



# Litton BLAST

Isaac Litton High School - Nashville, TN

Volume MMXXV Issue 2 April 2025

*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 this date:**  
**Memorial Day Observance, May 26, 2025**  
**All-Year Reunion Luncheon, June 21, 2025**  
**For more details, see included articles, our FB page, and future emails from Class Reps**

**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**

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By Mickey Collier, Class of '65

Spring is here and the Alumni Center will be a busy place in the coming months. The Isaac Litton Middle School will hold their 8<sup>th</sup> grade prom on May 8<sup>t</sup>, 2025, in the Alumni Gym. The class of 1965 will have their 60<sup>th</sup> reunion on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Our annual Memorial Day Tribute Event will take place on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The annual All Alumni Banquet is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to hosting these events. Also, Richey Gabrielle, Class of 1970, has been elected to serve on the ILAA Board of Directors. Richey is a graduate of Memphis State University. He joins the board after an extensive career in hospitality management, residential and commercial construction and real estate. Welcome aboard Richey!



Richey

# MEMORIAL DAY 2025

“Remembering the Names on the Blue Bricks”

May 26, 2025, 10 AM



We are planning to get together again this year to remember our alumni whose names are on the Blue Bricks located on our Memorial Wall.

Memorial Day this year will be on **Monday May 26<sup>th</sup>** and we plan to start the observance at **10am**. We will place our Wreath at the Wall after telling the stories of our 41 alumni on the Blue Bricks.

This brief time will be to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, serving in WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

After we finish, we will have the Alumni Hall and the Lions Den open for all to take time to visit and enjoy some light snacks that your Alumni Association Board of Directors will be providing.

We look forward to seeing everyone there this year and thank you all for your support of our Isaac Litton Alumni Association.

Don Clark

Class of 1970



**Isaac Litton All-Alumni Banquet**  
 (Reservations required.)  
**Saturday, June 21, 2025**  
**Doors open @ 10:00 AM, Meal @ 11 AM**  
**Lions Hall, Old Litton Gym Building**  
**4500 Gallatin Pike**



We'll be celebrating our annual banquet in your Alumni Association's Lions Hall with opportunities to visit with your former classmates at the location of many of our exploits and adventures!

**You can also spend time touring our Lions' Den collection of memorabilia!**  
 Once again, we will have a delicious banquet catered by Uselton's Catering and Special Events.

The menu will include vegetarian lasagna, bacon wrapped roasted chicken, roasted potatoes, green beans, salad, assorted beverages, and assorted desserts. **Classes of 1955 and 1965 will be especially recognized in this, their anniversary year.** The deadline for reservations is **June 6, 2025**, but we encourage you to send in your reservation **RIGHT AWAY**. Even if you're not able to attend, please consider paying your annual ILAA Dues and making a generous donation.

**Reservation Information (Please return entire form or all information.)**

Name (incl. maiden name) \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address and Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all guests attending with you and if they also graduated from ILHS and year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Payment for</u>	<u>How Many?</u>	<u>Total</u>
Banquet Reservation	X	\$35.00 = \$
July '23 – June '24 ILAA Dues	X	\$15.00 = \$
Tax Deductible Donation		\$ _____
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

**Make Check Payable to Isaac Litton Alumni Association or ILAA**

**Enclose your payment and the above form and mail to arrive by June 6, 2024 to:**  
**Buddy Jones, 100 Windham Dr., Hendersonville, TN 37075**

**We hope to see you there!**

# NOMINATION FOR ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR for 2025

This award is presented to the Alumnus of the Year at our Annual Banquet. He or she is selected by Committee on the following criteria:

Characteristics of the Alumnus of the Year should include but are not limited to any one or a combination of the following:

- distinguished professional achievement
- distinguished leadership
- service to Isaac Litton High School
- service to community
- loyalty to the ideals of Isaac Litton High School
- positive representation of Isaac Litton High School

(If you want to include supporting documentation of this person's qualifications, please do so).

