



Litton BLAST

Isaac Litton High School - Nashville, TN

Volume MMXXVI Issue 4 October 2026

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:

-Nov. 11, 2026: Veterans Day Breakfast, reservation required. For more info, see articles included here, our FB page, and future emails.

-100+ Celebration Spaghetti Lunch April 10, 2027,

-Memorial Day Observance: May 31, 2026.

-All-Year Reunion Banquet: June 12, 2027.

Please continue to show your financial support 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

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President's Message

By Don Clark ('70)

When this comes out, my hope is that we are in cooler weather! This summer has been brutal, and I have really felt the heat draining my energy. As Fall is upon us, we can look forward to 85 shopping days until Christmas (From October 1st) HAHAAH!!

I hope that you had a great summer with family and friends this year. Now it's time to look ahead to some alumni events.

First, we will have our **Veterans Day Breakfast** on Wednesday, **November 11th 2026, at 9am** in the Lions Hall. Uselton's catering has agreed to fix breakfast for us once again, on that day, for just the cost of the food. We look forward to the Litton Middle School band coming over and playing for us that day as we honor our fellow alumni who have served in the armed forces. **This is open to all alumni who would like to come.** And yes, there is no cost for breakfast. We do require a reservation so we can have a count for the food. See the article later in this Blast.

Next, **April 10th 2027**, a Saturday, we plan to have a celebration of all our Alumni who played in the **Marching 100+ Band!!** This will be, **why of course**, a Spaghetti Dinner (but at lunch time)!! We plan to hear from several of our Band members on memories of the Marching 100+. I will try to have our Middle School Band come to play for us as well. We might even have a Claxton fruit cake or two for giveaways. We will be sending out a reservation form to send in after the first of the New Year. This is also open to all alumni.

I look forward to seeing you at one or both events. It is always great to have us get together and celebrate our memories of one of the greatest schools that Nashville has ever had.

Merry Christmas!!!

Veterans Day Breakfast, November 11th, 2026

By Don Clark, class of '70

We are planning our Veteran's Day Breakfast again this year on Wednesday, November 11th at 9 AM at the Lions Hall. We will provide a Free Breakfast for all who attend. (All alumni can attend to honor veterans.)

I need to know information for all who will be coming to plan for the food that day. Please email or text me the following information:

Name: _____

Class: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Guests who will be coming: _____ (names and how many)

My email is dc925@comcast.net, Cell phone is 615-305-8067.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 11th of November.

Don Clark

Class of '70



2025 Veteran Attendees



HAPPY
 thanksgiving

Website Update

By Judy Cline, Class of 1970



When you almost lose something, you realize how precious it is. That's how I feel about our **IsaacLitton.com** website. We almost lost it when Jerry Newman passed away in January 2024. Although I don't think we ever took him or his work for granted, we did take for granted that the website would always be accessible, updated, and useful. And then, in the blink of an eye, it was in jeopardy. We were at a loss about how to access it and

manage it. We thought we had a solution, which proved to be a failure, and that made us even less hopeful. But we never gave up.

Fast forward to present time. We have been working with Debbi Rigdon of Virtual Goldmine for approximately fifteen months now, and our website is better than ever. Much of it looks similar to how it looked before, but the internal workings are much more efficient and stable, and getting around the website is much easier. Every feature that was on the original website is still there, in its new and improved form. If you want to look up a classmate or find out about upcoming events, or just more about the history of our school and the workings of your Alumni Association, you can find what you are looking for on the website.

The area we are currently working on is the [Annals](#). Currently, when you access the annals, you are actually going to the old website where Jerry created digital images of every page of every Annual, a phenomenal effort amounting to 4,832 images. Our website consultant has proposed a way to streamline the costly storage space for this huge amount of data while adding some great features like search-ability and flip-ability (ok that's not a word but it means that you can more easily flip from one page to the next). The Alumni Board has approved for her to move forward. It's a huge task that she is lovingly undertaking. (She loves our organization). We are not sure how long it will take, but rest assured that you will continue to have access to the annals while she is completing this enhancement.

Our website is already head and shoulders above the website of any other high school alumni organization that we are aware of, and with this enhancement of our total annual collection, we are becoming not only a benefit for our alumni, but also for all those who may be researching their genealogy or other local history. We will keep you updated on our progress. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments. My email address is on the website; it should not be too hard to find.



