



# Litton BLAST

Isaac Litton High School, Nashville, Tennessee

Volume MMXV, Issue 04

January 2016

## SUCCESS STORY: WILLIAM WIGGINS

(Adapted from MNPS Achievers Publication)

Nashville Symphony timpanist William Wiggins' success story is a cheerful narrative intertwined with Metro Schools.

Wiggins is a Metro Nashville Public Schools alum. He was a student at Dan Mills Elementary School and went on to Litton, which at the time was a junior high school and high school. He graduated from Litton in 1964. He was also one of MNPS's own - a Metro Schools' teacher.

Wiggins taught 5th and 6th grades for the school district before he went permanently with the Nashville Symphony. His wife, Gay Hollins-Wiggins, is a MNPS music teacher at Westmeade Elementary School.

"Metro (Schools) has been a part of my life since I started school," said Wiggins, who is also an associate professor of percussion at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music.

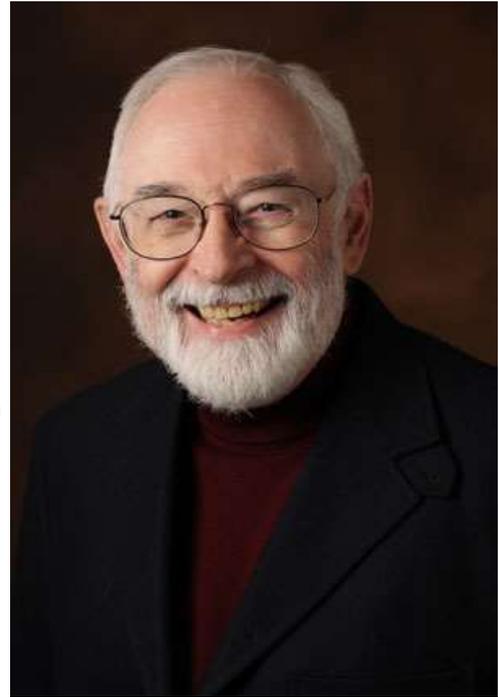
"My mother was a highly respected principal at Julia Green; my younger sister spent her career teaching in Metro Schools," he added "We're all very involved in public education; we have a deep affection for Metro Schools."

Wiggins' mother taught him to play piano at an early age. Wiggins was a student at Dan Mills when John Kline, who at the time was the band teacher and also played for the Nashville Symphony, introduced Wiggins to drums. Wiggins took to the drums at Litton under the direction of Sammy Swor, band director extraordinaire and a revered figure.

Wiggins performed with the Isaac Litton High School Marching Band, which was selected to perform at the Tournament of Roses Pasadena, CA, in 1964. Wiggins called it a forming experience.

Wiggins went on to Peabody College and graduated with a degree in elementary education. Meanwhile, Wiggins, still a student at the time, was playing for the Nashville Symphony as needed and at other venues in 1967.

Soon after, Wiggins was teaching at Westmeade and later at Cora Howe. The symphony signed him to a contract in 1968. He was teaching with Metro while also playing with the Orchestra.



Bill Wiggins

"I taught general classroom subjects and was the music specialist," he said. "I taught singing, vocals and a small group that performed."

After four years of teaching, Wiggins left Metro Schools to pursue music as a full-time career. He was appointed to the Principal Timpani position in 1969 when his teacher and mentor, Farrell Morris, left the Orchestra. Wiggins started teaching at the Blair School of Music in 1973, developing the undergraduate percussion program when the school merged with Vanderbilt.

"My plan was to return to Metro. I feel very fortunate to have been able to carve out a career in my hometown," he said. "It's not usual in the orchestra business to do that. I have been very fortunate and I am grateful."

## The Smith House Restaurant in Dahlonega, GA

*by Jim Cherry (Class of 1957)*



You may have heard of the World Famous Smith House Restaurant in Dahlonega. My late wife, Glennon, and I stopped there for lunch and discovered they have a few sleeping rooms and they had a cancellation, so we cancelled our reservation at the Hampton Inn in the next town and stayed the night at the Smith House. We found out later they are usually booked up for a full year. It was very nice, clean and rustic.

Other than touring the gold mine and former US Mint, the highlight of the evening was that

the Lumpkin County High School class of 1948 was holding their 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. I think there were nine of them plus spouses and significant others. We sat in the rockers on the porch and enjoyed the antics of the "old" class members as they "frolicked" around the yard. I tell all this to say, that in just one year my Class of '57 will be those "old" people "frolicking" in the yard. Time flies when you're having fun but in spite of the fact that the Golden Years have turned sort of Brassy for us, it's been a real hoot.

## Communication Corner

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



### **Class of 1966 Functions Have Been Scheduled**

A class reunion is scheduled on June 10 and 11, 2016. Then on December 3, 2016 the class will have their Christmas luncheon. Wayne Parker is the class contact who is coordinating these functions. Contact him for further information.