NAME of NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT EMPLOYER or AVOCATION:

\_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION AFTER ILHS:

\_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

\_\_\_\_\_

SERVICES WHILE AT LITTON:

\_\_\_\_\_

HONORS OR ACHIEVEMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND THIS FORM, OR THE INFORMATION IN IT TO:

**Kitty Kincaid Woodson**  
**Kittywoodson@gmail.com**

**Deadline for nominations: June 6, 2025**

# Puns of the Day!

The older I get  
the tighter  
companies are  
putting lids on  
jars.

MY FRIEND WENT BALD  
YEARS AGO BUT STILL  
CARRIES AROUND AN  
OLD COMB WITH HIM  
UNKNOWN PUNNY ©2018  
HE JUST CAN'T PART  
WITH IT

YESTERDAY I SAW AN  
AD THAT SAID 'RADIO  
FOR SALE, \$1, VOLUME  
STUCK ON FULL'

I THOUGHT, 'I CAN'T  
TURN THAT DOWN'

I DIDN'T THINK  
ORTHOPEDIC SHOES  
WOULD HELP.

BUT I STAND CORRECTED.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN IGNORANCE AND  
INDIFFERENCE?

I DON'T KNOW  
AND I DON'T CARE.

I went  
to McDonald's  
today  
and ate a  
Kid's Meal.

It was good,  
but his mom  
was furious...

# IsaacLitton.Com Website Update

By Judy Cline

Friends, we have some unwelcome news and some exciting news!

The unwelcome news is that the web consultant we hired last year to update our current website has ceased to do business as of earlier this year. While we have made strides in updating most of the Website other than the Class Info section, we are now in a position of needing to start over.



After analyzing the current site including the content and the platform on which it resides, and after seeking professional consultation, we have determined that the current website is too unwieldy to update and maintain. It was wonderful while it lasted, and we continue to be so appreciative of the detailed work that Jerry Newman did on behalf of the ILAA website, but in the words of one of the web designers we consulted, there is no way they could charge a reasonable fee and make any kind of profit because of the sheer volume of information contained on the ILAA website. (For example, there are more than 12,000 images in the Galleries and Classes sections alone.)

Now for the exciting news! At the Board Meeting on March 26, 2025, we approved an agreement with Virtual Goldmine, a web designer who has been highly recommended by one of our board members who collaborates with them on another organization's website. Our ambitious goal is to be up and running by mid-year.

Our objective with this new website is to include all the features we believe to be the most essential, but presented in a more streamlined and efficient way. And we may be able to include features that we were not able to offer in the past. We are beginning the design phase immediately.

In the meantime, the current website will continue to be available ([isaaclitton.com](http://isaaclitton.com)), updated as of approximately December 31, 2024 for all

sections except the Classes Section which was updated as of January 26, 2024. This website will continue to be available for the next twenty-four months. This is important because it means that you will continue to have access to gallery pictures, audio and video files, obituaries of deceased classmates, and other historical information, even if we do not transfer some of this information onto the new website.

We appreciate your patience over the past 15 months. Jerry spoiled us, and we still miss him dearly. It has been quite the learning curve, but we believe that we have turned a corner and are now heading in the right direction.

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**BLAST / COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Alice Stewart Shehane '65, Chair**

**Kaaren Frazier Andrews '59**

**Judy Butler Cine '70**

**Larry Collier '69**

**Mickey Collier '65**

**Marisue Meador Stalker '70**



# **ILAA SCHOLARSHIP**

**We are grateful for the incredible educational foundation we have received and are committed to expanding that opportunity to your direct descendants. The ILAA Board is pleased to announce that this week, we voted to offer a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity to selected descendants of our school.**

**The Scholarship Committee is composed of alumni with diverse backgrounds and professional experiences, including Judy Cline, Sammy Swor, Franklin Davis, Buddy Jones, Mickey Collier, and Rita Solomon. The committee has carefully evaluated scholarship programs from other high schools' alumni groups and developed a plan tailored to our unique goals. We hope this scholarship application will benefit a high school senior or undergraduate student in your family. The application is attached with specific requirements included**

