



Litton BLAST

Isaac Litton High School - Nashville, TN
Volume MMXXIV Issue 1 January 2024

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

Save these dates:
Sock Hop - 3/23/24
Memorial Day Observance - 5/27/24
Class of '64, 60th Reunion - 6/14/24
All-Year Reunion Luncheon - 6/15/24
Veteran's Day Breakfast - 11/11/24.
For more details read articles below, FB page, and website.

Please continue to show your support financially through donations and by paying your annual dues (\$15).

Thank you for your generosity!

**MAIL CASH OR YOUR CHECK (payable to ILAA) to:
ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. BOX 752
MADISON, TN 37116**

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

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Dear Fellow Alumni,

This is the time of year to look back on all our accomplishments, and we do have many things to brag about! In addition to our Annual Alumni Luncheon in June, we honored our veterans and fallen classmates on Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day, we celebrated the Litton Middle School teachers and staff with a reception, and we added another all-alumni social event—the Sock Hop (so much fun!!) Not only that, but we also continued to support both Backfield in Motion and the Middle School, both financially and otherwise, and opened our Lions Hall to more class and community events.

But this group of seniors is doing anything but resting on our laurels and slowing down. We have another momentous year planned. The events that we have hosted have just gotten better each year, and our expectations for 2024 are to have a grand year. The Sock Hop will be in March this year, and just a warm-up to an especially grand Annual Luncheon which will follow the Class of ’64 sixty-year reunion. We hope to see a growing number of classes holding their reunions and gatherings in Lion’s Hall.

Never to be forgotten, the treasured collections in our Lions Den are growing monthly and never fail to delight viewers as well as honor those who are memorialized. We have hosted family members and interested community members as well as alumni.

We want to thank you, not only for your participation, but also for your generosity. So many of you have gone above and beyond your dues to make financial contributions to the Alumni Association. (Elsewhere in this Blast is a donor recognition page). These financial donations are used for both operations and improvements in our facility as well as support for Isaac Litton Middle School (officially a STEM Magnet as of 2023) and Backfield in Motion.

On a more nostalgic note, we have all been saddened by the passing of so many of our classmates. Although inevitable as we move further from our respective graduation dates, the impact on me is to make each and every one of you more dear to my heart. We do have a special bond as Litton alumni. I cannot imagine a greater school and a greater group of friends. My heart swells with pride and with love for each of you and I want to start this new year by thanking each of you for what you mean to me.

Litton High Forever!

Judy Butler Cline
Class of 1970
President, Isaac Litton Alumni Association

ILAA 2022-2024 Board of Directors

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Kitty Kincaid Woodson, Class of '65, 615-957-3587, kittywoodson@gmail.com

Additions To the Lion's Den

By Mickey Collier, Class of '65

Mickey and Pat Collier donated a period correct table and record player which will enable alumni to play the 1950 Band Albums that were donated several years ago. These are 78 RPM speed on the Presto Label.

Gary Smith was once band manager and donated the band coveralls.

Nick Thompson, son of '57 graduate, Hank Thompson, donated the cool Clinic Bowl sweater.

ILAA Board Member Wil Clouse, class of '55, donated his basketball uniform.

If you would like to donate items to the Lion's Den memorabilia room, contact Mickey Collier, mickey4vols@comcast.net or any board member.





BATES FLORIST, Beautifying Nashville Since 1932

by Alice Stewart Shehane, Class of '65 and
Kaaren Frazier Andrews, Class of '58



In 1932, at the height of the great depression, Bessie Bates embarked on a most visionary and, at the time, seemingly dubious quest. She convinced a skeptical Byron Bates that they should mortgage their house for \$200.00 in order to buy cinder block, lumber and glass to build a "hot house" to grow plants in.

The fall of 1932 looked grim. Byron was still convinced they would lose everything they owned. "At least we had a home once", he was heard to say. But Bessie persisted. Bessie Bates was so persistent with her love of growing plants and the love of people that the five year mortgage was paid off after the first spring season. Byron Bates was then heard to exclaim, "Look what we have done!" (He really didn't have anything to do with it.)

