

Memorial Tribute – 50th Reunion UAHS Class of 1966 – July 2, 2016

Opening Remarks, Roger Selfe:

Good Afternoon.

To those of you whom I didn't see last night, and who won't recognize me 50 years on, I am Roger Selfe. I am joined by Anne Farmer Geese, Rob St. Clair and Jack Taylor.

This is my first time back in this building since 1966. I must say, however, that when I first looked at the high school photos that accompanied one of the early emails about the plans for this weekend, I was transported back to this place and to the days of 1963-1966. My mind raced back to Friday night football games, Homecoming, the Bar None dance, the Junior-Senior Prom and, oh yeah, classes in Algebra, English and History. I heard the early Beatles singing, "I want to hold your hand" and "She Loves You," the Drifters', "Under the Boardwalk," and the Stones', "Satisfaction – I Can't get No."

Sweet memories.

Then I saw the tab in that email marked "In Memoriam." "Stunned," doesn't fully capture my reaction to what I saw behind that tab. What? So many, from those days that I had – just seconds before – happily revisited, are gone?

This was jarring.

I don't know why, perhaps because I was then in a rather melancholy High School state of mind, but my next thought was of a very specific day in 1963. A wonderfully warm Indian summer day, the sky a brilliant blue. On November 22, 1963, I was late to school because of a doctor appointment. As I sat in the doctor's office that morning, I read a magazine article about President Kennedy. The article included photographs of the young, energetic president and his children. I remember that one of the photos was of the president's 3 - year old son, John-John, hiding under his father's desk in the Oval Office. Life at its fullest!

A few hours later, I was in a 7th period study hall, not studying, of course, when Principal Dorf came over the PA system. "It has just been reported on the radio that, while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas, with Governor John Connolly, President Kennedy was shot. No further details are available." What? Then, in a few short moments, again the crackle of the PA system and Principal Dorf's now much heavier tone, "I regret to inform you that President Kennedy has died."

"Stunned" doesn't fully capture our reaction at that moment either.

By this stage in our lives, now some 53 years later, we have all experienced the loss of people very near and dear to us. Even when expected, the reality, when it comes, rocks us. We can't help but think that death, whether it be that of a young president, a parent, a sibling, a spouse, a child or a friend, has robbed us.

In time, we can come to realize that even death can't rob of us our memories. We can remember them and when we remember them, really remember them, they are, in some unexplainable, yet real and meaningful way, still a part of our lives.

And, we do remember these 87 classmates.

We wish we could say to them, "Join us tonight! Let's party like it's 1966!"

We wish we could say, "Hey, Randy – do you still know everything there is to know about Corvettes?"

We wish we could say, "Joe, are you still painting? When is your next exhibit?"

We wish we could say, "David, do you remember that first day of summer vacation after 5th grade when a bunch of us went swimming in Russ Smith's back-yard pool – that had just been filled with ice-cold water from a well?"

We wish we could say, "Nancy, your laugh is just as infectious as ever!"

We wish.

But, we can't say these things today.

So, today, we do what we can do – we remember them.

In the rising of the sun and in its going down.

WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

We remember John K. Alberty, Dana Jean Alexander (Langdon), Alan F.

Anderson, Brent A. Anderson, Cheryl LeClerc Anderson, Thomas W. Ashleman,

John W. Badon, Nancy Lynn Bare (Knepshield), R. Steven Beard, Franklin H.

Beck, Randall A. Bee, Richard D. Berdelman, Kathleen Ann Butterfield

(Cannell), Ann Cameron (Mathewson), Nancy Jo Catena, David J. Chakeres,

Gerald M. Climer, Sue Ann Clingman (Jackson), Thomas T. Cole, Stephen A.

Collins, Michael Comfort, Victoria Ann Cone.

Reading by Rob St. Clair:

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

We remember Robert C. Counts, Julia Ann Cowles, Stacy W. Culter, Sandra Louise Dailey (Ceniceros), Joseph B. DeVennish, William A. Douglass, Bradley J. Dupont, Daniel L. Enyart, Martha Helen Evans, (Hottman), Margaret Ford (Schommer), Steve A. Francis, Mary Ann Gabel (Hackett), John Z. Gardiner, John C. Gherzi, Nancy G. Gooch (Bass), Roger K. Green, Anthony D. Griffin, Barbara Wilson Haire (Haaf), Shirley Hann (Merrick). Judith E. Harris, Stephen L. Heischman.

Reading by Anne Farmer Geese:

When we are weary and in need of strength,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we are lost and sick of heart,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we have joys we yearn to share,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

We remember John C. Henry, Philann Hilligoss (Irwin), Joel R. Hurst, Carol Lee Jarvis (Slyh), William L. Jednak, Richard S. Ketcham, William F. Kingcade, Carl T. Kiplinger, Sharon Ann Kitsos, Daniel K. Leggett, Phillip D. Loyd, Michael A. Malloy, Jill Louise McAllister, Susan Ann McCracken (Bridge), David S. McLeod, Richard K. Merrick, Terrence J. Morse, George W. Neyman, James B. Norris, Mary Alice O'Neil (Estepp), Richard T. Parker.

Reading by Jack Taylor:

When we have decisions that are difficult to make,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

So long as we live, they too shall live for they are now part of us,

AS WE REMEMBER THEM.

We remember Steven W. Pence, Ray C. Rainsberger, Phillip G. Ramey, Linda Sue Reid (Loesch), John R. Riggs, Carol Lynn Robertson (Schleinitz), Thomas H. Rutherford, Bruce A. Sanders, Virginia Lee Schofield (Rhodes), Jennifer Lynn Sedgwick, Robert G. Sells, William J. Slowter, Robert B. Soronen, Stephen D. Speer, Susan Jane Steffens (Conroy), Louis W. Teichmoeller, Phillip Tucker, James G. Turley, Charels G. Von Eichin, Maurine Jill Wheeler (Savage), David T. Witt, Elizabeth Ann Worrel (Morin).

Closing Remarks, Roger Selfe:

We want to thank Principal Andrew Theado and his staff for their help in the planning for this weekend, and, in particular, for making the school available for this service.

We also want to thank Nanci Priest, who suggested that we remember our friends in this way and Anne Farmer, who helped Nanci plan the service. Thank you, Nanci and Anne.

I want to remind you that tonight, at the Blackwell, our classmate, Steve Morgan, is receiving the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Upper Arlington Alumni Association.

Finally, you might recall that I said a few words at our graduation on June 9, 1966. You won't remember what I said, I don't. But, I do remember that I used this quote from Dag Hammarskjold that I thought appropriate for that night:

"We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny, but what we put into it is ours."

The French writer, Francois Mauriac, had another thought about destiny that seems more appropriate for this afternoon. He wrote:

"No love, no friendship, can cross the path of our destiny without leaving some mark on it forever."

These 87 have left their mark.

We came here today to acknowledge that and to say,

We remember them.