



# Litton BLAST

Isaac Litton High School, Nashville, Tennessee

Volume MMXVI, Issue 03

July 2016

## 2016 ANNUAL ALL-ALUMNI BANQUET

By Larry Collier ('69)

In what many called the best one yet, the 2016 Isaac Litton Alumni Association banquet was held at Blue Grass Country Club on June 18. At least 200 alumni were there to share memories, tell stories (some may have even been true), and relive the wonderful years we were privileged to be known as Litton Lions.



Guest speakers included Litton Middle School principal Chara Rand. She thanked all of us for our support of Litton and Backfield in Motion. Ms. Rand is dedicated to continue the Litton tradition of excellence. For a school which has been closed for 45 years, she is amazed at the continued reverence we hold for our great high school.



Our second speaker was Reggie Ford. Reggie attended Inglewood Elementary and Litton Middle School. It was at Litton that Reggie hooked up with Backfield in Motion. Coming from a single family home below the poverty line, Reggie had the odds stacked against him. However, with the intervention of BIM and the strong educational requirements and support of the staff at Litton, Reggie began to blossom. While at Litton, he applied for and was accepted to MBA for his high school years. After that, he enrolled and graduated from Vanderbilt. Today, he is an accountant at Deloitte and Touche. His inspiring talk to all in attendance at the luncheon reinforced the fact that our support of

BIM and the middle school gives many students the one quality they need to take the first step in their quest for ultimate success. And that one quality is HOPE. Once a student has hope, he/she can see all the possibilities before him/her.

The Alumnus of the Year award was given to Jay McDonald. Jay is a 1964 graduate and former president of the student council at Litton. He was chosen for this award due to his achievements not only while a student but in recognition of his continued representation of a stellar Litton graduate, making a difference in so many lives, inspiring so many, and achieving so much.



Also recognized were three resigning Alumni Board members – Shirley Johnson Parrish, Emily Burrow, and Charles Kimbrough. These three have served the Board diligently and their efforts are deeply appreciated.

The oldest attending alumni, Kathleen O'Mara Mays (Class of 1939) was honored and presented with a beautiful rose bouquet from our President.



A new addition to the luncheon this year was a silent auction. Everything from a UT basket to a week in a condo on the beach in Florida was available to the highest bidder. Funds raised from the auction totaled over \$3000.



The attendees were entertained by pianist (and alumnus, Class of 1950) Genevieve Lish, who played a constant litany of music from all the years Litton was in existence, from the 1940's through the 1970's.



Outgoing president Carol Draper Bourque ('68) thanked many others for their contributions to ILAA. Carol has worked tirelessly for the alumni association. Through her commitment and many hours of work, her efforts produced one of the best years ever for our association.



The luncheon committee was chaired by Kay Rayner Cunningham ('64). Under her guidance, every detail was planned out meticulously. Her committee was made up of Melinda Hoffman ('70) who also serves as the treasurer of ILAA, Donna Summers Smith ('70), and Kitty Kincaid Woodson ('65). We can't thank these ladies enough for the time, effort and creativity given to this event. They did an outstanding job!



One final note: It is important to note that Litton Middle School continues our proud tradition of excellence. Litton has been a choice school the last few years, which means parents from all across Nashville may apply to enroll their children there. As a result of the outstanding program and staff, enrollment at Litton has ballooned from 320 students just 4 years ago to a projected enrollment of 530 for the coming year. In fact, Litton must obtain a portable classroom for the coming year since the building will be full. Let's pledge our continued support for this wonderful, high achieving school.

We thank everyone for a job extremely well done.

Litton High Forever

## WORDS THAT INSPIRE

*From Jay McDonald (Class of 1964), Alumnus of the Year 2016*



My life has also been greatly enhanced by our Litton family:

- Our great principal, Marshall Foster.
- Teachers like Mrs. Zurla, Mrs. Long, Mr. Paysinger, Mr. Lackey, Ms. Miller, Mr. Maxwell, and many more.
- Coaches John Younger and Charlie Care.
- And most of all the wonderful students, both classmates and those before and after me who built Litton's traditions.