Time passed and the "old home place" at 26th Avenue and Charlotte was outgrown. The family business was moved to Gallatin Road. Bessie Bates, with her two sons, Earl and Wilburn, opened Bates Florist. Earl and Wilburn added landscaping to their floral efforts. In 1955 they separated the two businesses. Soon afterwards, property was bought on Whites Creek Pike. Earl B. Bates Nursery came to life.



Through many years of good times and bad, Earl Bates diligently taught the values of character and work ethic to his children, as he had learned from his mother. Today, Bates Nursery and Garden Center exists as a direct result of these values. They recently celebrated their 82nd year.

Time passed. Family members died and the florist shop on Gallatin Pike, just a few blocks from Isaac Litton, closed.

Then, this past fall, came the shocking news story.

“Published: Sep. 27, 2023 at 4:07 AM CDT | Updated: Sep. 27, 2023 at 5:25 PM CDT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WSMV) - A vacant building caught fire early Wednesday morning in East Nashville, according to the Nashville Fire Department.

The fire broke out at an old flower shop on Gallatin Pike, between Greenland Avenue and McAlpine Avenue.

For hours crews battled the fire at the former home of Bates Florist, which closed its door six years ago. The owner tells WSMV that they were weeks away from putting the building on the market and said the fire couldn't have happened at a worse time.

In the years following the closure, he claims that squatters started occupying the property. In an effort to prevent the squatting, the owner says he boarded the business up multiple times over the years.”

Like many of our memories, the shop had gone up in smoke.

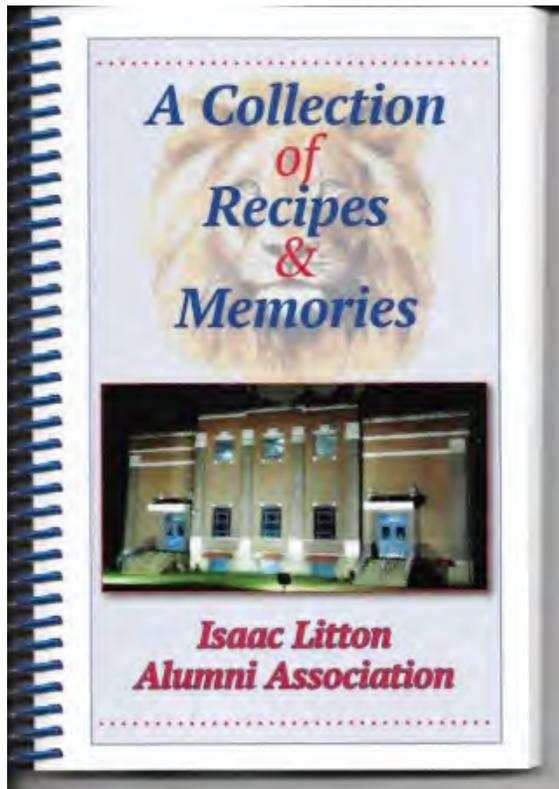


ATTENTION: CLASS OF 1964



We are approaching the 60th anniversary of our graduation from Isaac Litton High School. We on the Reunion Committee are excited to be working on this important event and want to be sure we reach as many of our classmates as possible with a reservation form and all the details. We will be sending out emails to those of you who have provided one to us and will mail via USPS to those for whom we have no known email. Please take a few minutes to be sure we have your current information by going to the website at www.isaacclitton.com and click on the Classes tab, then click on our class, 1964. Scroll down to your name to check your information. Any changes can be sent to Kay Rayner Cunningham via her email, kayc1107@comcast.net, or phone her at (615)788-0060.

We look forward to seeing all of you there.



A Collection of Recipes and Memories, has been a great success so far. We sold more than 25% of our initial supply in the first three weeks of publication. The recipes and anecdotes are priceless, and they make great gifts!

The cookbooks are now available by mail, \$24.00 for one, \$44.50 for two, including shipping and handling. Payment must be received before we can ship the cookbooks. Send payment to the address below. For larger order rates, please contact Judy Cline at 615-804-3453 (cell) or email her at clinejb@gmail.com.

