she covered it up with the right amount of stamps. The "FREE" thing was a one way deal. In the meantime, the ship returned to Subpic Bay in the Philippines and I availed myself of the opportunity to buy some more drawers at the Navy Exchange.

Back at sea and on patrol – a package came through via the supply ship and high line transfer. I opened the package with anticipation and it was the package with the fudge. The fudge was great but I still needed more drawers. Either the post office or the Navy must have considered the fudge as deserving special handling but not the drawers. So I sent off another letter asking for more drawers. I don't know how many supply ships came with no package of drawers nor do I remember how many letters I sent off asking for drawers. I do know that at some point the package of drawers came through. Gratefully, I sent off a letter thanking my wife for the drawers. In the meantime, my wife grew tired of the requests for more drawers and she went out and bought some more drawers. She tenderly wrapped the package and went to the post office and mailed the package – this time by air mail. She left the post office and went home and opened the mailbox. She pulled out a letter that had "FREE" written in place of a stamp. Lo and behold, it was a letter thanking her for sending the underwear – ugh, drawers. I had enough drawers that I could go over 2 months at sea without having to wash any drawers.

The picture below is of moderate seas as there are no whitecaps nor breakers and the ship in in a "moderate" roll. With that in mind, you may well understand that a clean set of drawers could come in handy at most any time in rough seas (would you believe a 53 degree roll to just one side during a typhoon?). One other thought: be careful who you vote for as they may leave you with any drawers for your drawers. But would they lie to us? NAAAAH.



# THE LITTON BLAST FROM THE WAR YEARS OF WWII

By Larry Collier ('69)

Recently, I was given many copies of the Blast from the uncertain years of World War II. In this and future issues of the Blast, we will revisit some articles from those years. You will find some humorous, some touching, and some that are relevant for today. We hope you enjoy this look back at a much earlier time in our grand school's history.

## "Home," An Editorial from Martha Forehand, October 12, 1942

Now that the war has hit us and put us in a very bad way, just what does home really mean to you and to me? Are we grateful that we can come home from our day's work in the fields, offices, factories, and sit down in a big soft chair, and read the newspaper or listen to the radio?

Take the Smiths for instance. There they stand, hand-in-hand in front of their home, watching Junior, their three year old son, play in the sunshine. Are they secure? What will Junior's future be? Will he go to college or to war to fight for what we hold high? But at the present all three are happy. Why? Because they still are under Uncle Sam's wing being protected from all the dangers of war in the distance.

But, let us journey across the waters to China and visit the Wan Langs in Chunking. Yes, they too were once a free people, but what wrath has been brought down upon them? A bomber came roaring down one night and bombed the beds right out from under their very bodies, tearing and ripping their little home to bits. Their son? He was crushed to death under the falling ruins of their cottage. Their lives were saved, but much more had they wished that God would be merciful and not let them have to live in this blood and death. The Wan Langs are at this very hour starving to death, while some of us, I'm afraid, curse the waiter because there's not enough butter on our steaks. What are the Wan Langs' future? That's a question that only God Almighty can answer.

But, back to America. Take all the Smiths, Jones, and all the other loyal Americans; tell them this story about the Wan Langs. What's their expression? Fear, dismay, and anxiety? "How can we help this," they ask. We are the ones that have to stay at home, we aren't able to fight.

Listen America, physically you may not be able to fight, but spiritually we can battle our foes. PRAYER. That's what we need, people to get down on their knees and thank God that they are Americans and are free to do what they please. Pray for Johnny Doughboy who is over there giving all he has, including his life, for us. And lastly, pray for Victory...Victory over our deadly enemies who are so brutally killing our boys. We can win with God's help, so America PRAY!!