All gymnasium reservations previously handled by Ted Wynne are being handled by Donna Summer Smith. Send request to Donna at [ilhsclassof70@yahoo.com](mailto:ilhsclassof70@yahoo.com)

**Notify us of your special occasions and social events and we will post them for you!**



**WHY IS PAYING MY ALUMNI DUES SO GOSH-DARN IMPORTANT?  
WHAT IS MY MONEY USED FOR and WHY SHOULD I CARE?**

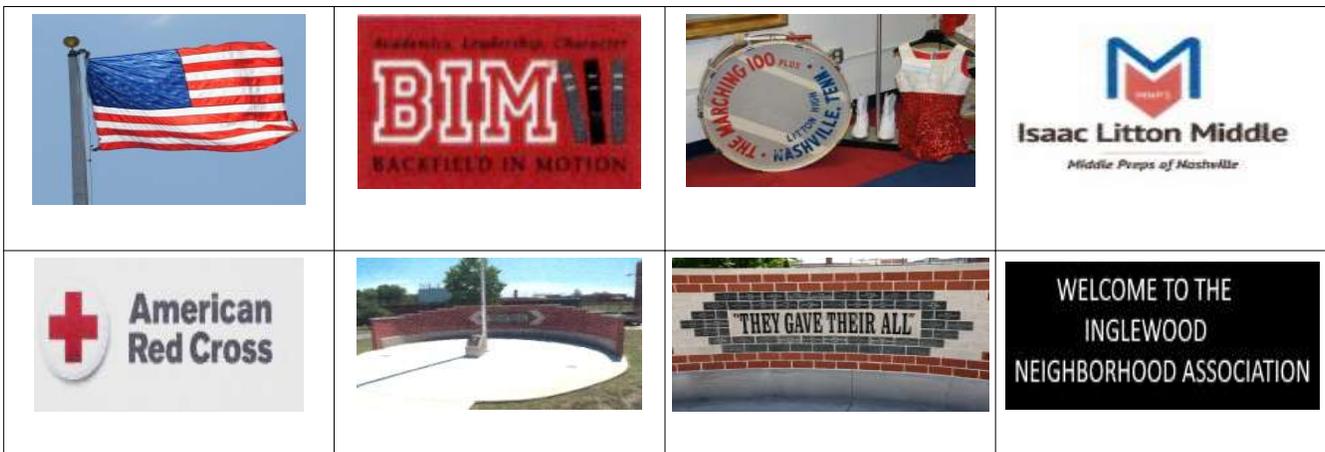
Alumni dues and generous donations from loyal supporters like you are the key to our success and make it possible for the ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION to continue our services to the community, the Isaac Litton Middle School and all of our Alumni.

Our revitalized gymnasium building serves as a meeting place for our alumni holding class reunions, for the community and neighborhood associations to meet and find solutions to the many problems facing some inner-city areas today, and also houses the “Lion’s Den”, a fully viewable area filled with memorabilia from the proud 40+ year history of ISAAC LITTON HIGH SCHOOL.

Additionally, the Alumni Association is very proud of the recent designation by the American Red Cross to be a “mustering” location in the event of a community disaster. When the situation requires our neighborhood residents to evacuate their homes for any reason, the American Red Cross will set up a “command center” in our Lions Hall to serve the purpose of assigning these displaced community members to the appropriate facility to best assist them. (While they will not be housed or fed at our facility, the Red Cross has deemed this as a vital step in their ability to quickly help those in need.)

Of special focus for the ILAA is the participation in the BACKFIELD IN MOTION (BIM) PROGRAM. BIM is a nonprofit organization that combines academics and athletics to inspire inner-city boys to reach their maximum potential in order to become significant contributors to society. Funds provided by the ILAA are used to support tutorial programs offering academic remediation and homework assistance for these, Nashville’s most vulnerable youth. BIM, in partnership with the Isaac Litton Alumni Association provides a permanent facility to offer the classes at our Lions Hall, in the lower level of the gym.

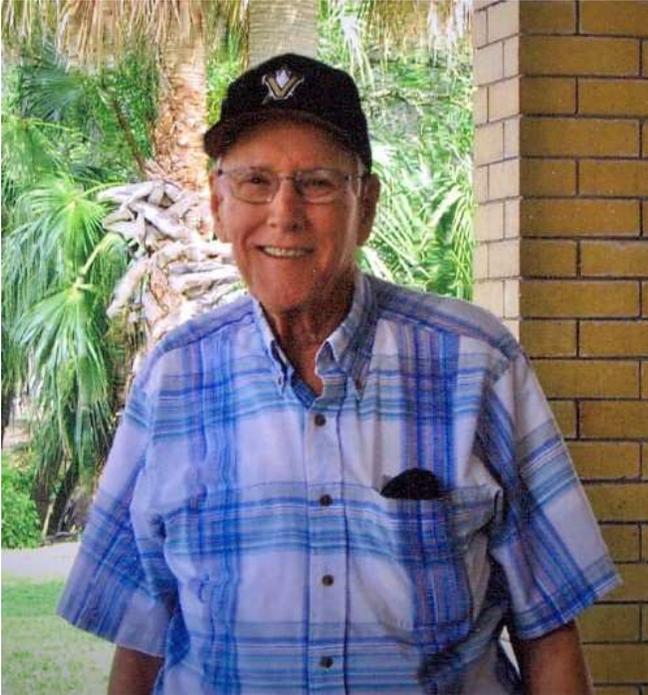
And, in keeping with the Mission of the Alumni Association, our aim is to be a positive influence in the lives of ALL the children of our community by continuously reaching out to bring the alumni and community together.