**Please send your submission and/or any questions to the following email address:**

**[isaaclittonalumni@gmail.com](mailto:isaaclittonalumni@gmail.com) ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**to arrive no later than April 15, 2025.**

**ISAA LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
Deadline March 15, 2025 extended to April 15, 2025**

**REQUIRED INFORMATION**

Only students in the current graduating class of a high school or undergraduate students may apply for the one-thousand-dollar scholarship. This will be awarded based on student desire, scholastic ability and financial need. Only applicants who show an appreciation of the value of an education and who are willing to strive to achieve success will be considered for this scholarship.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT**

Applicant must be a direct descendant, or their legal guardian must have graduated from Isaac Litton High School, except for those who attended and would have graduated in 1972. Current Isaac Litton Alumni Association (ILAA) Board Members direct descendants will not be eligible.

Ancestor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date will graduate \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Current School \_\_\_\_\_

Include the following four items with the application:

**Include Academic Information:**

A signed copy of your grade transcripts must accompany this application, including the applicant's cumulative grade point average (GPA)

**Include FAFSA information** and include additional data or unusual circumstances to show financial need:

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**Include an approximately 500-word Essay** to describe yourself, your life and career goals, choice of college, extracurricular activities, Honors and Awards, community and other activities, work activities and Dates of Service.

**Include a letter of recommendation** covering character, personality and scholarship of the applicant from at least one person in authority in the school.

**This application and four supporting documents** listed must be submitted by email: isaacLittonAlumni@gmail.com

In addition to submitting the required Information, we **require** the following:

1) Upon being selected as a candidate you must be able to **attend a personal interview** before the scholarship committee or be available for a phone or ZOOM interview.

2) All scholarships are conditional upon the enrollment of the applicant in an undergraduate course in an accredited American College or University. Upon receipt of notice by the recipient, an ILAA Scholarship check will be forwarded to the College or University to establish a credit for the student. Students who become eligible for full scholarship funds will be withdrawn from consideration for the ILAA Alumni Scholarship.

3) An Acceptance letter from the College or University must be forwarded to the email: isaacLittonAlumni@gmail.com **prior to any monies being sent:**

The Committee reserves the right to publish recipients' names and awards on the ILAA website and in the Litton Blast.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Principal or Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

# SLAM SCAM!

Recently, scammers have been spotted taking advantage of our unique relationship in the Litton Alumni Association! Emails have arrived pretending to be our classmates and asking for help. PAY ATTENTION!

Even if you think you recognize the email sender, click on their address at the top and check to see that the email is actually sent from your fellow Lion. NEVER CLICK ON LINKS or respond if the sender is bogus!

Even if you think the sender is legitimate, ask a trusted friend for help if the email requests that you buy gift cards or money orders. That sort of request is almost always a scam.

## Recognize scammers. They may:

- **PRETEND** to be from an agency or organization you know.
- Say there's a **PROBLEM** or promise a prize.
- **PRESSURE** you to act immediately.
- Tell you to **PAY** in a specific way.

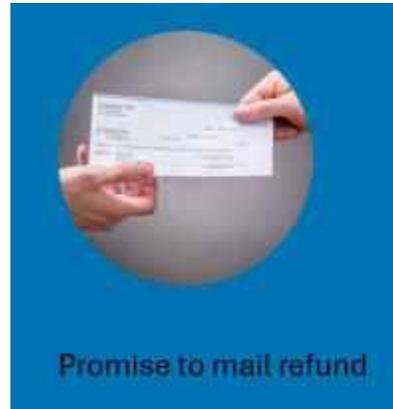
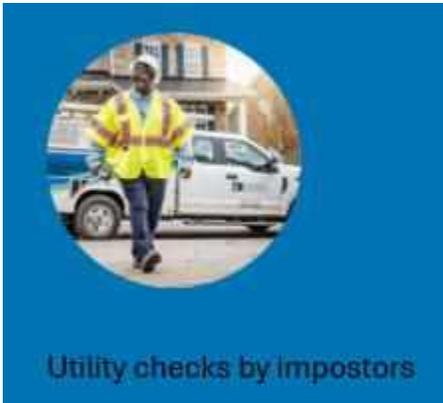


Do not give scammers money or personal information – Ignore them!