## "Litton Salutes Service Boys," Written by an unnamed student October 12, 1942

Litton is very proud of her boys who are now in the service but she must pause in her pride to mourn for her brave boys who have given up their lives for their country. It has been suggested by several teachers including Mr. Carney (Principal) that we should establish something in their honor and memory. Miss Rice, the Home Economics teacher, and Miss Stroud, the new art teacher, are now at work making plans for a design of a scroll. The names of the boys who were former students of Litton and who have lost their lives in this war will be inscribed on it.

Mrs. Clark's history classes are beginning a scrapbook containing clippings about all Litton students who are in the service. She urges all who have any clippings or pictures of the same to bring them to her.

The Honor Society is going to make a large poster with pictures of these boys. The poster will be arranged in some convenient place so that all who come into the school will be able to see it. This will serve as a service flag for Litton.



**We would love to hear**

***Your Story,***

**about memories from high school or about your life since then. If you have a story or photos to share here in the BLAST, submit them to the Communications Committee**

**[kayc1107@comcast.net](mailto:kayc1107@comcast.net)**

# LEAVE A LEGACY . . .

## BUY A BRICK

**HONOR A LOVED ONE, COMMEMORATE A SPECIAL EVENT,  
SUPPORT A GROUP OR BUSINESS**

Anyone wishing to become a part of our community's Litton Alumni Gymnasium fund-raising effort can support the worthy endeavor by purchasing a Legacy Brick and endowing that brick (or bricks) with a simple enduring message. Litton Supporters, thank you in advance for your generosity and shared vision.

Each engraved brick costs \$60 to help pay for the cost of the engraving and upkeep of the Memorial Wall. Investments in this campaign may be characterized as a charitable contribution pursuant to Section 162 of the Internal Revenue Code. Please consult your tax adviser for specific reporting requirements.

Make check payable to Isaac Litton Alumni Association and mail completed form to:

**MELINDA HOFFMAN  
859 Sugar Flat Road  
Lebanon, TN 37087**

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### PERSONALIZED ORDER FORM

Purchaser's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**INFORMATION TO BE ENGRAVED:** (Maximum of 3 lines, 14 characters or spaces per line.)

Line 1

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Line 2

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Line 3

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No more long waits. Bricks will be engraved within a few days from order date (weather permitting) by our provider and Inglewood neighbor, Hunt Memorials.

**DATE OF ORDER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK #:** \_\_\_\_\_

# News From The Middle School



September 2016

## Cookies!



It's fall fundraiser time! We are selling Little Lambs Cookie Dough again this year. The sale runs through Sept 7th and our goal is to sell 1,350 boxes. We will be using monies raised to help fund educational software, athletics, related arts needs, and Celebration Day. This type of sale allows us to involve neighbors and extended family in supporting our school and it's a good opportunity for budding entrepreneurs to test out their sales skills. Cookie Dough prices range from \$16-\$18 per box of 48 cookies. They are great for a party or you can heat one at a time if you want. Auntie Anne's pretzels and Cinnabon Gooey Bites are also part of the sale for \$18 and \$20 per box. There are awesome prize incentives for selling. Students get a snack pack coupon from Wendy's and Arby's by selling just 2 boxes. Sell 5 and you get a free admission to Beech Bend Park and the snack pack coupon. Sell 8 boxes and you get the first 2 prizes plus admission to a pizza party at the school. For selling just 10 items, students get a pass to go into the Video Game Trailer, plus the pizza party, Beach Bend pass, and snack pack coupon!!! Also, top selling boy and girl in each grade gets a Beech Bend Family 4 pack pass! Great places to sell cookie dough? Your neighborhood, church, work, grandparents, and friends. **EAT MORE COOKIES AND SELL MORE COOKIE DOUGH!**

## Classroom Dreams!

Hey parents, we are doing something new to support our teachers this year. As you know, the PTSO provides each class level with funds the teachers can use as they see fit. This year, we have asked our awesome teachers for their LIST OF DREAMS for their classroom. We have started by creating a wishlist on Amazon (Isaac Litton Teacher wishlist) which will be updated as we receive new requests. Maybe your company has a couple of great speakers they would like to donate to Ms. Saxon's class room? That book shelf you've been meaning to put in a yard sale is needed in Ms. Slater's class. Here are a few more things our teachers would like to have: membership to study.com; a printing press, ink and linolcum tools; set of nice Nystrom maps, a laminator, and a document camera. We are still in the process of sourcing all of these items and will pass them along to the Litton community. We appreciate your support of our teachers.