# TEACHER TRIBUTE

William Harold Gibson

*by Ellen Estes Gibson (ILHS, 1962)*



William Harold Gibson is a native Nashvillian, born Dec 18, 1925. He lived within walking distance of downtown, so he and his buddies used to walk to movie theaters for Saturday matinee where they showed B Westerns. When he was seventeen he joined the Navy because his older friends were joining or being drafted into the Army. His dad, who was in WWI would not sign permission for him to join, so William forged his father's name. From the very first night that he arrived for training in San Diego he knew he had made a mistake! He served in the Pacific on the USS Minneapolis, a heavy destroyer.

When the war ended he returned home and went to college at MTSU, having finished high school studies in the Navy. After he graduated from MTSU, he taught a year in Ducktown TN. The next year he was employed by

Davidson County Schools, and taught 8th grade at Inglewood Elementary. When Litton Junior High opened in 1954, he moved there to teach for 6 years. Then he moved to Litton Senior High, teaching American History and Sociology. He says he and Mr Byrom used to walk around campus in the summers, and they could hardly wait for school to start back because they loved teaching so much. The parents were supportive of the school, and the students did what they were asked to do. Those were the days!

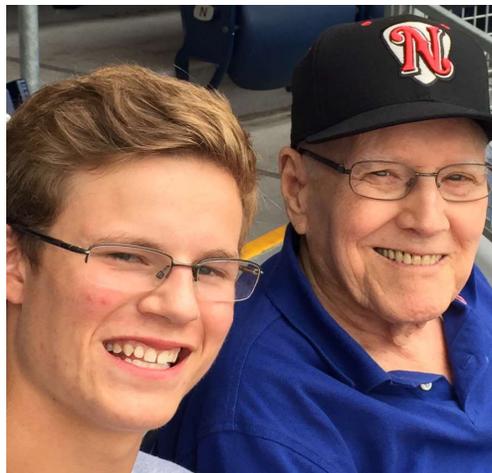
After teaching 6 years in the senior high, he transferred to the central office as an attendance teacher (truant officer) for 3 years. His favorite story about that was paying a visit to a family to see why their son was absent from school. The father said that he knew the son was in school that day, so Mr Gibson called up the school to tell them. While he was on the phone, the son, who had been hiding in the attic, came crashing through the ceiling. That ended the visit!

In the Fall of 1969 he went to Antioch High School as Assistant Principal, where he remained for 20 years until his retirement in 1989. Since then, he and Ellen have enjoyed traveling and watching baseball and news channels on TV.



William and Ellen have two daughters, Nancy, who lives with husband Patrick Miller in Clarksville, and Lisa, who lives with husband David Greene about three miles from Ellen and William. Nancy has two sons, Patrick, soon to be 18, and Connor, soon to be 12.

William also has a daughter Teresa and son Mark from a previous marriage. These children are not pictured.



Patrick with grandfather Mr Gibson at a Sounds game

Ellen and William live in west Wilson county, off of Saundersville Rd by Old Hickory Lake.

Their address is: 770 Vanderbilt Rd  
Mt Juliet TN 37122  
Phone: 615-754-4017

Mr Gibson would love to hear from former Litton Lions, so drop him a line or give him a call.



The **ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** is working very hard to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of our proud history. There are several committees that address this goal. Please consider volunteering for one or more of these committees. (You do not need to be a Board Member or be available for regular meetings to be a volunteer. As a volunteer, your contribution would be in voicing your opinion and utilizing your talents in one of the areas of involvement of your choosing.) Please review the list of committees and contact any Board Member for more information on how you can

## **VOLUNTEER**

THANK YOU

### **MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE (MC):**

Purpose: The purpose of the merchandise committee is to replenish, inventory, and track/oversee the sale of merchandise.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH (CO):**

Purpose: The purpose of the Community Outreach Committee (COC) is to seek ways we can assist other organizations within the community in efforts to benefit the children of the community as a whole. This committee will serve as the liaison between the Board and any organization we serve.

### **MEMORABILIA/LIONS DEN (MLD):**

Purpose: To collect and organize items of interest and memorabilia pertaining to the history and legacy of Isaac Litton High School; to provide historic insight to those interested in our heritage and role in the community over the years.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (CC):** Purpose: The purpose of the CC is to ensure that all communications from the ILAA are clear, concise, and professional, being distributed accordingly in a timely manner.

### **CLASS REPRESENTATIVES/MEMBERSHIPS (CRC):**

Purpose: The purpose of the Class Representative Committee (CRC) is to ensure that the most current information for all alumni is available for distribution or other use as needed, as well as help direct Class Reps the best and most professional way to communicate with their classmates.