Editor's note: Not long ago, I received a request on Facebook from the great-granddaughter of a lady who had told her family that she had attended Litton and told them stories about a football player she had dated. (Names withheld to protect the not-so-innocent.) I then spoke to the researcher on the phone. The caller couldn't find her ancestor's name on the rosters, and she asked for help in finding out whether family lore was true and what her great-grandmother's high school life was like.

I suggested that her great-grandmother might not have graduated or might have transferred. Our lists and rosters only show graduates. I told her about our yearbooks and told her to look at the year her great-grandmother might have been a sophomore or junior and she might be able to find her there. The caller thanked me profusely and said she would start to research that way. So, as Judy said above, our annuals might be able to be used for genealogical research. The new format that Debbi is creating will be much easier to flip through to do this type of research and easier to "search" and even to "find" all instances of a name in a yearbook!

We're all excited to see the new files and upcoming updates to our wonderful site.

If you haven't visited there, it's

IsaacLitton.com



Middle School Teachers Appreciation Breakfast

By Don Clark '70

On Monday August 3rd, the Alumni Board hosted the Middle School Teachers and Staff with a Continental Breakfast. We wanted the teachers to know they are appreciated and are supported by the Alumni Association for all the work they do.

We are fortunate to have Chara Rand as our middle school principal and for all the hard work that she and the staff and teachers have done to make our middle school a STEM Magnet middle school.

We treated the teachers to breakfast and had time to talk with many of them, wishing them the best for the new school year. As in the past, we gave each of them a gift card. This has now become a yearly event by the alumni Board to start of the year, hosting the staff and teachers.

We are glad to be able to help the middle school during the year when they have a need. Your donations help that happen, so thank you all for helping our middle school in all that they are doing.

They continue to show that Litton Lion Pride!!



Football Team Visits the Lion's Den

By Don Clark ('70)

On Friday the 28th of August, Coach Bowens and his staff brought the Middle School Football Team over to visit the Lion's Den to see memorabilia of the History of our great school. I want to thank Skip Sawyer ('66), Mike Riggins ('69), Bill Stalker, Terry Bumpus ('70) for helping me host and show off our Lion's Den and the items we have there. I think the players, as well as our hosts, enjoyed our time visiting. This is the second year that the players have come over prior to the start of their season to see the room. Coach Bowens feels like this should be a yearly visit by the team. We want to wish them the best for this season.

It is always good to be able to show off our Lion's Den!!





Litton Legacy Donors Fiscal Year 2026-2027, 1st Qtr.

The Isaac Litton Alumni Association is taking this opportunity to thank our 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 July 2026 – Sept. 2026.

Please note that gifts received after this date will be recognized in the next Blast.

This list will also be posted on the Alumni Association website, isaaclitton.com.

Distinguished Donors (\$20,000 or over)

Platinum Donors (\$10,000-\$19,999)

Diamond Donors (\$1000 and above)

Sapphire Donors (\$500-\$999)

Alice Shehane – ‘65

Ruby Donors (\$100-\$499)

Joe S. Henry

Thomas E. Bateman – ‘56

Louis Hines (in memory of Randall Harris - ‘53)

Larry & Debbie East (in memory of Marcia McDonald Shuffett – ‘70)



Your ILAA Executive Board works diligently to be good stewards of the funds in the Association’s accounts. Your donations help to provide the scholarships we are giving, as well as to make sure the Lions Hall stays in good shape, beyond what MNPS does. We support the Middle School in its activities and Backfield in Motion, as well as other community organizations.

Annual dues are \$15 per alumnus. Additional donations are appreciated. The Isaac Litton Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation.

Cash or check payable to ILAA should be mailed to:

ILAA
P O Box 752
Madison, TN 37116-0752



Wil Clouse, class of '55, stands beside his Litton basketball uniform at the ILMS Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. Wil is a member of our ILAA Board of Directors.



There is Always a Litton Connection!

By Rita Solomon, Class of '1972

The ILAA Scholarship Committee awarded Evelyn Michelle (Evie) Neuhaus of Cincinnati, OH a \$2000 scholarship at the All-Alumni Banquet in June, 2026. She is the granddaughter of Victor Taylor, class of 1970. Evie had been involved in volunteer projects such as traveling to Honduras on a trip where they build houses, deliver food, and run a clothing drive. She stated that was her favorite volunteer project because, since they return to the same small area each year, she has developed strong bonds with those they help. As a student in her school's Spanish immersion program since the first grade, she was able to communicate with the Hondurans in a way that most on the trip could not. Evie is now attending The Ohio State University with a major in civil engineering. With her degree, she plans to join Engineers Without Borders to help vulnerable populations, both in the community and abroad, to meet basic human needs.