## Box Tops!

SAMs Club has what you need! Gather your Box Tops and turn them in for a chance at a Kroger gift card that will be given away in the month of September! Simply put the Box Tops in a zip lock bag with your child's name and grade. We will draw for the gift card September 30th! Good Luck!



## Invest In Our Pride

The 'Invest in our pride' fundraiser is going strong.

Please remember to fill out the form and send it back to school with your students. Any amount is appreciated.

Monies raised go to our athletic departments, teacher class funds, special programs and scholarships. Our goal is \$7,500 or \$15 per family. Please consider giving to Isaac Litton in this way and we'll do the heavy lifting!!



When you enter this loving school consider yourself one of the special members of an extraordinary family

## We Need YOU!

We are looking for a few good parents...

### → President Elect

- Spends a year in training to prepare to take on all responsibilities as the President in the following year.
- Helps guide and direct all Committees
- Acts as a liaison to the Litton Alumni Association

### → Community Sponsors/Grants

- Works to develop community sponsors to aid the PTSO in meeting its goals.
- Plans quarterly community partners events
- Assists grant writers with possible needs

Please send us an email if you have any questions about either position or if you're ready to get started! [littonptso@gmail.com](mailto:littonptso@gmail.com)

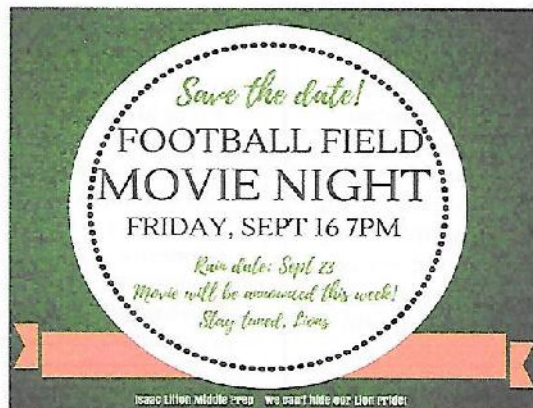
## School Spirit Nights

School spirit means representing your school proudly through behavior that paints our school and community in a positive light!

School spirit is a fun, key part of the middle and high school experience. The Isaac Litton PTSO wants take the lead this school year and host School Spirit Nights for all ILMP Athletic Teams!

One Soccer, Volleyball and Football home game will be designated School Spirit Night. It will be a fun and an exciting night to show our Soccer, Volleyball and Football teams love. Don't worry, Winter and Spring sports will have School Spirit Nights too! The schedule dates will be coming soon... Any parents interested in being apart of the School Spirit Night Planning Committee, please email [LittonPTSO@gmail.com](mailto:LittonPTSO@gmail.com).

**Movie Night!**



### **PTSO Members**

Brooke Bell	President
Cari Sands	Past-President
Heather Naaktgeboren	Secretary
Melissa Moss	Treasurer
Missy Smith	Assistant Treasurer
Robert Cassell	Communications
Jenny Wagner	Membership Coordinator
Claudia Schenck	Parent Teacher Coordinator
Liz Eskridge	Hospitality
Kathy Frost	Cookie Dough Fundraising
Mindy Hansen	Pridewear Coordinator
Obbie McCrary	Corporate Fundraising
Andy Schenck	Academics Chair
Amy Stewart	Invest in Our Pride
Stacy Wilson	Community Chair
<b>VACANT</b>	President Elect
<b>VACANT</b>	Grants and Community Fundraising

## ILMS Pride wear



Pride wear will be available for purchase EVERY Friday from 8:40 - 9:30 in front of the office.