**FUND RAISING/EVENTS (FE):**

Purpose: To lead the board in efforts that attract money and services needed to carry out the mission of the organization.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (NC):**

Purpose: To nominate a Board for each term who will support and actively participate in ILAA Board meetings, activities, and serve on various committees, as stated in the By-laws and to present these names to the Board for vote and approval resulting in the election the officers who will serve for the upcoming term.

**GROUND/FACILITY (GF):**

Purpose: To insure that the building and grounds are maintained in a suitable condition for the intended purpose of the building. To assure that the building, use, maintenance, scheduling and security are thoroughly maintained and communicated to all concerned parties.

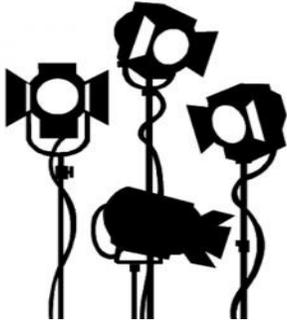
**ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE (AYC):**

Purpose: To select an Alumni who has distinguished themselves in any one or a combination of the following

- Distinguished professional achievement
- Distinguished leadership
- Service to Isaac Litton
- Loyalty to the ideals of Isaac Litton
- Positive representation of Isaac Litton
- Service to community

**BOARD fo DIRECTORS**

NAME	AREA CODE 615		EMAIL
	HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE	
Bourque, Carol Draper (President)	824-7423	943-2267	carol@xk3.com
Clift, Jimmy (Past President)	373-0077	714-7381	jmclift@comcast.net
Watts, Phil (President Elect)	824-7464	406-3276	phil.watts.b1ye@statefarm.com
Smith, Donna Summers (Secretary)		519-2854	ilhsclassof70@yahoo.com
Hoffman, Melinda (Treasurer)	257-1228	513-1156	Joemellebanon@hotmail.com
Andrews, Kaaren	228-4050	497-2164	KaarenA81@comcast.net
Benz, Jack	859-4720	482-4327	jackbenz@comcast.net
Binkley, Ricky	851-9155	337-9529	ricky.binkley@comcast.net
Brawner, David	587-1908		dfbrawner@gmail.com
Burrow, Emily	855-1884	957-9507	lolly843@aol.com
Caldwell, Jim	851-4245		jimcaldwell12@bellsouth.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
Fischer, Harvey		497-3479	louis.fischer@farmersinsurance.com
Fogarty, Joyce	865-0746	419-4089	joycefogarty@icloud.com
Kimbrough, Charles	824-9377	584-2600	charleskimbrough@comcast.net
Parrish, Shirley	855-1177	830-6532	mrsjcp1@aol.com
Ridings, Mary Virginia Irwin	855-2573	390-2037	maryridings@att.net
Trebing, Thomas	292-8585	557-3133	TomTreb@Trebing.com



# COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

In each issue of the BLAST, we will “spotlight” one of the many committees operating under the auspice of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association. Each committee has its specific purpose and operations procedure, with the goal being that they all work together in a cohesive and progressive unit to hold high the values and heritage of the Alumni Association and its members.

The Board of Directors of the ILAA eagerly welcomes new members to the Board or as a **volunteer** on any of these committees. If you want to become involved either on the Board or as a committee member, please contact any current Board member or the Chairperson for that committee. You do not have to be a board member to serve on a committee.

---

## ILAA COMMITTEES: PURPOSE AND OPERATIONS

### ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR COMMITTEE (AYC):

Kay Rayner Cunningham, Chairperson

Phone: 615-712-8238

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

Melinda Hoffman

Phone: 615-513-1156

Email: [joemellebanon@hotmail.com](mailto:joemellebanon@hotmail.com)

Jerry Newman

Phone: 256-355-8369 or 615-666-7424

Email: [jerrynewman58@gmail.com](mailto:jerrynewman58@gmail.com)

The criteria for selection of the Alumnus of the Year include but are not limited to any one or a combination of the following:

Distinguished professional achievement

Distinguished leadership

Service to Isaac Litton

Loyalty to the ideals of Isaac Litton

Positive representation of Isaac Litton

Service to community

There is only ONE Alumnus of the Year; other alumni who have earned special recognition throughout the year may be presented with recognition certificates (TBD).

Nominations: All graduates of ILHS are asked each year to nominate one (or more) persons who they think will meet at least one of the criteria above. This request (and the designated format on which to make nominations) will be presented to alumni through any or all means of communication available between the AYC and the alumni (email, USPS, the ILHS website, the BLAST publication, and/or class representatives). The AYC will close and review the nominations approximately two months prior to the annual Alumni Luncheon. The AYC will make their selection. Then it will be the duty of the AYC Chairperson to notify the winner in writing (as directed by the Communications Committee) that they were selected Alumnus of the Year.

The winner will be asked to designate someone to accept on their behalf should they be unable to attend. The AYC will proceed to have this name added to the award plaque listing past recipients (which will be on permanent display in the Board Room), and an award certificate will be prepared and presented to the winner to keep in his/her possession.

On the day of the Alumni Luncheon, the AYC Chairperson or Board President will announce the chosen Alumnus of the Year, at which time the recipient may make remarks of acceptance (if so desired), thank you, etc.