With almost 7600 alumni throughout its long history from the early 1930s through 1971, Litton was always about being your best at whatever you did... academics, music through the band, athletics, debate, the arts. I shared so many memories and life-shaping experiences while fine-tuning the values I hold dearly today.

Litton, Inglewood, and East Nashville's melting pot of diversity helped mold who we've all become by:

- Requiring us to take responsibility.
- Developing our discipline.
- Encouraging curiosity.
- Rewarding competitiveness.
- Embracing our crazy senses of humor.
- Building middle-class values reinforced by hard work.
- Treating everyone with respect and kindness.
- Engaging and following your passions.
- Having the grit to persevere through adversity, while learning from our failures.
- Creating a zest for life-long learning.

Litton allowed me to grow my self-esteem, while hopefully remaining humble and grateful for my wonderful roots and the many mentors, role models, and friends I've cherished throughout my life. Our youth was innocent, simple, trusting, and optimistic. We got to know one another personally. We loved each other, as well as our Litton.

Times today are made difficult through political correctness, less closeness to God, weakened values, instant gratification, selfishness, and less real one to one communication. Take it upon yourselves to pass on to our future generations the wonderful lessons from our Litton days.

To the young folks, both living and yet unborn, let's emphasize the importance of:

- Standing up for our values.
- Loving one another.
- Living with integrity.
- Respecting fellow human beings.
- Always doing what's right.
- Being great role models.
- Taking leadership roles.
- Making a difference.
- Having fun.

We owe them the opportunities and loving relationships we've been privileged to enjoy. Give back so our world will be a better place for everyone.

# DISASTER (POTENTIALLY) AT THE LITTON GYM

In mid-May of this year, the gymnasium and lower level Lions Hall were severely flooded for the third time, this being the most serious to date. The culprit was reported to be the water line feeding the drinking fountain in the gym. What has been most frustrating for the Alumni Association is that this building is owned and under the jurisdiction of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools District, the owner of the entire property on which the gym building sits. When something needs repair, we are bound to notify Metro and rely on them to do what is required.

It is the responsibility of the Alumni Association to raise funds for the renovations (past and ongoing), provide janitorial services for the spaces we occupy, and utilize the space for functions including our non-profit interests (Backfield in Motion) or Alumni functions such as board meetings or class gatherings.

This having been said, the current Board of the Alumni Association has recently been very pro-active and progressive in looking at such details as what would be the responsibility for loss of property or use of the facility in the event of something unforeseen. Ironically, the Board voted just recently to acquire property insurance (heretofore not in place) that would protect our Boardroom, the memorabilia in the Lion's Den, and other physical accoutrements of the space.

Thanks to the Board's action, insurance coverage was acquired and most of the replacement costs of items damaged by this incident will be fully recouped.

Fortunately, by the quick action of the team of devoted alumni, there was very little permanent damage to any of the memorabilia – testament to our treasured heritage was saved.

The path ahead to full restoration will be a long one; carpet will be replaced, ceilings will be replaced, walls will be repainted, and display cases and boardroom furnishings will be replaced.

In the meantime, several planned functions (class reunions, etc.) have been cancelled or re-scheduled.

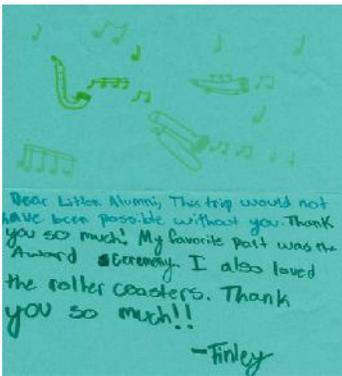
But, there is light at the end of this tunnel – we will come back to full operation bigger and better than ever before. And, the recovery will in no small part be due to the dedication and love of Isaac Litton so prevalent in our alumni association and all our classmates, like YOU.