Checks should be made out to ILMS PTSO. Parents can bring a credit/debit card. New colors for the 2016/2017 school year will be available in September!

## Mark Your Calendars

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Intramural

**September 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**  
NO SCHOOL!

**September 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Progress Reports Issued

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Intramural

**October 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**  
1st Annual Lion's Den Volleyball Tournament

**Spirit Night Games**  
**\*\*All games start at 4:45pm\*\***

Volleyball - September 14<sup>th</sup>  
Football - September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Soccer - September 27<sup>th</sup>



## THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

By Carol Draper Bourque (Past President, ILAA)

On September 15, 2016, Phil and I had the honor of meeting with Brooke Bell, President of PTSO, along with Claudia Schenck, President-Elect for the PTSO, for dinner. Our meeting was in our continuing effort to foster the relationship with the parents, teacher, and students at the Middle School. As our Mission Statement indicates, we have the opportunity as the alumni association to continue our legacy by passing along our rich heritage to these students, along with doing what we can to make a difference in their lives. I think in reading the following letter from Brooke that you will be surprised as Phil and I were to hear some of these statistics. In talking with them, we both realized that most likely the alumni are unaware of these as we both were. I asked them if they would put into writing some of the data, plus the needs of these children so that we might pass this info on to our alumni association.

### **A word from the Isaac Litton Middle School PTSO President Brooke Bell:**

ILMS has enjoyed the support of the ILAA for several years, and we cannot express how grateful we are for everything you have done for the school, its students and faculty. Last year you donated \$2,500 to support the Band Competition and the athletic department is currently looking forward to a new concession stand - just to name a few ways you have helped. With our mutual goal of supporting the students and faculty at Litton, we have formed a great working relationship, and there is a lot more to do.

Did you know that:

- 61.48% of the student population is economically disadvantaged (students qualify for free and reduced lunch)
- 2.05% are English Language Learners
- 17% (about 80 students) live in a shelter or transitional housing program, on the couch at a friend's or family member's house because they do not have a house of their own. Some live in a motel or campground because they cannot find or afford housing; some live in a car, abandoned building or a place not normally fit and designed for sleeping
- Isaac Litton is an open enrollment school with 475 students from more than 20 elementary schools across the county.

The PTSO is working on many different initiatives to make a marked improvement in the academic performance of our students, provide resources for families as well as support our teachers. This year we have asked teachers for their list of dreams for the classroom. Many asked for basic things like their own classroom printer, a laminator or office supplies. We have also received requests for a printing press, wireless remotes, yoga mats and more. If you would like to help us make our teachers' dreams a reality, please contact Claudia Schenck at [ilmsteamparent@gmail.com](mailto:ilmsteamparent@gmail.com) or 615-336-5646.

Another opportunity is the support of private music lessons for band students and helps with musical instrument rental fees. Please, [contactlittonptso@gmail.com](mailto:contactlittonptso@gmail.com) for more information.

I hope to meet many of you at one of our community events. Please save the date for our first Community Breakfast on Wednesday, October 26 at 8 a.m. at ILAA Gym. Bring a friend, grab some coffee and find out how you can get more involved. We cannot imagine better friends and supporters than Isaac Litton Alumni. We can't hide that Litton Pride!

### **Submitted by Brooke Bell, President of the Middle School PTSO**

I would like us all to see the bigger picture of these students needs beyond the financial needs which are pretty apparent from reading the data above. Yes, donations are certainly welcome and much needed, but I would like us all to consider that it is a lot more than that. It is the one on one personal relationship that could make the most difference for these children. We have a very talented alumni base of people that I am sure to look for ways to give back to the students and community. As you can see from the needs of these students, having retired teachers or others who are willing to work with some of these students could make a huge difference in their lives. Through these encounters with students, this will also provide us the opportunity to share our stories and heritage of our beloved Litton. If you are looking for ways to be involved or give back, you need to look no further than our back door.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol D. Bourque

## *Communication Corner*

### ***What Your Fellow Alumni Would Like to Share***



If your class has plans to use the gymnasium facility please make your reservations early. The procedure for reserving this area is found on our website under the tab "Reserving Gym". Contact is Donna Summers Smith, Secretary of the ILAA.