## How to avoid a scam:

- **Remain calm.** Talk to someone you trust.
- **Hang up or ignore** the message. **DO NOT** click on links or attachments.
- **Protect your money.** Criminals will insist that you pay in a hard-to-trace manner, such as with a gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, money transfer, or by mailing cash.
- **Protect your personal information.** Be skeptical of a contact you didn't initiate.
- **Spread the word.** Share your knowledge of Social Security-related scams. Post on social media using the hashtag #SlamtheScam to share your experience and warn others. Visit [ssa.gov/soam](https://ssa.gov/soam) for more information. Please also share with your friends and family.

# BEWARE OF



WE CARE ABOUT YOU AND WANT YOU TO BE SAFE!

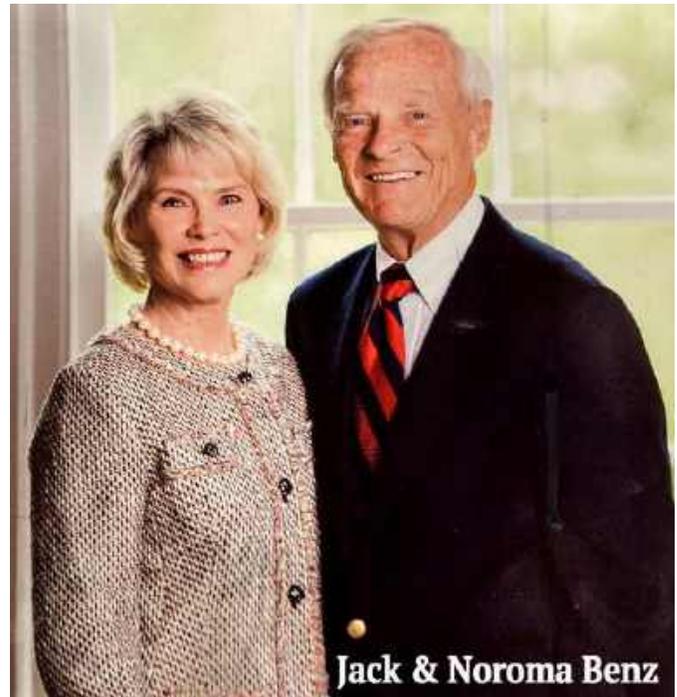
ASK FOR HELP.



## **SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI: Belmont University Honors one of Litton's Own!**

By Don Clark (Class of '70)

A dedication ceremony was held during Belmont's Homecoming Weekend on February 22, in the Beamon Student Life Center to Honor three Alumni for their dedication to Belmont University. One of those honored was Jack Benz, a Class of '51 graduate from Isaac Litton and one of our life long



lion's. Belmont will rename the 10-story Tall Hall Dorm as Jack Benz Hall, recognizing the 1955 Belmont Graduate. Located at the campus' southeast quadrant, the 610-bed facility sits atop a hill between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenues South, allowing it to be spotted from numerous points across Nashville.

After completing his business administration degree and service in the United States Army, Jack built a successful 50-year career in the insurance industry while maintaining strong ties to Belmont University. A student basketball player at Belmont, Jack continues

to support athletics and can often be found courtside at both home and away games alongside his wife, Noroma.

A longtime trustee, his ongoing commitment to the University includes service now as a Trustee Emeritus, where he has helped guide Belmont's growth and development. A lifelong Tennessean and Nashville native, Jack exemplifies the lasting connection between Belmont and its alumni through his continued presence and support of University initiatives.

As we all know, any time you turn around here in Nashville you see the presence of our alumni and all they have done to represent Nashville and our Isaac Litton Alumni Association. While our school closed 54 years ago, Isaac Litton Alums are still making a difference. We congratulate Jack on his achievements for Belmont University.