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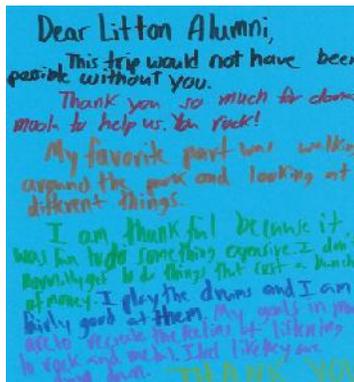
***If you would like to be part of the effort to restore and maintain the Lion's Den (our beloved room chock full of memorabilia and historic items), please contact Linda Ivy Bain (Class of 1964), Chairperson of the Memorabilia/Lion's Den Committee by calling her at (615)347-7446 or emailing her at bain37122@comcast.net. There is much to be done immediately, and the long-term rewards are huge. This is our legacy, our past, our memories. Help perpetuate and grow it today by volunteering.***

# NEWS FROM LITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thanks to funding from Litton Alumni, the middle school band was able to go to Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg to compete in the Concert Band Series of the "Music in the Parks Festival" at Dollywood back in May. Under the direction of Allison Biederman, the band placed 3rd and brought home a big trophy for the school. In between the competition and the awards ceremony, students got to ride the roller coasters and had a blast. Ms. Biederman reports that the trip was fun and most successful, and would not have been possible without the extreme generosity of our alumni. "We are so appreciative of your continued support of our program and giving students opportunities they would otherwise not have," she said. Upon their return from Gatlinburg, the students wrote thank you notes, some of which are included below.



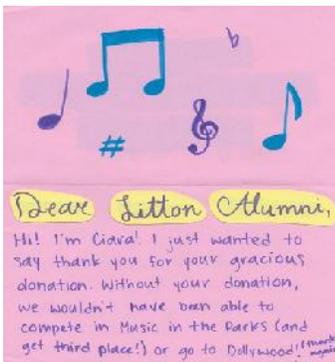
Dear Litton Alumni, This trip would not have been possible without you. Thank you so much! My favorite part was the award ceremony. I also loved the roller coasters. Thank you so much!!  
-Finley



Dear Litton Alumni,  
This trip would not have been possible without you.  
Thank you so much for donating much to help us. You rock!  
My favorite part was walking around the park and looking at different things.  
I am thankful because it was fun to do something I don't usually get to do. I don't usually get to play the drums and I am really good at them. My goal is to be a professional drummer. I like to play and make it my job. THANK YOU



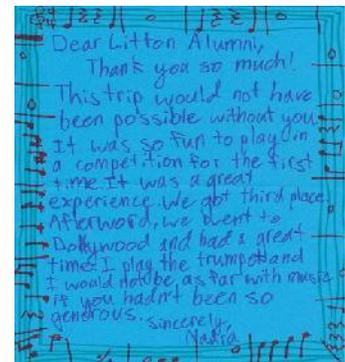
Dear Litton Alumni,  
Thank you so much for donating money for the Dollywood trip. I am thankful because I get to spend time with my friends. I play the trumpet and my goal in music is to be the best I can.  
Sincerely,  
Jackson Lowe



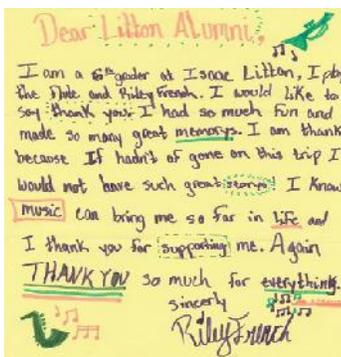
Dear Litton Alumni,  
Hi! I'm Ciara! I just wanted to say thank you for your gracious donation. Without your donation, we wouldn't have been able to compete in Music in the Parks (and get third place!) or go to Dollywood!  
Thank you!  
Ciara



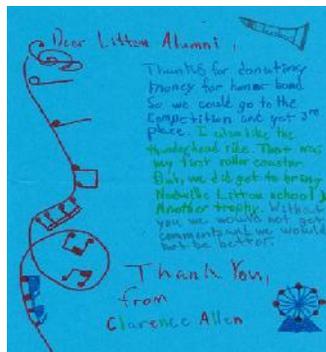
Dear Litton Alumni, this trip would not have been possible without you! My favorite part was the roller coaster. I am thankful because I have never been on a trip like that. I play the Clarinet. My goal in music is to advance in my class playing.  
Thank you!  
-Carson Buehly