Hal Gibbs, class of '1971, attended the All-Alumni Banquet and was intrigued by Evie's focus on civil engineering and previous work in Central America. He facilitated contact with Dr. Fort Gwinn, also in class of 1971, to be a resource for Evie. Dr. Gwinn attended TN Tech where he received a BS in Engineering Science and an MS in Engineering mechanics, then the University of TN Space Institute where he received his PhD in Engineering Science and Mechanics. He retired as Associate Dean of the College of Engineering at Lipscomb University. Hal recalled that Dr. Gwinn had one of his classes build a bridge here, packed it in a container, then had it

delivered to Central America, where the bridge was assembled by the class on site. Evie was excited to hear of this connection and gave permission for Dr. Gwinn to contact her directly.

As a member of Lipscomb University's engineering faculty, Dr. Gwinn had been involved in sending engineering students to Honduras and Guatemala on engineering projects since 2004. The projects have included several bridges (the most ambitious was a bridge over a major two-lane highway), clean water systems, solar power installations, etc. Over the years, their efforts have been formalized by the establishment of Lipscomb's Peugeot Center for Engineering Missions, which can be accessed at <https://lipscomb.edu/peugeotcenter>.



Now, the college of engineering is sending as many as five or six teams of students each year to places like Honduras, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, and Malawi (Africa) as well as domestic projects serving the less fortunate here in the US. They have often had students from other Universities join them on trips. Dr. Gwinn offered to connect Evie with the director of the Peugeot Center or the chair of the ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accredited Civil Engineering program.

As an aside, Evie's mother was also a Lipscomb graduate!

What a wonderful opportunity for Evie because Hall Gibbs made the connection to Dr. Gwinn!

What Have the Lions Been Up To Lately?!



Kittens, '64 at their monthly lunch September at Chili's in Hermitage. Sherri Shaw Hodde, Sandra Jost, Judy McGehee, Gerry Sams, Kay Rayner Cunningham, Alice Stewart Shehane, Kaye Petty, Linda Griffin Mosley, Cheryl Pardue Pearson, Susan Gilliland Trailov, Ann Tolliver Dooley.



Scoreboard crowd in August: Ron Pettus, Ann Richard's, Anita Tune Jacobs, Bill Jacobs, Vicky Hall Neal, Peggy Carter Edward's, Pat Collier, Judy Weiss, Mickey Collier, Donna Gorman Craig, Pam Lampley Mason, Janelle Holt, Don Clark, Harry Murphy, Carole Goolsby Pettus, Al Waggoner, Betty Sanford, Linda Ray Turner, Ken Weiss, Carole Halliburton Carter, Fred Carter, Pam Allen, Paul Billingham, Skip Sawyer, David Chamberlain .



The Class of '61 had their 65th Reunion at the Lions Hall! (Sorry, no names listed on this photo.)



The Class of '66 at their 60th reunion.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ?

The Class of 1953

By Kaaren Frazier Andrews, class of '59

As we get older, it's not unusual for us to look back over our lives and wonder what has become of some of the friends we knew in high school. Recently, I had a chance to meet with the family of Louis Hines, a 1953 Litton graduate, who is now 91 years old. He provided the following details of himself and three other 91-year-old classmates who met each other in 1941 at Jere Baxter School. They also went to and graduated from Litton High School together and have stayed friends and in contact ever since. This is how they've evolved over the years.

Louis Hines: Louis went to Jere Baxter Elementary School in Nashville in 1941 where he spent the next 12 years with the same three friends: Clara Gowans Hardin, Bill Denny and Wilma Deuel DuVal. While at Litton, Louis was editor of Litton's news magazine, the BLAST and served on the Student Council. After graduating in 1953, he entered Vanderbilt University and after graduating there in 1957, he served for three years as an officer in the United States Navy; then spent 32 years as a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) with Merrill Lynch. Joyce graduated from Saint Cecelia Academy in 1955 and was Senior Sweetheart there. They married on June 7, 1958. They have six children, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. They've lived in the same house in Hendersonville, TN for the past sixty-one years, and just this year, they celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.