**There's no better Pride than our Lion Pride!!!**



# BACKFIELD IN MOTION ANNUAL REPORT!

## Our Community



**11**

Program Sites



**757**

Students Enrolled



**20**

Schools Served



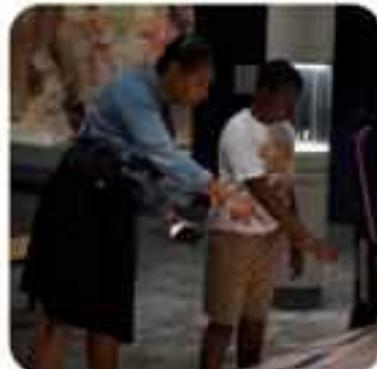
**11**

Field Trips and  
College Visits



**540**

Contact Hours with  
Students and Families



# Program Sustainability

Sustainability is a key focus for our program. It is through the many different donors and foundations that Backfield in Motion has had a history of diversifying funding sources. Our proactive fundraising strategy includes cultivating relationships with individual donors, corporate sponsors, and community partnerships. This diversified approach enhances our ability to sustain program initiatives beyond grants and donations.





# MUSIC MAN

*By Alice Shehane, class of '65*

Remember that guy who always plays the bagpipes at our events (and everybody else's)? He's there in full Scottish regalia and makes our bonny spirits soar!



What's his story? Do you know him? All of us who do know him understand what a special and SPECTACULAR man he is.

Jay Dawson is a well-known arranger and composer. Mr. Swor (yes, our Mr. Swor) leaned heavily on him for our arrangements. He could do them on the fly! He graduated from Isaac Litton High School in 1965 and left a wonderful legacy behind him. But he didn't stop there.

Jay attended George Peabody College, graduating in 1969. He taught for six years in public junior high and high schools, and one year at the college level. For three years, he taught summer school graduate courses at Vander-Cook College in Chicago.

Jay can play any instrument he can get his hands on. He mostly played trumpet at Litton, but he was a French hornist for ten years in the Nashville Symphony Orchestra before becoming assistant conductor in 1977, for three years. He has written and consulted for Opryland USA, the Knoxville 1982 world's Fair, Memphis Blues, Valley Fever, and Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps. He is currently the arranger for the McGavock High School Band.

He has published works by multiple companies, including marching band music, concert band music, and drill designs for middle school, high school and college bands.

He and his lovely wife, Cynthia, have been married since 2003.

So, do you know Jay Dawson? If so, you know a man who has made his old high school proud with his accomplishments, both personal and professional! If you don't know Jay, ask someone who does. There are sure to be STORIES!



## Hey, Lions!

Do you have a person with a relationship with Isaac Litton High School that you would like to honor by having their name on a brick in our memorial wall? A parent? A spouse? A favorite teacher? A coach? A family member or friend? They need not have died to honor them. Wouldn't you like them to know about your admiration of them NOW?

