

CLASS NOTES

Maine West News and Events for and of the Great Class of 1968

SPRING 2022

Contents

- John's Editorial
- Chicago Honor Flight #100
- Susan's Musans
- C-Wing: Carolyn Winging It
- WLS Silver Dollar Survey
- Historical Events & Other Stuff
- Contact Information

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. ~ Winston Churchill

Spring Time in Your Neck of the Woods

As I sit in my home office and look out the window, I see partly cloudy skies with puddles of water garnishing the streets of my neighborhood. We had a rainstorm, complete with thunder and lightning from around 10:30 am until 2:00 pm. It's a bit on the chilly side for this time of year; but then again, it's the Chicago area and springtime can bring all sorts of weather conditions. In the past few weeks, we've gone from coolness to the monsoon rains, to the heat of the mid-summer, and then today's rain and coolness. The old adage, "...if you don't like the weather in Chicago, stick around for a few minutes, it's liable to change."

Yes, we have survived another winter and now it's springtime. This will be the focus of this edition of Class Notes. In addition to focusing on springtime, we'll highlight the season we experienced during the year 968. The history segment, the music segment, and the contributions from our writers will target the months of April, May, and June of 1968.

Yes, 1968!!! We were entering the final days of our Senior year at good old Maine West High School. The spring sports seasons were wrapping up and plans were being made for our Senior Prom; which included "The Dream Train." Finally, we were preparing for Graduation and the future endeavors for the Great Class of 1968.

For those that were planning on furthering their education at institutes of higher learning, preparations were being made to hang out one more summer before traveling to their respective campuses (or do you campi). Others of our classmates were finding jobs that could turn out to be careers for them and still, others were entering into various Military Branches. A wide spectrum of opportunities was waiting around the corner for the members of the Class of 1968.

FROM THE EDITOR



In some respects, it was an electric time but in other respects, tragedies struck hard and created turbulence among the citizenry. If you've forgotten, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, TN, and Robert Kennedy was shot after a campaign speech and died the following day in Los Angeles, CA. Both events that many people would remember what they were doing and where they were on those two fateful days for the rest of their lives. See the events in history in this edition.

Finally, our condolences go out to the surviving family members of three of our Classmates: Dave Welge passed away in February; Jerry Decker passed away in April and David Radloff passed away in May. These three classmates have been added to our list of Deceased Warriors from the Class of 1968. Our total of known classmates who have left us is now 150. You can be reminded of those names at the [Maine West Alumni Association Web Site](#).

I hope you and yours are staying healthy and that you are able to enjoy the springtime wherever you may be.

Keep in touch with your designated Class Communications Coordinators and let them know of any news that you would like to share, address changes, e-mail changes, etc.

Keep in touch,

John Carl
Long live the Warrior Nation



Re-Visiting April 13, 2022

Honor Flight Chicago Number 100

by John Carl

In everyone's life, there is going to be "a day to remember for the rest of my life." If you think long and hard about that statement, you could pin down one, two, or more such days that would apply to you. Without discounting or diminishing such events in my life as my wedding day, the births of my children, the births of my grandchildren, sports championships, or highlights from my working career, I want to share with you my day to remember.

Honor Flight Chicago is a non-profit dedicated to honoring WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans by flying them, all expenses paid, to DC for a day of honor, thanks, and inspiration. I have been a volunteer for Honor Flight Chicago for four years. My primary job is to serve as a Morning Staging Team Member. Arriving at Midway Airport at 2:45 am in order to stage the Baggage Claim Area and convert it to six separate "Camps." The veterans are assigned to a Camp based on a color. That color determines which bus they will be assigned to for transportation to and from DC. It's always exciting to watch the expressions of the veterans as they move through this preliminary process. Upon completion of this duty, they are then wheeled to the gate in order to board a Southwest Airlines Charter that will carry them to Dulles Airport in Virginia.

This was the 100th Honor Flight Chicago Flight its inception. One of my very dear friends, Gary Zullo of Lombard, IL, a Navy veteran during Vietnam, was chosen to take Honor Flight 100. Since every veteran is assigned a Guardian, Gary asked if I would be his Guardian for the day. Therefore, I was able to go on the flight with Gary and the other 116 veterans to DC. This was my very first trip to our nation's capital. I was very, very excited and honored to be able to go on the trip.



HONOR. THANK. INSPIRE.