Judy Cline
2176 Howell Rd.
Greenbrier, TN 37073





[From Roy \(Buddy\) Jones, Class of '68](#)

Mrs. Mae H. Thompson. A Litton Teacher that Made a Difference

It was the fall of 1963, November 22nd, in fact. I, along with 25 or so of my fellow classmates, were in Mrs. Mae H. Thompson's eighth-grade American History Class. I forget what we were studying at the time, but sometime during the class, one of the other teachers came to the classroom door to see Mrs. Thompson.



Mrs. Thompson went to the door and talked with the other teacher while we looked around, perplexed at the interruption. Normally, our eighth-grade class would have been rather restless (to say the least) and maybe even a bit rowdy during any interruption. But, for some reason, we were able to tell that something important had happened and we sat there without making much noise. Finally, Mrs. Thompson told the class that President John F. Kennedy had been shot and was being taken to a Dallas hospital. Mrs. Thompson was visibly upset while most of us were stunned into silence. After a few minutes, she continued with our lesson. I remember being shocked and unnerved and even scared like most others in the class, but, even in all the turmoil, Mrs. Thompson continued in a calm, professional, but caring way, so that we were assured that our lives would be minimally disrupted, even during that national tragedy. Since then, there have been additional national tragedies and every time one has occurred, I have thought back to the November day in Mrs. Thompson's class where she continued to do her job, and by doing so, was able to reassure

and calm a group of middle school kids.

In the days and weeks that followed, as the nation and Isaac Litton learned more about the assassination and the aftermath, Mrs. Thompson remained a calming figure for me at school. I remember her reputation was one of being rather hard-nosed, but fair. I remember a lot of students did not want to have her as a teacher, but I really wanted to be there, especially after that November day. She was an exceptional teacher, passionate about history and current affairs. She always encouraged me and influenced me, to some extent, to be the history buff that I am. Mrs. Thompson's love of history, her dedication to our class, and her calm manner during that tragic time, has stayed with me. Looking back now, I can see how JFK's death had affected her as a person and as a teacher, but her ability to transcend her personal fears and carry on, has been a point that I came back to, over and over. For you see, Mrs. Thompson had told us, long before that November day when we first joined her class back in September of 1963, that JFK was one of her heroes and that she had long respected and admired him. It had to be a real blow to her, personally, to lose a man she admired so much, in such a terrible way. Nevertheless, she put all that aside to help her students work through their own fears and confusion in the aftermath of that day.

[From Judy Butler Cline, Class of '70](#)

Mr. Isham P. Byrum, Jr.

Mr. Byrum was my homeroom teacher during all three years of high school. But I had gotten to know him the year before as a freshman. I had an interest in journalism in junior high, so I was pleased to receive approval to take the Journalism course taught by Mr. Byrum while I was in ninth grade. Imagine my pride as I walked over from Litton Junior High each day for my class.



I remember going on a field trip to Shelbyville to see our Blast printed. I also have a vague recollection that he took us to his family home, or at least a building on the property there in Bedford County. What I most appreciated about Mr. Byrum was his approach to test-taking. What a pleasant surprise to

find that he gave open-book tests. He encouraged us to learn and utilize all the resources in his classroom to answer exam questions, saying that it was more important to know how to find information rather than to memorize the facts. That was one of the most important things I learned from him, and it has stayed with me.

If you would like to contribute your memory of your favorite or most influential teacher, send it to Alice Shehane shehane64@gmail.com.

REMEMBER?

Just a couple of days ago, many of us watched this year's version of the Tournament of Roses Parade. And many of us were blessed to have actually marched in that same parade, 60 years ago. Oh, what memories!



ILMS NEWS

The Board of Directors of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association voted to donate gift cards to be included in Thanksgiving baskets for families determined to be in need by the PTSO of the school. Other donors had supplied non-perishables for the baskets. Our gift cards will allow those families to purchase perishable items and gasoline, as need by the families.

Here is the letter thanking all of us alumni for these cards.

Hey, Judy -

Thank you, as always, for all the ways you support our efforts! I defer to April on the specifics, but wanted to let you know how wonderful this is. I was just emailing with April last week to talk about how to best serve our families and this is perfect. We planned to create a menu for 15 families and create a signup genius for ILMS community to contribute - one item on that list was a gc for perishables and incidentals or gas. This will meet that need completely, and for that we are so grateful.