Clara Gowans Hardin: Clara also went to Jere Baxter School and Isaac Litton High School. She was Class Valedictorian her senior year and was also in several clubs, was active in forensics, and acted in school plays. After graduation, she went to Maryville College in East Tennessee. She had an eventful career as a librarian and educator in the Knox County-Knoxville school system. She married A B Hardin (everyone called him "Cap"), a sales executive from Elizabethton, TN, who is now deceased. Clara and Cap produced four children (one of their daughters married

Louis' son, Steve), eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Clara lives in Knoxville, TN.

Bill Denny: Bill was a columnist for the BLAST, had a lead in the senior class play, and was also active in forensics. After graduating from Litton, he entered Vanderbilt University. During his last year at Litton and his first few years at Vanderbilt, he was a Saturday AM DJ on WSM Radio, which played music for Nashville area teens. He married June Ralls in the fall of 1957. She passed away in 2018. He went on to become a Titan in Nashville's music industry. He was the President of Cedarwood Publishing Company and was lifetime Director of the County Music Association (CMA) where he worked with many celebrity musicians and artists. For 10+ years, he was also President of the Nashville Gas Company. Bill has three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He currently lives in Brentwood.



Wilma Deuel DuVal: Wilma was a Litton cheerleader and Homecoming Court attendant in high school. She was active in school activities, including assistant editor of the BLAST, and was instrumental in hosting the Miss Nashville High School contest. After graduation, she went to Middle Tennessee State College (now University). She married Louis's cousin, Johnny DuVal (Litton 1952), who emceed the contest for several years. They married on St. Patrick's Day in 1957. After she and Johnny parted ways, Wilma started a catering company, "The Party Girl," which became one of the best in the Atlanta area. Wilma lives in Marietta, GA.

How wonderful it must be to have such solid and long-lasting friendships! One can only imagine the memories they have and the stories they share of all the events of the past 85 years!

When they were all 90!
Louis Hines
Clara Gowans Hardin
Bill Denny
Wilma Deuel DuVal





From Jennifer Spivey Hisch, class of '64/

I had a big crush on Coach Younger when I was a junior in his geometry class. I hung in every word he said, and I never missed a problem in geometry that year! I got an A+! The secret to teaching a 16 year old girl is to have a young handsome teacher!



Editor's note: I never had him as a teacher, but he was the sponsor of my class, 1965, and I certainly did NOTICE him! I suspect we aren't the only ones, Jennifer! And I think it's appropriate that this wonderful man would be recognized as your favorite teacher this year. And he was an alumnus of Litton, class of '53! So, of course he was great!

LIONS, if you have a favorite teacher you would like to spotlight, send your sentences or paragraph about why they are your favorite to Shehane64@gmail.com

Kitchen History

by Lewis Lampley, class of '58

Our lives are based upon foundations built before us. We need to realize how blessed we are with the ease and comfort of doing things. A good example is the blessings of our air-conditioned kitchens. We can see in historical homes such as the home of Andrew Jackson how food was cooked in wood burning fireplaces. Notice that there is no refrigerator nor freezer in the picture as they didn't exist. An iron bar that could pivot in and out over the fire provided a means of hanging pots over the fire for cooking food. The open fire was great in the winters but wasn't too great in the summers. Not to mention the risk of fire. That is why kitchens in plantations were built apart from the houses.



Cooking required intense labor and skill more than turning a knob and opening a package or can to put into a pan. First, the wood had to be provided. Also, kindling or something similar had to be used to start the fire. Adding wood as the fire burned down (from a woodpile kept in the kitchen) was a needed skill to keep the fire at a cooking temperature. That didn't include preparation of raising vegetables or preparing meat. And when cooking was over, ashes had to be removed and taken outside and another fire built for the next meal.

At some point, there began a progression of wood burning kitchen stoves made of iron. I remember, as a kid, knowing a family that had a wood burning kitchen stove. Again, as with a fireplace, a fire had to be built in the stove and time allowed for the stove to get hot. Some stoves had water tanks on the side so water would heat while food was cooking. Ya gotta' remember, when these first came out, there was no such thing as running water nor kitchen sinks. Items were washed in "wash pans." A wood pile was kept in the kitchen so you wouldn't have to run out to the wood pile when you wanted to build or add wood to the fire. And again, heat from the stove was great in the winter but not so good in the summer. A room for the kitchen was sometimes built apart from the main house. The space between the main house and the kitchen was called a "dog trot." So, to go to the kitchen, you had to go outside from the main house and through the "dog trot" to get to the kitchen. My cousin, Emmett, had a century old home that had a 'dog "trot." With the kitchen made modern, he enclosed the "dog trot" to make a room.