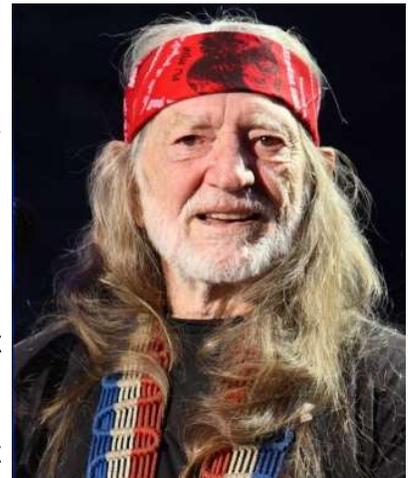
The winner will be encouraged to invite friends and family to attend to see them receive the award, thereby creating more revenue and excitement about and for the Alumni Association.

---

## Willie and His Fans

by Donna Yeaman Hiller (ILHS, Class of 1958)

Happiness Is.....a Willie Nelson concert! Misting rain fell all evening, but when Willie's on stage, the Chastain Amphitheatre in Atlanta is packed with his "wild and crazy fans". Of course, my friend, Ardean West and I pretend not to be in that category.... but we dress appropriately! (The headbands came off after the guy sitting next to me took our picture.)



We have seen four of Willie's concerts in the last three years.....the first one was a night when the city almost flooded, but the 'faithful' didn't stay home and miss the 'happening' at Chastain. At the end of that concert, Willie walked along the edge of the wide stage, bending over to shake hands with every fan who had managed to be standing there all night. I don't know what Willie is 'smoking,' but it must be healthy because now at 82, he's still performing almost two hours without a break.

When the lyrics are slow, his voice is weaker, but he can still belt out the fast ones, and strums those guitar chords without a trace of arthritis.



Ardean West & Donna Hiller

This night, he sang "Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Cowboys"---thank you to our own Patsy Smithson, (Class of 1958) for that song. According to Michal Maunsel Boyle, everyone in Austin, Texas loves Willie Nelson --he never turns down a request to perform for benefit concerts.

From the Opry to the Opera.....next week the Atlanta Opera opens it's new season with La Boheme by Puccini. Our classmate Martha West Frederick (Class of '58) will join me for this performance. I will leave the headband at home!

## CLASS of 1944 MEET for LUNCH

Members of the 1944 Class of Litton High School met for lunch at Monells in Gallatin, TN on July 21, 2015. Seven members of the class attended the lunch along with five guests. The members of the class that attended are Wilson Horde of Knoxville, Enoch Thweatt of Nashville, John Smith of Nashville, Elaine Lawrence Colbert of Nashville, Bill Bryant of Gallatin, Alice Speight Alexander of Gallatin, and Harold Bradley of Goodlettsville.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

## Litton Alumni Support the Litton Middle School Band – Dawson, Richards & Wiggins Honored

*by Larry Collier*

Litton Middle School Band held a Christmas Concert on December 15 at the middle school gym. The gym was packed as more than 100 middle school students performed under the direction of Allison Biederman. Ms. Biederman has grown the program substantially in her short time at Litton.



*Biederman, Wiggins, Richards and Dawson*

Three Litton High School graduates were honored with the first Distinguished Band Alumni Award. They are Jay Dawson '65, Bill Wiggins '64, and Ann Richards '65.

These distinguished alumni performed with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and continue their involvement in music in various ways. We congratulate all three of these talented musicians.

Also at this event, Carol Draper Bourque '68, president of ILAA, and Larry Collier '69 each presented checks from the alumni association for \$1250 and from the alumni band account for \$1250 (\$2500 total) to Ms. Biederman to support the band's trip to Atlanta in March. In addition, Collier also presented a copy of the halftime show DVD.

The packed gym was reminiscent of the support that the high school band received from long ago. Congratulations Ms. Biederman. Keep up the good work.

In the picture above Litton MS band director Allison Biederman presents the first Distinguished Band Alumni Award to Bill Wiggins, Ann Richards & Jay Dawson.

# From Our President



Happy New Year!

Hope that each of you have had a wonderful holiday season. There has been so many joyful blessings that I have been able to witness due to the great generosity of our alumni over the past 6 months, its overwhelming. It has reminded me of the greatness of our school and why I loved it so much. I see those same wonderful people continue to do amazing things even today.

I am so proud of the alumni who have worked so hard to make the special events we have sponsored a success. We have an amazing Board of Directors that each of you can be proud of. They are working hard to leave a legacy of greatness for the next generation. Thanks to each of you for giving of yourselves and your financial support. Without it, the alumni association could not foster the programs to help these groups become more successful. Through these programs the lives of children are being enriched. Now that is something a Lion can roar about!

Pray each of you will have peace and joy for the New Year ahead.

*Carol Draper Bourque*

**President, Isaac Litton Alumni Association**

\*\*\*\*\*



School year 1956-1957 Majorettes Peggy Carrol, Norma Sullivan, Nancy Joyce Dillard, Kay Whittaker, Patsy Bunch, Mary Whittaker, and Joan Stewart performed a routine for Noel Ball on behalf of the Isaac Litton Marching 100 Band.