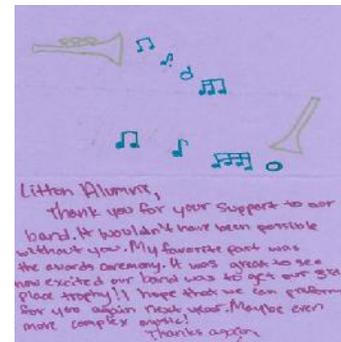
Dear Litton Alumni,  
Thank you so much!  
This trip would not have been possible without you. It was so fun to play in a competition for the first time. It was a great experience. We got third place. Afterward, we went to Dollywood and had a great time. I play the trumpet and I would not be as far with music if you hadn't been so generous.  
Sincerely,  
Nashia



Dear Litton Alumni,  
I am a @Agator at Isaac Litton, I play the Flute and Picky French. I would like to say thank you! I had so much fun and made so many great memories. I am thankful because if hadn't of gone on this trip I would not have such great memories. I know music can bring me so far in life and I thank you for supporting me. Again  
THANK YOU so much for everything!  
Sincerely,  
Riley French



Dear Litton Alumni,  
Thanking for donating money for home band so we could go to the competition and get 3rd place. I also like the roller coaster. But we did get to enjoy another trophy. Without you we wouldn't get that trophy. Thank you!  
Thank You,  
Clarence Allen



Litton Alumni,  
Thank you for your support to our band. It wouldn't have been possible without you. My favorite part was the awards ceremony. It was great to see our band was 3rd and get our 3rd place trophy!! Hope that we can perform for you again next year. Maybe even more complex songs!  
Thank you again  
Sam G.

Proceeds from the sale of the Marching 100+ DVD's, as well as funds from the Litton Alumni Association supported the trip. It is the desire of the alumni association to continue to support the students, staff and programs at Litton Middle School. Thanks to all who contributed.

### **In Other Middle School News**

Litton Middle School will be hosting a Fifth Grade Boot Camp for all incoming 5 th graders July 18-20. This will be a time for students to become familiar with the middle school way of doing things, and specifically the Litton way of doing things.

It was a great school year for everyone associated with Litton. Let's continue the alumni support of this great school.



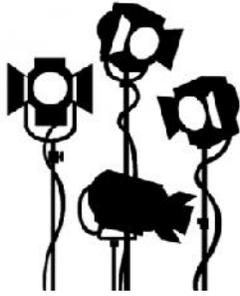
### **BLAST Wins Honors In Press Contest**



A "Blast" from the Past Emily Burrow and Jan Rouch, co-editors of the Isaac Litton Blast proudly display a copy of their paper which took first place honors in their class in the 37th annual competition of the Columbia Press Association held in New York City. Latham P Byron, Jr, standing, is faculty adviser. The Blast was honored as a printed newspaper produced at a junior-senior high school with more than a thousand students. There were more than a thousand entries in this year's contest and the papers represented 47 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and six foreign countries. The papers were judged by a board of thirty outstanding school press authorities using a 1000 point scoring system covering news content, pictures, make up, layouts, editorial content, and all phases of publication procedures.

Madison High School's "Ram-Page" was a third place winner among prized newspapers. Joelton's "Jay Journal" received first place in the classification for duplicated papers from a junior-senior high school with less than 1000 students.

This is another story from Isaac Litton's illustrious past and our heritage.



**COMMITTEE  
SPOTLIGHT**

**FUNDRAISING/EVENTS:**

Kay Rayner Cunningham, Chairperson  
Phone: 615-712-8238  
Email: kayc1107@comcast.net



Melinda Hoffman  
Phone: 615-513-1156  
Email: joemellebanon@hotmail.com



Donna Summers Smith  
Phone: 615-519-2854  
Email: ilhsclassof70@yahoo.com



Kitty Kincaid Woodson (Co-Chairperson)  
Phone: 615-957-3587  
Email: kittywoodson@gmail.com



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

**Operations:** Members of the Fundraising/Events Committee will work with the Board to define the short-term and long-term funding needs of the ILAA. It will be the responsibility of members of the Committee to plan funding activities, review the funding plan to ensure progress toward annual and long-range funding goals, encourage others to contribute financial support, identify and recruit community leaders to serve with board members on fundraising committees and to encourage the participation of the full board in fundraising.