#### **Current Reservation(s):**

**Date: Sat, Dec 3, 2016 at The Lions Hall Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Description: Class of 1966 Christmas Luncheon**

**Reserved by Wayne Parker, (615) 758-3280, [fwparker4545@gmail.com](mailto:fwparker4545@gmail.com)**



# REJUVINATING OUR LIONS DEN & LIONS HALL

By David Brawner (Class of 1968), Committee Chairperson

There has been a considerable amount of activity with the building and grounds in the past weeks.

**Photos showing some of the damage to our Lion's Den, home to memories and mementos so dear to us all.**



**Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools** has completed some water damage repairs to the building, including drywall repair and paint in the boardroom and Lions Den, replacement of the damaged ceiling tiles in Lions Hall, Lions Den, and boardroom, along with steam cleaning of all carpet.

Additionally, the committee hired a company to strip and wax the floor in Lions Hall. We have also had the restrooms thoroughly cleaned.

Work has also begun on the large band composite that was not covered under our insurance policy. The pictures that hung so proudly throughout the area currently are in the process of being scanned and re-colored.

Payment was made by our insurance company for all of the dry goods cleaning and restoration (uniforms, jacket collections, etc.). Additionally, our adjuster is recommending to the insurance company to pay for all of the damage to approximately 27 class composites

that were water damaged. We expect this payment soon. There are over 20 other framed items that are in the hands of Belle Meade Framers. Some of the remaining pieces that will be addressed are new board room furniture, display cases, payment for personal time spent by our members, etc.

We held a special workday on Saturday, August 6. At that time, the items that had been stored in a closet were moved back into the Lions Den. Also, the dry goods were delivered by the restoration company. Having these items returned, we were able to begin a major effort to restore the room to its past condition. Linda Ivy Bain, Chairperson of the Memorabilia and Lions Den Committee, worked long and hard to bring it back. She was assisted by too many people to list, but they are all recognized and appreciated. A special thanks to Mary Ann Baker, who was able to provide priceless information on the history and location of many items. Also, Mickey Collier's wife, Pat, helped immeasurably and has now earned her designation as an honorary Litton graduate.

**After much dedication and hard work by so many people,  
our Lion's Den is ready to be enjoyed anew.**



# Gone But Not Forgotten



Alumni Who Have Passed July 1 – September 30, 2016

*Please notify us of any alumni that you know of who have passed.*

[jerry@isaaclittonhighschool.com](mailto:jerry@isaaclittonhighschool.com)

CLASS	NAME	DATE	AGE
46	EDNA EARLE SMITH PHIFER	07/23/16	88
47	HELEN ERLE GRIZZARD CLARK	07/30/16	86
47	RUFUS ALBERT LONG	08/15/16	87
48	AUSTIN GARLAND DAVIS	08/13/16	88
50	MARY ANN FARRAR LIBHART	07/03/16	85
50	BETTIE ANN WILLIAMS WATROUS	09/10/16	84
53	JAMES DERO WILLS	08/24/16	82
55	EVAN HOOPER NICHOLS	08/27/16	79
59	PATRICIA HUTSON BARRETT	08/22/16	74
60	BRENDA BISHOP CARTER	09/09/16	74
64	VIVIAN BURGESS LAKEBRINK	07/18/16	70
64	DAVID WAYNE ELKINS	09/01/16	69
69	SAMUEL THOMAS JUDD	07/20/16	64
70	ARTHUR WAYNE FISHER	07/22/16	63

# From Our President Phil Watts



Dear Alumni,

Your Board of Directors has been quite busy since the fantastic Alumni Luncheon at Bluegrass Country Club in June.