# AMERICAN FLAG PRESENTED FOR DISPLAY IN BOARD ROOM

*by Alice Stewart Shehane*



This American Flag was flown over the United States Capitol building on September 12, 2015. Bill Owen presented it to the Board of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association at their monthly meeting on October 22, 2015.

The following is a statement from Bill Owen..

“As a Tennessee State Senator, I presented flags to many groups and individuals. I have continued this practice since leaving the Senate”.

Although we grew up in a time that is much different from today, I've found that almost every citizen is proud to be an American. We are proud of our country and proud of the representative democracy that we enjoy.

We had different challenges in the 1960's than we have today in 2015. Nevertheless, the American Dream continues to inspire our aspirations. America continues as the beacon of light around the world.

I have charitable and business interests that take me to Europe and Africa on a regular basis and I see first-hand the respect and admiration that people from other countries have for American ideals of fairness and equality under the law.

Our Litton Class of '65 and our generation learned from and built upon lessons learned from earlier generations. The Litton Alumni Association is helping keep the tradition of learning and teaching alive for future generations. And that tradition is the purpose behind presenting this flag.

'I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'

Besides formerly serving as State Senator and Representative from East Tennessee, Bill is founder and president of a consulting firm in Knoxville and is currently an elected Member of the Democratic National Committee and an elected Member of the Tennessee State Democratic Executive Committee.

Board President, Carol Bourque, had earlier expressed a desire for a flag to display in the Board room and Alumni Hall. Mr. Owen's wonderful gift fulfilled her wish.

Additionally, we wish to thank Harvey Fischer who has supplied the Board Room with two flagpoles, One for the American flag and one for the flag of the State of Tennessee, donated by Harvey. We appreciate this impressive addition.

# CLASS OF '65 REPS PRESENT CHECKS TO ILAA BOARD

by Alice Stewart Shehane



*Pictured are Kitty Kincaid Woodson, Tommy Hatfield, board President Carol Bourque, Alice Stewart Shehane, and Bill Owen*

On October 22, 2015, members of the Class of 1965 presented two \$500 checks to the Isaac Litton High School Alumni Association to be used for association general expenses and for the support of the association's activities with the Backfield in Motion organization.

The class held their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on September 19, 2015 and voted to donate a large portion of their class account to the ILLA. Several members made cash donations for reunion expenses, the planning committee used multiple cost-saving strategies to keep expenses down and they held a raffle to raise additional funds for the class account.

Although several items for decorations had to be purchased, the bottom line on expenses was helped by the Class of '64 loaning quite a few things from the reunion decorations they used last year for their event. Many classmates donated door prizes such as event tickets, Litton memorabilia, restaurant gift cards, and gift cards for services. But the donations that enabled the class of '65 to raise most of the money for their contribution to the ILLA were two vacation get-aways.

Classmate Sandra Pye Horton and her husband, Bill, donated a stay at their vacation home in St. Simons' Island, GA. This wonderful trip was won by Brenda Brent Staggs.

Mike Hudson and his wife, Betsy, contributed a week at Seven Springs Golf and Country Club in New Port Richey, FL. David Comperry won this trip and will be enjoying it in the Spring.

The Isaac Litton High School Class of 1965 is grateful to Litton for its contributions to the lives of its students and to the community. They also want to express gratitude to the Alumni Association for all the hard work and many hours spent keeping the memory and spirit of Isaac Litton alive!

## Kenneth Duke Inducted into Metro Schools Sports Hall of Fame

by Larry Collier

Legendary Litton Lion Kenneth Duke was inducted into the Metro Schools Sports Hall of Fame in the spring of 2014. Below is Duke's bio which was printed in the Hall of Fame program. He is considered to be perhaps the greatest football player to have ever played for the Big Blue.

### Kenneth Duke Isaac Litton High School Class of 1949 *Posthumously*



Kenneth Duke was one of the city's greatest athletes during the 1940s. He played football, basketball and baseball at Isaac Litton High School. His outstanding feats on the gridiron convinced the football coaches of the NIL to select him as the Most Valuable Player in 1947. He was selected All-City by the Nashville Banner and the Tennessean in 1947 and 1948, All State, and to the All-Eastern Baseball team in 1949.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1947, in a rematch between MBA and Isaac Litton, Duke had one of his greatest games. Highlights of the game were a touchdown spree that saw three touchdowns in the space of 32 seconds. Duke rambled 18 yards for a touchdown that was answered by MBA's Billy J. Ehrhart returning the kickoff 90 yards for a six-pointer. Duke followed with an 80 yard kickoff return of his own. He scored on 18, 80 and 30 yard runs and gained 165 yards in 25 carries. That 1947 Thanksgiving Day game was so exciting that it gave way to the start of the Clinic Bowl in 1950.

Duke originally signed with the University of Tennessee, but changed to Southern Methodist University, where he played for one year. He joined the United States Marine Corps in

1950 when he was a sophomore. At the time of his enlistment, he was playing behind Kyle Rote (All – American and New York Giants). Duke played football for Camp Pendleton Marines in 1950 and was sent to Korea in 1952. He was killed in action Oct. 16, 1952.