## **WE WANT YOU!**

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 attend Board meetings to be a volunteer.)

Please review the list of committees below 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.

## **FUNDRAISING/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.

## **GROUNDS/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

## WHO WAS “RIP” NIX?

Edwin “Rip” Nix was a 1953 graduate of Isaac Litton High School and worked with his dad for many years at the Nix Garage. He played football for the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was former owner of Nix Construction Company and served as a deputy for the Davidson County Sheriff’s Department.



And, he was the inventor of the Line-a-Bed, which was patented in the early 1970's.



Visit the Lion’s Den and see the display dedicated to Rip, including the certificate for his patent for the truck bed liner and other items.

Upon his death in February of 2014, his Honorary Pallbearers were Mike Peach, Cliff Prosser, Dr. Jim Root, Richard Odom, Hugh Bills, Buggs Carter, Ralph McDonald, Drew Maddox, Pete Peden, and Herb Bennett, a few of whose names you might recognize.

Or, you might also know Rip as June Carter’s second husband.



Or you might not... Truth be told, not many folks know much of anything about Rip. Having definitely made his mark in sports and society and despite what Hollywood might tell you, official autobiographies don’t tell you much. Google tells you less.

# 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 other than 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 but a boy who will compete. But, how about the run Herbert Patterson made? It was sheer guts."

Ballou was named NIL Track Man 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."

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  |
| 4 NIL records            | 3 Midstate records    |
| 3 Optimist Relay records | 1 State Record (tied) |
| 3 Banner Relay records   |                       |

# Communication Corner

*What Your Fellow Alumni Would Like to Share*



## THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION

Those of you reading this issue of the BLAST have come to realize the importance of keeping in touch with those who were our whole world for many years. If you are like us, you enjoy reading about the accomplishments of your classmates and fellow alumni and you mourn the loss of those to whom we are saying good-bye.

It is a monumental task to keep abreast of the details that make this source one that informs, entertains, and amuses us on a regular basis.

Please do YOUR PART – let us know of address changes, email changes, phone number changes, or the loss of a precious classmate. Our numbers grow smaller and smaller on a regular basis.

There will never be another legacy to match ours. Let's share it here and treasure it for years to come.



The best way to pass information to us is either through your class representative or contact Kaaren Frazier Andrews at [kaarena81@comcast.net](mailto:kaarena81@comcast.net) or contact Jerry Newman at [jerry@isaaclittonhighschool.com](mailto:jerry@isaaclittonhighschool.com) or his personal email [jerrynewman58@gmail.com](mailto:jerrynewman58@gmail.com)

Thank you for your help in this endeavor.



# Gone But Not Forgotten

Alumni Who Have Passed.....April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016

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

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

<u>Class</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Age</u>
1941	Herman O Carlton, Jr	Apr 06	93
1941	Lida Mae Eskew Primm	May 27	93
1942	Jesse Wallace Fox	Apr 02	91
1943	Victor Willis Jordan	Apr 04	91
1944	Frank Blonvil Louthan, Jr	Apr 28	91
1948	Betty Ann Baker Harris	Jun 18	86
1948	Oscar Childs (O.C.) Hays	Jun 06	86
1951	Robert (Bobby) Bennett	May 31	84
1954	Betty Dean Binkley Akin	Apr 29	80
1954	Aubrey Freddie Clay	May 02	80
1955	Robert Andrew Bunn	May 26	79
1956	John William (Jack) Gwaltney, Sr	Jun 03	77
1959	Donna Kay Elliott Martineau	Apr 13	74
1961	Jairus Arnold Fuller	May 30	74
1963	Wayne Dillon Bloodworth	Jun 06	71
1964	Nunzio Davinci (Vince) Infanti	Jun 11	68
1964	Carolyn Marie Ross Hammers	Jun 12	70
1969	James William Alexander	Jun 19	65
1971	Robert Stephen DeMarcus	Apr 08	62

# Wayne Wright (ILHS 1952) Elected To Lipscomb Hall of Fame



The annual Baseball Alumni Weekend had even more significance this spring when five former baseball players were inducted into the Lipscomb Athletics Hall of Fame.

