



# Class Notes

## MAINE WEST NEWS AND EVENTS For and of the Great Class of 1968

April, May, and June 2019

### The History of Memorial Day

- The original name for the holiday was Decoration Day.
- Memorial Day is set aside to honor those who died in our Nation's service.
- Originally started to commemorate the deceased of the Civil War.
- Waterloo, NY was declared the official birthplace of Memorial Day by President Johnson in 1966.
- Over two dozen towns claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day.
- Southern women are said to have started the tradition of decorating the graves of Confederate Soldiers with flags and flowers.
- Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868.
- A General, not a President, declared Memorial Day.
- Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868.
- Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday in May.
- The first state to recognize the day was NY.
- On the first, official Memorial Day a large ceremony was held at Arlington National Cemetery and flowers were placed on the headstones.
- Most southern states refused to recognize the day officially until after WWI.
- After WWI the Day was adjusted to celebrate the deceased in all wars.
- A National Holiday Act was signed by Congress in 1971, ensuring a three day weekend for the Federal Holiday.
- Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Tennessee, all have separate days to honor the South's Civil War heroes.
- Red poppies are the unofficial flower of Memorial Day.
- The VFW was the first veterans' organization to sell poppies nationally.
- The "Buddy" Poppy Program sells imitation poppies made by veterans.
- Memorial Day parades were once a standard of the day.
- In 2000 the National Moment of Remembrance was initiated.
- The National Moment of Remembrance asks that all Americans at 3:00 pm, pause from any action to somehow honor the deceased of our many wars.
- In 1951 the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of St. Louis began the placement of 150,000 flags at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. This tradition still stands.
- In 2004 Washington D.C. held its first Memorial Day parade in over 60 years.
- Memorial Day is the unofficial beginning of summer activities.
- US death tolls for Memorial Weekend are higher than almost any other weekend.
- On Memorial Day the flag should be flown at half staff until noon and full staff the rest of the day.
- Hundreds of thousands of motorcyclists descend on Washington D.C. each Memorial Day in a parade of appreciation for fallen soldiers, MIA's, and POW's. This tradition started in 1988 with 2,500 motorcyclists.



## Remembering Memorial Day: A Personal Perspective:

Growing up, Memorial Day was a big deal in our house. I can vividly remember Dad driving Mom and the three of us boys to several cemeteries to decorate the graves of a few of our loved ones. It always seemed that at the time of being in the car, Dad would tune into the radio broadcast of the Indianapolis 500 Race. I would try very hard to visualize in my mind what the scene must have been like if I were sitting in the massive structure with all of those race fans trying to be heard over the roar of those incredible engines. As time went on, we were able to watch the race on television. However, for the first several years, it was brought to our homes via tape delay. Now, we can watch the race in its entirety through a live broadcast. My how times have changed.

We also attended various parades and ceremonial placing of wreaths at War Memorial Sites throughout the Northwest Suburbs. Dad and Mom taught us the importance of remembering the fallen that gave their last full measure of life in order to preserve our freedoms and to live in the greatest country on Earth. I appreciate what Mom and Dad did for us in those early years, and continue to observe the day by flying my American Flag at half-staff until noon in honor of the fallen; then to raise the Flag to full staff to show the support for those that are currently serving in the various branches of our Military.

### REMEMBER THEM!!!!

Two of our Classmates died in service to our country:

- ★ Patrick Riordan was killed in action on May 19, 1968. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. You can read the proclamation on our web site ([www.MaineWestAlumni.org](http://www.MaineWestAlumni.org)) and go to the Class of 1968's Deceased list. There is a link to read about Patrick's heroism.
- ★ Robert Utecht was killed on July 3, 1970. One interesting sidenote about Robert: he and I shared the same birth date.

Thanks to the generous contributions of our classmates, we were able to purchase two paver bricks that were planted in front of the main entrance to the high school in honor of these two incredible classmates.

Continuing on with Memorial Day in mind, we want to remember a few of our classmates who have joined our Class' Hall of Fame since our last Class Notes:

- Larry Harper – May 6, 2019 – Larry was a Veteran of the United States Air Force
- David McGuire – May 2, 2019 – David was a Veteran of the United States Air Force
- Joan Pramschiefer Andrews – August 17, 2008 (She was just brought to my attention in April)
- Gerald Torguson – December 19, 2016 (He was brought to my attention in January)

I received this note from Jim Leis, Class of 1965 and Coordinator of the Scholarship Fund. Here is his update:

*John,*

*The following was posted on Facebook: Please circulate and add to your "Notes."*

***On Wednesday, May 15th, as part of the Senior Honors Assembly, the Fund awarded four new scholarships. In addition to three class oriented grants, we provided a fourth, based on a challenge grant from Protected Tomorrows, Inc. Recipients were: Patrick Asztabski, Ilia Tomov, Cristian Raya, and Jocelyn Roldan. We will provide additional information about these worthy seniors in the future. A big thank you to Andrea Rey for coordinating the selection and our participation in the program. Our thanks to all contributors for making these grants possible.***

*Thanks again for all your efforts.*

*Jim*

Thanks to each and every one of our classmates who contributed to the fund and to Mary Ann Wallace Ehlert for her generous matching donation. Our class' contribution was just under \$1,900.00.