The great sports writer Edgar Allen wrote of Sgt. Kenneth Duke, "he possessed a fire and determination and desire that must have made him an excellent fighting man in the Marines." Duke goes down as one of the greatest – if not the greatest – player in Litton's history. "Maybe we've had boys with more ability," said former Litton Coach Bob Cummings, "but one thing's certain, we've never had anyone with more determination." Upon receiving news of Duke's death, Coach Cummings immediately retired his #33 jersey worn in 1946, 1947 and 1948.

The Isaac Litton athletic and band building is named in his honor, as well as the Briley Parkway Bridge.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016**  
**at 11:00 AM**

**Mark Your Calendar**

The Board of Directors of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association is very excited about the plans for our annual All-Alumni Banquet for 2016. Yes, we know it is early to be planning this far ahead but when you hear what we have in store for you and your family and friends, we think you will agree that it is worth planning in advance.

Our next Banquet will be held at the Blue Grass Country Club, undoubtedly a place where many of you made fond memories while a student or even after. For longer than most of us can remember, this venue has been revered as one of the premier sites for special events. This year, we will be served at a sit-down banquet where we will be treated like the VIPs we are! The menu will consist of an entrée, vegetable selection(s), bread, beverage choices and a scrumptious dessert.

In addition to the ambiance, the food, the companionship, and the memories, we will have a presentation of our Alumnus of the Year award, an exciting Silent Auction with some wonderful offerings, and a few other surprises.

We will soon be sending the official announcement, reservation form, and Alumnus of the Year nomination form. Please let us know if your mailing address or email has changed recently.

Also, if you have or know of anyone who would have item(s) or services to donate to our auction, please contact Kay Rayner Cunningham at (615)712-8238 or email at [kayc1107@comcast.net](mailto:kayc1107@comcast.net) to discuss logistics and so forth.

And, in closing, we hope you will renew your annual dues, just \$15 – which will help us continue our efforts for Isaac Litton, all its students (past and present), the community, and our outreach programs.

We on the Board will be looking forward to seeing you there with as many of your family and friends as you want to bring . . . all will be welcomed.

## IN 2016, ALUMNI BANQUET AND MEMORIES WILL COMBINE



Bluegrass Country Club was born in 1949, when the original property was obtained by Genesco. Construction of the golf course began in earnest in 1952. Just one year later, in 1953, the Bluegrass Country Club officially opened.



In the spring of 1957, the J. Harlan Lawson Marina was opened. And in 1960, the Club moved from the original clubhouse to the new clubhouse on the North side of Gallatin Road.

The Sixties saw Bluegrass host the Music City Celebrity Golf Tournament, in which sports and entertainments of the day competed for charities in the annual two-day event. In 1986, construction of the new clubhouse (as it stands today) was undertaken and ultimately the marina was renovated.



By 2007, the clubhouse was completely remodeled from floor to ceiling, to become the ultimate in posh venues that it is today.



# 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 the expense of engraving and upkeep of the 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 advisor for specific reporting requirements. Print this form, make check payable to Isaac Litton Alumni Association, Inc. and mail check and completed form to:

**Jerry Newman  
 2304 Fleetwood Dr SE  
 Decatur, AL 35601-6120**

## PERSONALIZED ORDER FORM

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

### INFORMATION TO BE ENGRAVED MAXIMUM OF 3 LINES, 14 CHARACTERS EACH

LINE 1

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

LINE 2

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

LINE 3

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**No more long waits. Bricks will be engraved in just a few days by our new provider and Inglewood neighbor Hunt Memorials.**

Date of Order \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

# Litton Band Reunion

by Larry Collier

On Saturday, October 17, a reunion luncheon was held for all alumni of the Marching 100+. A crowd of 125 former band members gathered for an afternoon of wonderful memories and emotional surprises. Following the spaghetti lunch, the Litton Middle School Band presented a short concert for the group.

The biggest surprise was the unveiling of a much sought-after DVD which contained the national broadcast of a Marching 100+ halftime performance from 1965. The black and white footage was taken from the August 28 CBS telecast of an NFL preseason game between the Chicago Bears and the Los Angeles Rams at Vanderbilt.

As the telecast began with the band's entrance to Malaguena, cheers, tears and goose bumps filled the room. It was an emotional time as everyone witnessed a complete halftime show from the Marching 100+ for the first time since our beloved high school was closed in June, 1971.

It was announced at the luncheon that 3 DVDs, including the halftime show, would be put up for sale for \$15 each, or \$40 for all 3. Since then, over 300 DVDs have been sold. The proceeds of the luncheon and the DVD sale went to the Litton Middle School Band program, Backfield in Motion, and to ILAA. Each organization was presented a check for \$1250.

Sales of the band DVDs continue. An order form is available which includes a description of what is included on each DVD. This order form is available on the Litton website under STORE tab . Future sales of the DVDs will help with continued support of programs such as those mentioned above.



# CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS OF AN OLD FIGHTER-ATTACK PILOT

Contributed by Ed Beakley (ILHS Class of 1964)

Old fast movers only zoom and boom in their minds. Mostly they play golf, drink a lot better Scotch than in younger days, and when winter sets in, sit by the fire, scratch the dog, and remember when they were something else...