Lipscomb Athletics Director Philip Hutcheson has announced that Larry Breedlove, Phillip Dickens, Glenn Eddins, Trey Hartman and Wayne Wright were honored at a Hall of Fame Luncheon at noon, Saturday, April 30 in Allen Arena.

Out of the thousands of talented student athletes who have ever worn the purple and gold, only a select few have ever made it into our Hall of Fame, Hutcheson said. Each of those selected have written memorable chapters in the story of our programs and their accomplishments and contributions have stood the test of time. We are thrilled to have the chance to celebrate this honor with them.

**Wayne Wright (ILHS, 1952)** played from 1952-1955 where he was an outstanding outfielder and middle infielder hitting .300 during his career. He led the Bisons as the team captured Lipscomb's first-ever Volunteer State Athletic Conference Championship. In both 1954 and 1955 Wright was honored as Lipscomb's top athlete.

After leaving Lipscomb Wright headed west where for 34 years he made a tremendous impact on Pepperdine University and collegiate athletics. After coaching golf and baseball Wright was named Director of Athletics at Pepperdine, a position he held from 1976-97. He built Pepperdine into one of the NCAA's most successful athletic programs winning seven NCAA Division I titles in four different sports.

Wayne Wright's career is a great example of what we hope for all of our Lipscomb student athletes, Hutcheson said. Not only was he a standout student-athlete while he was at Lipscomb, but more importantly, he continued to excel after his time here ended.

His contribution to collegiate athletics as coach, a director of athletics and through his work with the West Coast Conference and the NCAA has touched countless lives throughout the years and we are proud to welcome him to our Hall of Fame."

## JOHN STEINHAUER, A LIFE WELL LIVED



While not an alumni of Isaac Litton, John Steinhauer was married for sixty-four years to our beloved former Board Member Jane Hagewood Steinhauer. Since the inception of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association and until recently, Jane was a very active and important part of this body that did so much to perpetuate our values and standards. Last year, when Jane resigned her Board position, she was assured she would be missed and her shoes would be very hard to fill. Her past year has been devoted to caring for her beloved John. Here, we reflect on the man she loved so very much for so very long.

John Mathias Steinhauer, Jr. was born in Nashville, Tennessee on Thursday, July 23, 1925. He was the third child and first son. He grew up in East Nashville with his sisters Katherine and Martha and led a very typical early 20th century life with his policeman father and homemaking mother. This all changed in the summer of 1932, when, at the age of 7, John contracted what was then known as Infantile Paralysis (Polio).

As his father was a beloved Nashville City police officer who directed traffic on Church Street in Nashville, several prominent Nashville businessmen appealed directly to President Franklin Roosevelt for admission to his Warm Springs Georgia treatment center on behalf of his son. John was admitted for treatment and spent almost a year at Warm Springs. FDR was in his first term as President and visited Warm Springs for his own treatment four times during that year where John got to swim and dine with the President, and was even taken for a ride in the President's car into the village of Warm Springs for ice cream. John never let the limitations of living the rest of his life with a full leg brace slow him down in any facet of his life.

John graduated from East High School in Nashville. He served as class President and was active in all aspects of the life of the school. East High and the Alumni Association remained a passion for John throughout his life. In the fall of 1951, on a train trip to Atlanta to watch Vanderbilt play Georgia Tech, Nashville Banner columnist, Red O'Donnell introduced John to Jane Hagewood, also from East Nashville. They were married on June 21, 1952.

The next year John and Jane moved their young family to Hendersonville and built a house on what would soon be the shores of Old Hickory Lake. Initially, Jane and John continued their interest in the Nashville community, but as their children entered Hendersonville Elementary School, it became obvious that they needed to invest their time and efforts to help strengthen their newly adopted town.