Probably, the next progression was the kerosene kitchen stove. With this, you didn't have to build a wood fire, which eliminated a lot of work needed for the wood supply and building a fire. However, there needed to be a supply of kerosene. Which meant taking a five gallon can to the store to

buy and keep a supply of kerosene on hand so the stove could be regularly filled up. One thing about kerosene was its odor. It has a distinctive smell which would permeate the whole house. And you had to light the burner or oven manually with a match. Kerosene is still available and kerosene lamps are still available which is another story except to say that such a lamp could have been really nice to have for some folks during last winter's electrical outage.



Which brings us to natural gas and electric stoves. They are basically the same today as when they first came out but with electronic enhancements. Just turn it on to what level you want the

heat. Maybe, with the exception of the gas stove. When first turned on, a match had to be used to ignite the gas. If you turned the gas on and didn't light the burner right away, there could be a flash or even explosion when the gas was ignited. There were probably a lot of burned eyebrows before folks learned to light the burner immediately.

Which brings us to microwave ovens. That needs to be later as this is kinda' long.



Even those of you who weren't in band probably have some great stories about them and we will SHARE!!

SAVE THE DATE: April 10, 2027, where we all gather at a great tradition.....a “SPAGHETTI LUNCH” (we’re too old to drive at night for a Spaghetti Supper) to share those memories and honor the band members from all the many years they amazed and entertained us!

*Watch upcoming Blasts, emails, and FB for more details.
(It won't be free, but it will be FINE!)*

ILAA 2026-2028 Board of Directors

President Don Clark, Class of '70, 615-305-8067, dc925@comcast.net

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Judy Butler Cline '70

Larry Collier '69

Mickey Collier '65

Rita Solomon '72

Marisue Meador Stalker '70

GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



Reported July 1, 2026 - September 30, 2026

CLASS	FULL_NAME	DATE OF DEATH - AGE
47	GEORGIE LESTER BRIDGEMAN	2026-09-05 Age 96
48	REXFORD L (REX) GOOSTREE	2026-07-18 Age 95
51	BETTY JOYCE BUTTS HEWGLEY	2026-08-09 Age 94
52	ROBERT EDWARD (BOBBY) MURRAY	2026-09-02 Age 93
52	ANN TIPPIT ROBINSON	2026-07-12 Age 92
53	JACQUELYN ANN TILLMAN HUSBAND	2026-08-07 Age 91
53	JOHN R YOUNGER	2026-08-21 Age 91
60	JAMES (JIMMY) FOSTER	1995-10-06 Age 51
63	LAUREN KAY BENNETT BYRD	Date Unknown
64	LARRY ALLEN PATTERSON	2026-07-29 Age 80
65	VIRGINIA ANN COE ENGLAND	2026-08-22 Age 79
65	ELEANOR GAYLE MAXEY WILSON	2026-07-07 Age 79
65	THOMAS RICHARD ROBERTS	2026-09-22 Age 79
67	JAMES WELDON FULLER	2026-06-18 Age 76
67	RONALD BRYAN MERVILLE	2026-07-14 Age 77
68	JAMES LEE (JIMMY) HARRISON	2026-09-18 Age 76
68	GLENN DOUGLAS McDONALD	2026-07-29 Age 76
68	LINDA DARLENE TANLEY BATES	2026-09-02 Age Unknown
69	ROBERT EARL BROOKS	2026-07-25 Age 74
70	GARY WAYNE JONES	2022-02-10 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 your class representative, as listed on the ILAA website, any notices, as soon as possible. Thank you.



How Do You Know You're Getting Old?

By Rev. Terry K Anderson, Lily Grove Missionary Baptist Church

- You know you're getting old when it takes you longer to rest than it did to get tired.
- You know you're getting old when you don't care where your wife goes, just so you don't have to go with her.
- You know you're getting old when your knees buckle, but your belt can't.
- You know you're getting old when everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work anymore.

But we are here! So...