By the way, I understand we will be returning to that venue earlier in June 2017, and you will not want to miss that time together. Now, I would like to update you on what has transpired since the last edition of the Blast.

In this issue, you will find a report from President-Elect Dave Brawner which will describe the progress made in restoring Lion's Hall and Lion's Den following two interior floods from a water fountain in the gym and one exterior flood from surface water which entered our domain following heavy rains. Through the efforts of many, I am delighted to report that our place will be better than ever. We are waiting for the damaged composites to be restored and returned which will complete this often frustrating task.

All Alumni should be happy to know that our relationship with Litton Middle School has never been stronger than it is today. A concession stand for the football/soccer field is currently being constructed and will be delivered to the site in a few weeks. The students and administration at LMS are excited about this addition to their athletic program and are grateful for our financial support of this endeavor. Additionally, we answered the call for additional financial assistance from the LMS football coach whose program was in dire need of upgrades to uniforms and other equipment. We partnered with the PTSO at LMS and Meigs to make this happen, and I am delighted to tell you that Coach McMillan will field the largest number of players (42) in his tenure at LMS.

Backfield in Motion remains another organization which is most grateful for our assistance. As you know, the program occupies Lion's Hall five days a week while school is in session and periodically during the summer months.

Once again, we will seek to assist BIM in their Christmas for Kids campaign. Last year, Isaac Litton Alumni donated \$11,600 to help fund the shopping trips for the BIM students. As we approach the Holiday Season, you will receive a letter from your Board of Directors soliciting your support for this program. Please consider making a contribution to this worthy cause and let us all make it our goal to better last year's effort.

The Alumni Picnic is scheduled for October 8th at 4:00 pm. Once again, Drew and Judy Maddux will welcome us to Winingham Farm. We are hopeful that this picnic will have the largest attendance in the history of the event. More information can be found in this issue of the Blast. Please make every effort to join your classmates for a time to remember.

Finally, let me conclude by telling you how honored I am to serve as your President. I am so grateful to be surrounded by the most incredible Board of Directors. Each Board member brings a unique talent to the Board and truly wishes to serve at the highest level. I am blessed by each of them, and I am blessed by each of you. Let us never forget the special bond we share. Litton High Forever!!

## ILAA BOARD MEMBERS Updated 09/06/2016

<b>NAME</b>	<b>HOME PHONE</b>	<b>CELL PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>
Watts, Phil (President)	824-7464	406-3276	phil.watts.b1ye@statefarm.com
Bourque, Carol Draper (Past President)	824-7423	943-2267	carol@xk3.com
Brawner, David (President-Elect)	587-1908		dfbrawner@gmail.com
Smith, Donna Summers (Secretary)		519-2854	ilhsclassof70@yahoo.com
Hoffman, Melinda (Treasurer)		513-1156	Joemellebanon@hotmail.com
Andrews, Kaaren	228-4050	497-2164	kaarena81@comcast.net
Bain, Linda Ivy	347-7446		bain37122@comcast.net
Benz, Jack	859-4720	482-4327	jackbenz@comcast.net
Binkley, Ricky	851-9155	337-9529	ricky.binkley@comcast.net
Caldwell, Jim	851-4245		jimcaldwell12@bellsouth.net
Clift, Jimmy	373-0077	714-7381	jmclift@comcast.net
Collier, Mickey	347-7839		mickey4vols@comcast.net
Cunningham, Kay Rayner	712-8238	788-0060	kayc1107@comcast.net
Dean, Howard (Skip)	822-1167	430-1266	skip@deanskitchencenter.com
Eubank, David	739-4390		deubank1@att.net
Fogarty, Joyce Wray	865-0746	419-4089	joycefogarty@icloud.com
Halliburton, John	390-0901		John.Halliburton@tn.gov
Sullivan, Lou Flippen	876-4711		lsully1123@comcast.net
Woodson, Kitty Kincaid	957-3587		kittywoodson@gmail.com



Isaac Litton Print by Phil Ponder