John and Jane worked tirelessly to open opportunities for people who lived in Hendersonville. He organized the Evening Sertoma Club; worked with six other families to start St. Timothy Lutheran Church, where he served as chair of the building committee, taught Sunday school, and served on the congregational council.

After working his way into the community, John ran for elected office in 1964 to represent Sumner County in the Tennessee State Legislature. He lost that election but was elected two years later. Altogether, John served four terms in the legislature and one term as Chief Bill Clerk. During his freshman year, he sponsored the PKU Bill which required all newborns to have a simple, inexpensive test to help identify babies who could begin immediate treatment to prevent mental retardation.

This procedure is still being used today. Additionally, a test to detect hypo-thyroidism in newborns was enacted into legislation because of his introduction of the bill. John believed that of all of the legislation that he introduced, these two remain the most important because of their humanitarian nature, helping to detect the potential for mental retardation and presenting a medical plan to prevent retardation. In the same year, he presented the bill for the State to purchase the historic Rock Castle, 18th century home to one of Hendersonville's first settlers, Daniel Smith. Soon thereafter he became active in pursuing the establishment of Volunteer State Community College. The College opened its doors in 1971. He appealed to a State committee to get approval for the Hendersonville Hospital. Having been told that it took three committees to approve the request, and being assured that it would not get passed the third committee, his plea was accepted unanimously and the new hospital was constructed. Additionally, over the years, John served as a Hendersonville City Commissioner, on the Planning Commission and the Industrial Development Board.

His additional civic involvement included being an active member of the Sertoma Club of Nashville and serving on the East Nashville Boy Scout's Board, the Easter Seals Board of Directors for the State of Tennessee, The United Cerebral Palsy Board of Directors, where he served as president, and he continued to be active in the East Nashville High School Alumni Association right up to his death.

John's vocational life included opening and running Hendersonville's first optical shop, a telephone answering service, and a public relations firm. He and attorney Dennis Sanders and Mike Flemming applied for to the FCC and were granted a license to operate Hendersonville's first FM radio station: WHVT (now 92Q). He spent 25 years in the insurance business representing AFLAC.

Married to his wife, Jane, for 64 years, he is survived by four children: Joni Worsham (Phillip), recently retired principal of Hendersonville High School, Matt Steinhauer (Leann), Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Lebanon, Janet McCarthy (Joe, deceased), flight attendant trainer who lives in Chandler, Arizona, and Steven Steinhauer who lives in Chicago, IL. Daughter, Julie, preceded him in death. He is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly

*Our deepest sympathy to the Steinhauer Family*

# From Our President

Dear Alumni,

This year has been a great one!! I am so pleased with all the accomplishments that your board has made. Our banquet on Saturday was a huge success with about 200 people in attendance.

The day could not have been nicer from guest speakers, fabulous lunch to our first silent auction. If you missed this event, I urge you to mark your calendars for the 3rd Saturday in June to be with your Litton friends next year.

While the board has worked hard to not only to care for Lions Hall and the Lions' Den, but also to support the organizations of the Isaac Litton Middle School and Backfield in Motion. Both of these organizations are grateful for all the we have been able to provide them throughout this year.

For next year, you are in great hands, with Phil Watts at the helm. He is an experienced leader and will continue to push our mission and vision endeavors forward. We have a lot of worthy projects that we would love to see accomplish, and we will need your support to make them happen. So when you are called on by Phil, please say I can!

For me this coming year, I will remain on the board serving as the Outreach Chairman. I am proud to fill this role to keep us connected to the organizations that we serve. I'll always be looking for new ways for the ILAA to stay connected to and a part of the community.

There will never be another Litton or group of people like the ones with whom we attended school. Our community and parents instilled in us unique values and we all carry those forward today. That is what makes me so proud to have served as your President this past year. I still see those same values when I look at your smiling faces today.

Thank you again for the honor and privilege to serve.

Litton High Forever,

*Carol Draper Bourque*



## ISAAC LITTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

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**Isaac Litton High School by Phil Ponder  
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