April 1965:

- 3rd – First atomic powered spacecraft is launched
- 5th – 37<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards: “My Fair Lady,” Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews win
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Lava Lamp Day Celebrated
- 9<sup>th</sup> – First game at Houston Astro Dome: Houston beats Yankees 2-1 as Mickey Mantle hits the first indoor Home Run
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Beatles’ “Ticket to Ride” is released in Great Britain
- 15<sup>th</sup> – NFL changes the color of the penalty flag from white to bright gold
- 27<sup>th</sup> – R C Duncan patents “Pampers” disposable diaper
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Earthquake hits Seattle; 5 die



May 1965:

- 1st – Stanley Cup: Montreal Canadiens beat Chicago Black Hawks 4 games to 3
- 3rd – First use of satellite TV: Today Show on Early Bird Satellite
- 4th – Willie Mays’ 512<sup>th</sup> Home Run breaks Mel Ott’s 511 NL record
- 5th – First large-scale US Army ground troops arrive in South Viet Nam
- 16th – Spaghetti-O’s first sold
- 22nd – “Super-cali-fragil-istic-expi-ali-docious” hits #66
- 25th – Muhammad Ali KO’s Sonny Liston in Round 1 for Heavyweight Boxing Title

<p><b>FROM THE WLS SILVER DOLLAR SURVEY (March 5, 1965)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>John Carl, Editor</b> <a href="mailto:bikerman421@wowway.com">bikerman421@wowway.com</a></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Silhouettes – Herman’s Hermits</li> <li>2. Help Me Rhonda – The Beach Boys</li> <li>3. It’s Not Unusual – Tom Jones</li> <li>4. Wooly Bully – Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs</li> <li>5. Mrs. Brown You’ve Got a Lovely Daughter – Herman’s Hermits</li> <li>6. Back in My Arms Again – The Supremes</li> <li>7. Engine Engine No. 9 – Roger Miller</li> <li>8. The Last Time – The Rolling Stones</li> <li>9. Ticket To Ride/Yes it Is – The Beatles</li> <li>10. Count Me In – Gary Lewis and the Playboys</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“A” and “C”</b> Susan Calabrese DeMerit <a href="mailto:classof68@att.net">classof68@att.net</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“B”</b> Liz Bednarz Lorz <a href="mailto:elorz1@gmail.com">elorz1@gmail.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“D”, “E”, “F”, and “J”</b> Mary Ann Jados Waldron <a href="mailto:mawaldron@tracbiz.com">mawaldron@tracbiz.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“G” and “K”</b> Larry Kahler <a href="mailto:larrymkahler@comcast.net">larrymkahler@comcast.net</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“H” and “I”</b> Carole Hway Carter <a href="mailto:cjjicar@gmail.com">cjjicar@gmail.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“L”, “M”, “N” and “O”</b> Linda North Aavang <a href="mailto:laavang@aol.com">laavang@aol.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“P”</b> John Carl <a href="mailto:bikerman421@wowway.com">bikerman421@wowway.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Q”, “R” and “Sab - Sce” and “Socha, Sch - Smith, Socha - Szaltis”</b> Mary Smith Bantz <a href="mailto:dawnofdestiny@comcast.net">dawnofdestiny@comcast.net</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">~~UPDATED~~ <b>“T” through “Z”</b> Wendy Wallace Lorrie Ware Perrone <a href="mailto:wordbird213@aol.com">wordbird213@aol.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LINKS: <a href="#">Class Website</a> // <a href="#">Alumni Website</a> // <a href="#">Class Facebook Page</a></b></p>		

KEEP IN TOUCH  
JC

# *Susan's Musans*

*... Thoughts and Memories from Susan Calabrese DeMerit*



Memorial Day, May 27, 2019

Today we honor and thank all the women and men, from the bottoms of our hearts, who sacrificed their lives for us and our beloved country.

Our city has a small memorial cemetery a few blocks away. Every year there is a loving tribute and this year was no exception.

Family and friends gather to honor our fallen soldiers. Taps are played by retired military, speeches are given, stories are told, tears are shed.

In the faint distance, the sound of engines fills the sky. Everyone is silent, hands on hearts, as we look up to the site of the Lone Soldier plane formation, followed by the United States Air Force flyover. What a touching and stunning tribute!

We will never forget, thank you, bless you all!  
SusanD