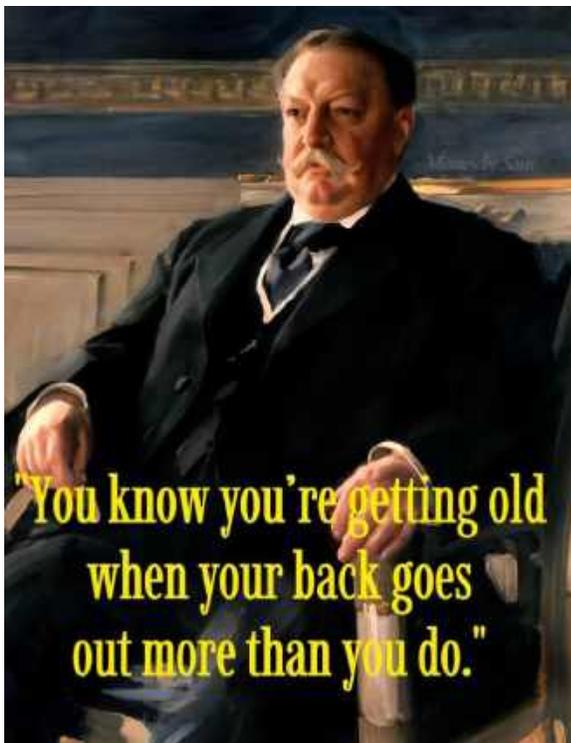
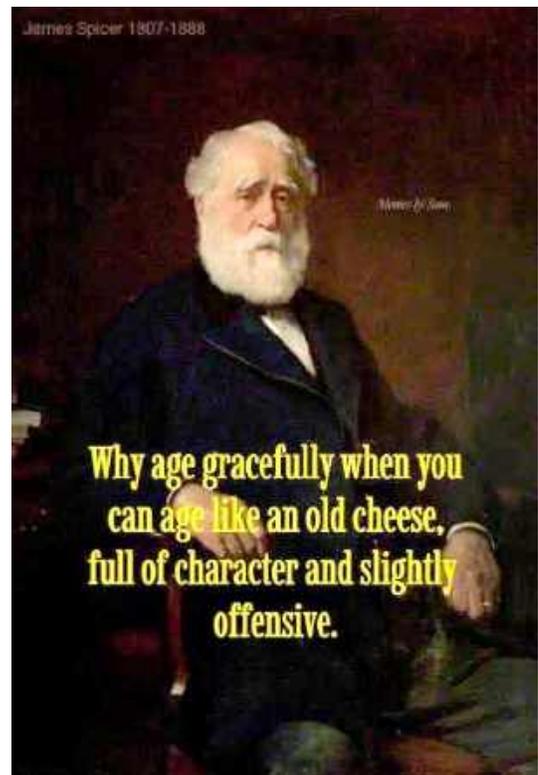


Hunt Memorial, who has done all the brick engraving for us in the past has increased their prices, so we will now need to charge **\$75** for each engraved brick. We will also be revising our order form in the near future, but you can use the form presently on the website, [isaaclitton.com](http://isaaclitton.com), to order a brick to help us all remember the Litton connection to your honoree. You can find the link to the form on the right side of the home page. If you can't print the form, write the requested information on a piece of paper and mail it with your check to the address provided. Please refer to the limit of lines and letters.

Remember that the bricks now cost **\$75**, but you'll be proud you did this for your favorite Litton person.

**LITTON HIGH FOREVER!!!**

# MEMES FOR SENIORS





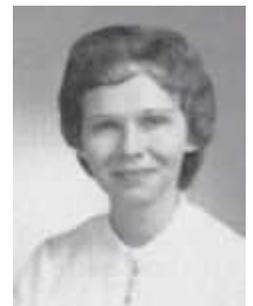
**From Karen Stone Baker, class of '69:** Junior high: Ms. Alice Cassidy. She was hard but you learned in her class. Never realized until years later the life lessons she taught!

Senior high: Mr. Sammy Swor. Behind my back, it was Mr. Swor who convinced my Mama to buy me a new clarinet. The rest is history!



**From Donna Summers Smith, class of '70:** I'll never forget the first assignment Mr. Isham Byrom gave me - an essay on the opposite of a tree. I struggled through it. Oddly enough in my freshman English class in college, we had to write an essay on the difference between hot and cold media. I was shocked to find out I had the only A in the class of over 100 students. I used everything Mr. Byron had taught me. I thank him to this day.

**From Bianca Judd Allen, class of '64:** Ms. Mary Jane Miller - she gave me confidence in myself by selecting me to participate in a panel at Peabody where she was working on an advanced degree. She was always so bright and sunny and maintained a good vibe all the time. I saw her again years later when I joined First Baptist Church. She made a beeline to me with lots of hugs. She was super. Such a dedicated teacher and lovely human being.