Appreciate you all.

Warmly

Christine (PTSO President)

And in case you hadn't heard, ILMS was recently named a Magnet Middle School, which is a very prestigious and competitive award. Here is our letter of congratulation for this honor!

Dear Dr. Rand:

On behalf of the entire Isaac Litton Alumni Association, we extend our sincere congratulations to you and your staff for receiving the official designation as Isaac Litton Stem Magnet Middle School.

As we wrote in our letter of support to the MNPS: The Alumni Association supports the educational, cultural, social, and athletic development of the students at Isaac Litton Middle School, and we will always work to inspire the pride we cherish as graduates. It is our desire to help future generations see advancement in their scholastic experience.

Best Regards,

Judy Cline, President, Isaac Litton Alumni Association, Inc.

REMEMBERING CHIEF RAYMOND CANNON

PROFILE OF A LITTON BOOSTER

By Larry Collier, Class of '69

Back in the days of dominance of Isaac Litton football, there existed huge support for the Big Blue. No other public high school could compare with the massive throngs which followed the Lions' mighty juggernaut. Thousands contributed to the Lions success, but there was no more ardent supporter than the founder and chief of the Inglewood-Madison Police and Fire Department, Raymond Cannon.

Chief Cannon was huge in every way, both in his physical stature and his colorful personality. He took an amused pride in his weight, according to the Nashville Banner, which at times reached 350 pounds.

Chief Cannon obtained his first subscriber police/fire organization on February 8, 1941. In the days before Metro government, he set out to change what was then known as "Bloody Gallatin Road." This thoroughfare had acquired the out-of-state nickname of "the Death Valley of Tennessee," according to the Nashville Banner. Apparently, there were a number of beer joints along this major thoroughfare and he set out to eliminate them. He was quoted as saying, "When the dives are eliminated from the roadsides, you will automatically reduce the number of accidents by 50%, for its these places that create most of these dangers." He was right. By the end of 1941, only one traffic death had occurred. In the next four years, not one death occurred.



This neat, modern building houses the Madison-Inglewood Police and Fire Department at its new location at 4014 Gallatin Road. Shifting its location puts the department one mile nearer Madison, points out Chief Raymond Cannon. Included in the department's equipment, some of which is displayed in front of the building here, is a modern, fog-type fire engine; a 1,000 gallon water tank truck; 2 radio patrol cars; a new 3-wheeled motorcycle; and a triple-acting life-saving device that furnishes oxygen to stricken persons while aiding them to breathe. A 70-foot fire hall, office, private office and living quarters upstairs is contained in the new building.

The Chief loved children and played Santa Claus at Christmas time. According to the Banner, "Nothing could choke the chief's good humor and transform it so wildly into rage, boiling but controlled, as could any mistreatment of a child." He was their protector, friend and counselor.

Chief Cannon supported many local schools' PTAs and men's clubs, but his real love was saved for the Isaac Litton Lions. He attended numerous pep meetings, games and events, and was an anonymous contributor to many of the school's fund raising efforts. He was a huge booster of the Big Blue, even though he was an alumnus of MBA.

After he was diagnosed with cancer, the Lions football team was an underdog in a crucial game in 1955. The school organized "All the way for the Chief" motto in the days building up to the game. That the Chief attended the game on a stretcher personified his love for the mighty Lions. The fans returned that love to him. Of course, the Big Blue won the game for the Chief.



Chief Cannon was a member of Inglewood Methodist Church where his funeral service was held with Reverend James Lantrip officiating. He was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery. He was only 56 years old. He was a colorful and ardent supporter of Isaac Litton, and we remember and honor him these many years later. May he continue to rest in heavenly peace.

Litton High Forever

BLAST / COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Alice Stewart Shehane '65, chair

Jerry Newman '58

Kaaren Frazier Andrews '59

Judy Butler Cline '70

Larry Collier '69

Marisue Meador Stalker '70

Mickey Collier '65



LITTON LEGACY – 2023-2024, QUARTERLY REPORT

The Isaac Litton Alumni Association is taking this opportunity to acknowledge its supporters and benefactors for their continuing support and encouragement. Listed here are the names of those to whom we extend our deepest gratitude for gifts received May 23, 2023, to the present.