Last night, December 18th was the 43rd anniversary of the beginning of the eleven days of Christmas that ended the Vietnam mess... and so some "remembered sky."

In 2010 based on upcoming 100th year anniversary of Naval Aviation, I determined to go back and revisit my time and particularly the 11 months flying off of USS Midway due to the 30 March '72 North Vietnam Easter Offensive. In doing that I not only read, researched and talked to Navy buds but sought out Air Force guys from the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots - the Rats - like Ed Rasimus (RIP) and Bob Hipps to try and understand better the whole period air-war wise. Most know the story of the B-52s and their 15 loses over those 11 nights of Christmas. But Navy A-6 guys had some really tough times around Haiphong and were a much more significant part of the overall plan than most realize. For me an A-7B guy, I never launched, lots of sitting in the cockpit on SAR (rescue) alert. While we did a lot of night attack in those 11 months, the A-7B wasn't considered system wise up to going over the beach at night in that kind of brouhaha so only a few were launched. Echos from other carriers did.

***I remember that night vividly. That night was one of those times when I was not sure we were coming back. But thanks to Snake, the best A6 pilot I have known, we evaded the defenses of Haiphong twice. Snake, you'll never be forgotten! Bob Koch, VA-115.***

I won't belabor any further, but my conclusion was that if you were to look at the history of the Vietnam war as if we were responding only to the 30 March invasion, March '72 - March '73 when the POWs came home, you could conclude that the ARVN with US advisers and US airpower defeated the NVN totally. Gen Giap said that after Oct it would take 3-5 years to reconstitute for another invasion. (Minus post 73 US involvement it took 3)

History can't be re-written, war is politics, policy, politicians, flag officers and finally warfighters.

Many if not all - certainly historians - will never agree with me but IMHO, grouping Rolling Thunder (no criticism meant here to RT guys... they were forced to play by very different rules) with Linebacker I & II in an overall analysis of the use of air power in VN is a disservice not only to U.S. airpower application but also to those of us who fought a different battle in 1972-73 - much of our survival due to those RT guys who came back and taught us young'ns and therein saved our asses.

On our watch, we won. But young men don't decide wars. NVN's army was beaten and retreated, the POWs came home. Mission accomplished.

# Gone But Not Forgotten

## Alumni Who Have Passed June 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

Class	Name	Date	Age
42	Edith Lorelle Biven Mabry Sanders	Nov 16, 2015	92
44	Robert Etheridge Irwin	Aug 18, 2015	88
44	Alice Kirby Ross	Sep 12, 2015	90
46	Eloise Darden Barker	Jul 16, 2015	86
46	Mary Delores McPherson Holleman	Aug 24, 2015	85
46	Leslie Houston Coleman	Sep 22, 2015	86
48	James Bradford Burroughs	Jun 01, 2015	85
48	William R Lucas, Jr	Sep 30, 2015	85
49	Betty Jean Hahn McCullough	Sep 03, 2015	84
50	Dorothy Koehn Cobb	Aug 15, 2015	83
50	William Stewart Tomlinson	Sep 09, 2015	83
50	Anne Dickerson Keyes	Sep 22, 2015	83
52	James T Gill	Jun 23, 2015	81
52	Jerry C Draughon	Aug 21, 2015	82
52	Ralph Orien Gentry	Sep 13, 2015	82
53	Charles Wilbur Logan	Jun 23, 2015	80
54	Mary Jo Megar Creswell	Jun 03, 2015	78
55	Jerry Lee Worley	Oct 13, 2015	79
55	William James Roller	Jun 05, 2015	78
55	James Roy Brown	Jun 22, 2015	78
55	Paul Edward Hatfield	Jul 25, 2015	78
55	Dorothy McRae Horton	Aug 14, 2015	78
55	Frances Jeryl Hunt Hinson	Sep 04, 2015	78
56	Carl Francis Cotton	Oct 25, 2015	78
57	Bruce Adams Graves	Sep 24, 2015	74
59	Elliott Sloan Powell	Jun 18, 2015	74
60	Charles Randall Ferrell	Aug 19, 2015	74
60	Robert F Englebert	Sep 17, 2015	74
60	Michael Rexford (Mickey) Cobb	Oct 21, 2015	73
62	Joyce Evelyn Payne Allen	Jun 07, 2015	71
64	James Joseph Myers	Jun 16, 2015	69
64	Larry Wayne Binkley	Jun 22, 2015	68
64	Billy Dean Young	Oct 04, 2015	69
65	Sharon Ann Owens	Jul 15, 2015	67
65	Janice Dean Woodroof Russell	Jul 21, 2015	68
68	Robert Carl Murphy	Aug 29, 2015	64
69	Teresa Ann Woodall Galbreath	Aug 20, 2015	64

The April issue of the BLAST will list deceased from January 1, 2016 thru March 30, 2016. Subsequent issues will list the prior three months.



Isaac Litton High School by Phil Ponder  
(Print for sale by ILAA, price \$25.00)