## **ILAA 2024-2026 Board of Directors**

**President Mickey Collier, Class of '65, 615-347-7839, [mickey4vols@comcast.net](mailto:mickey4vols@comcast.net)**

**President-Elect Don Clark, Class of '70, 615-305-8067, [dc925@comcast.net](mailto:dc925@comcast.net)**

**Past President Judy Butler Cline, Class of '70, 615-804-3453 [clinejb@gmail.com](mailto:clinejb@gmail.com)**

**Secretary Alice Stewart Shehane, Class of '65, 615-516-9287, [shehane64@gmail.com](mailto:shehane64@gmail.com)**

**Treasurer Buddy Jones, Class of '68, 615-779-8513, [rljonescpa50@gmail.com](mailto:rljonescpa50@gmail.com)**

**Kaaren Frazier Andrews, Class of '59, 615-448-6438, [kaarena81@comcast.net](mailto:kaarena81@comcast.net)**

**Jerry Bean, Class of '69, 615-804-5726, [bjbea202@bellsouth.net](mailto:bjbea202@bellsouth.net)**

**Terry Bumpus, Class of '70, 615-708-3182, [terrybumpus@comcast.net](mailto:terrybumpus@comcast.net)**

**Dr. Wil Clouse, Class of '55, 615-545-9461, [Drwil.Clouse@gmail.com](mailto:Drwil.Clouse@gmail.com)**

**Pat Collier, 615-812-6862, [mickeypat.1@comcast.net](mailto:mickeypat.1@comcast.net)**

**Franklin Davis, Class of '70, 615-420-0342, [wfdjr@aol.com](mailto:wfdjr@aol.com)**

**John Halliburton, Class of '68, 615-390-0901, [johndhalliburton@att.net](mailto:johndhalliburton@att.net)**

**Richey Gabrielle, Class of '70, 615-415-0123, [rgabrielle@bellsouth.net](mailto:rgabrielle@bellsouth.net)**

**Mike Riggins, Class of '69, 615-945-7160. [Captmike69@gmail.com](mailto:Captmike69@gmail.com)**

**Rita Solomon, Class of '72, 615-351-2426, [rsolomon.tn@gmail.com](mailto:rsolomon.tn@gmail.com)**

**Marisue Stalker, Class of '69, 615-337-6865, [marisuestalker@yahoo.com](mailto:marisuestalker@yahoo.com)**

**Sammy Swor, Class of '64, 615-218-7507, [svs@comcast.net](mailto:svs@comcast.net)**

**Kitty Kincaid Woodson, Class of '65, 615-957-3587, [kittywoodson@gmail.com](mailto:kittywoodson@gmail.com)**

# *GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN*



## *Reported January 1, 2025- March 25, 2025*

Joseph Vance Russell, class of 1959; died 11/30/2024  
Linda Herod Clifton, class of 1962; died 11/25/2025  
Charles Randall Smith, class of 1961; died 12/17/2024  
Wilburn Leon Bates, class of 1967; died 12/2024  
Alvin Lyell Hunter, class of 1955; died 12/24/2024  
Ronald D. Robinson, class of 1953; died 12/23/2024  
Dennis Peery Galloway, class of 1970; died 01/02/2025|  
Lou Flippen Sullivan, class of 1964; died 01/03/2025  
Bobbie Sue Allison Northcutt, class of 1955; died 01/02/2025  
Patricia Ann Horn West, class of 1957; died 12/31/2024  
Merrie Beth Hughes Johnson, class of 1961; died 12/24/2024  
Jean Rader Matheny Crabtree, class of 1947; died 01/11/202  
Richard Armstrong Pruett, class of 1961; died 01/01/2025  
Mary Aline Fann, class of 1954; died 01/15/2025  
James Johns Thomas, class of 1965; died 01/18/2025  
Samuel Wrenn (Sammie) Rice, class of 1959; died 02/06/2025  
Richard L. Hurt, class of 1968; died 01/03/2025  
Bobbie Sue Allison Northcutt, class of 1955; died 01/08/2025  
George Hagan, class of 1947; died 02/12/2025  
George William (Billy) Aust, Jr., class of 1956; died 02/15/2025  
Mary Aliene Fann, class of 1954; died 01/19/2025  
Carolyn Shepherd Conner, class of 1964; died 02/13/2025  
Sherry Lee Rector Gafford, class of 1958; died 05/01/2019  
Jack M. Van Hooser, Faculty/Coach in 1960; died 02/27/2025

**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 notices as soon as possible. Thank you.**