Please note that future gifts will be recognized in the next report. This list will also be posted on the alumni website, isaaclitton.com.

Diamond Donors (\$1000 and over)

Gayle Batey, in memory of Benjamin Batey, Class of '53
Drew Maddux, Class of '52

Sapphire Donors (\$500-\$999)

Jay McDonald, Class of '64
William Benz III, Class of '70
Howard (Skip) Dean, Class of '68

Ruby Donors (\$100-\$499)

Charles Mark Maunsell, Class of '63
James & Leslie Harrison, Class of '68
Betty Wiggins Lynch, Class of '68
William (Terry) Sanders, Class of '68
Patricia M. Martin, Class of 69
Kitty Kincaid Woodson, Class of '65
Thomas H. Cayce, Class of '67
John E. & Norma Benz, Class of '51
Rev. James Henry, Class of '55
Louis C. Hines, Class of '53
Kaaren F. Andrews, Class of '59
Skip and Jeannie Dean, Class of '68
Marisue Meador Stalker, Class of '70
Debra Bumpus, Class of '72
Judy Butler Cline, Class of '70

SANTA'S HELPERS!

On Friday, December 8, 2023, ILAA Board members and others met to help wrap gifts for Backfield in Motion students. Thanks to all who attended and helped, the gifts were finished in record time!



VETERANS' DAY BREAKFAST, 2023

By Don Clark, Class of '70

On November 11, 2023, we held our second annual Veterans Day Breakfast to honor our alumni who served in the armed forces.

Thanks to the Alumni Board for providing breakfast for those who attended this year. We almost doubled number of attendees from those who came last year.

It was wonderful to see so many of our alumni coming together for the breakfast. We were honored to have 40 alumni attending who served in the military along with another 40 guests.

As a special treat this year, we had Rear Admiral Jerry C. Breast attend and give a brief talk about his service in the United States Navy. RADM Breast served as a Naval Aviator during the Vietnam hostilities where he flew 336 combat missions over North Vietnam while on three deployments between 1967 and 1973. RADM Breast was also responsible for all USN strike planning and execution during operations in Libya and the Gulf of Sidra. He retired from the Navy and held four positions in business and education fields over the next 20 years. He is now retired in the Nashville area.

We plan to have our third annual Veterans Day Breakfast again in 2024. We will have more information for this by mid-2024 for those interested. Thanks again for those who were able to come this year. Remember that this event is open to both veterans and those who wish to attend to honor veterans, including their families.







GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



Reported Oct. 31, 2023- Dec. 31, 2023

CLASS	NAME	DATE OF DEATH
45	WILLIAM COEFIELD ADAMS	2023-11-05 Age 96
46	ANN WINCHESTER LUSTY	2023-10-21 Age 95
49	BETTY LYNES DENNING	2023-10-12 Age 93
51	BOBBIE JEAN OVERALL BREWINGTON	2023-12-11 Age 90
51	CURTIS EUGENE (GENE) WARD	2023-10-16 Age 90
52	WILLIAM PAULY JR	2023-10-03 Age 91
55	JOHN HAYDEN WILLIAMS JR	2023-10-10 Age 85
56	CARL EUGENE GADSEY	2023-10-23 Age 86
59	PATSY LYNN BORUM MCCULLOUGH	2023-10-09 Age 81
59	FRANKLIN EDWARD RAYMER	2023-10-28 Age 82
60	REBECCA ANN CLARK CREASY	2023-12-22 Age 81
62	JERRY EUGENE GOAD	2023-11-16 Age 79
64	RONALD WAYNE (RON) WALTERS	2023-12-06 Age 77
66	JOHN WAYNE STORRS	2023-10-09 Age 79
67	MICHAEL R EDWARDS	2023-12-22 Age 73
70	RICKY WAYNE BINKLEY	2023-12-13 Age 71
72	ROBERTA HULAN WINCHELL	2023-11-05 Age 69

NOTE: Due to the publication deadlines for each quarterly issue of the BLAST, the names of those departed alumni received after the 25th of the quarter will be included in the next issue.

Please send us any other notices as soon as possible. Thank you.