Honor Flight, continued

Here are the highlights of Honor Flight Chicago's Flight Number 100:

- 0230 hours - Leave home in Glendale Heights to pick up Gary Zullo in Lombard, IL
- 0300 hours - Picked up Gary in Lombard, IL to arrive at Midway Airport at 0400 hours
- 0400 hours - Arrived at Midway Airport - Gary was wheeled inside to be assigned to a Camp
- 0530 hours - Guardian meeting to be assigned a "top secret" bag and get details from Directors
- 0600 hours - On the way to the gate and through TSA and get a Continental Breakfast
- 0630 hours - Board Southwest Airlines' Freedom One 737-800 for the flight to Dulles
- 0930 hours - Arrival at Dulles and a walk through a wave of greeters and DC Guardians
- 1000 hours - Board the buses for the ride into DC with Police Escort - roads closed off
- Itinerary on the way to DC and in DC proper:
 - Circed the Iwo Jima Memorial and passed Arlington National Cemetery
 - Drove past the Pentagon, focused on the damage done to building on 9/11
 - Arrived at the WWII Memorial
 - Back on the Buses and to the Plaza - choice of Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Memorial or Lincoln Memorial
 - Watched the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Team perform
 - Back on the Buses to ride back to Dulles Airport
 - Stopped at the Aerospace Museum
- Arrival at Dulles Airport for flight back to Chicago aboard Southwest Airlines' Freedom One
- Veterans enjoyed the "Mail Call" which consisted of cards and letters from friends, relatives, and dignitaries - silence on the plane as they read their Mail.
- Arrival at Midway Airport to a Full Water Canon reception by the Chicago Fire Department
- Deplane and enter Concourse B where we walked through hundreds of well-wishers and cheering greeters
- Great Lakes Naval Recruits escort the veterans through the crowd of well-wishers with signs, banners, and lots of cheering and tears
- Gary's family surprised him by being there for the welcome home
- 2130 hours - Folded our tents and made for home base. Safe arrival and emotions spent
- 2300 hours - Back home in Glendale Heights, IL





A Day to Remember for the Rest of My Life





Susan's Musans

... Thoughts and Memories from Susan Calabrese DeMerit



Spring 1968

Wish I could say I was excited during the spring of 1968, but I wasn't. By this time, so many from our graduating class had left and graduated early. It seemed so empty and sad not to see friends that I had known since elementary school every day. Many would go off to college, others would find employment. It all seemed unreal, where did the years go? I wasn't ready for this to end!

I could have been one to graduate early except I loved school. So, I managed to find a few classes, that didn't require homework and had many study hall periods. Driver's Ed was available, so by default, I signed up and have Mr. Ambrose to thank for being such a great teacher...54 years perfect record!

The 1968 yearbook is void of signatures from our class. There are a few signatures from random students that I had to tell them what to write. At one point, I asked someone, named John, to just write "something romantic". To that, he wrote, "Suzy, something romantic! Love, John"..I have absolutely no idea which John that is but I can bet he wasn't in our class. The only class note and signature were from Linda Kirshner, thank you, Linda! And, yes, Office Practice was a riot!

As with most situations I try and make the best of it. Many under classmates became friends and, quite interestingly, we had much in common, art, music, and enjoying school. To this day I'm still friends with many of them, so the ending also became the beginning in many ways.

Hope life has been good to all of you and that you have fond memories to cherish and share. To this day, I still think the Class of 1968 was the BEST ever!

Cheers!
SusanD

C-WING:

Carolyn Winging It



My first thoughts of April, May, and June of 1968 included assassinations, burning cities, the Viet Nam War, and anti-war protests - not exactly topics which lend themselves to humorous anecdotes. So instead, I focused on personal experiences. I fondly remember one particular morning in early June.

Traditionally for our graduation ceremony, each girl asked a guy to be her partner for the procession into the Maine East Field House. They lined us up alphabetically by girls' last names. When it came time to hand out diplomas, our male partners' names were read right after ours.

In 1968, I imagine this list was compiled manually - no computers - a logistical nightmare for the person responsible for getting it right.

And getting it right was very important. Before the big day, we had several rehearsals of lining up, marching in to somewhere, and settling in our seats. Joe (a pseudonym) was the guy that ended up seated to my left. We had never met before. For reasons known only to the universe, he and I created a cosmic comedy connection. At each rehearsal, we were telling jokes, being silly, making each other laugh, and annoying our neighbors.



Then came the day of the Senior Honors Assembly. Joe and I were engaged in our usual antics when they announced the Top Two Percent Awards presented in alphabetical order. When they called Frank Schultz, I said, "I'm next."

Joe laughed and said, "Yeah, right." They announced my name and I stood up. Joe grabbed my arm, tried to pull me back to my seat and hissed, "Sit down." I turned to him and said, "No, it really is me." When I returned from the stage with my plaque, Joe's chin was still on the floor.

He couldn't believe his silly, fun-loving new friend was one of those college-bound scholastic types. And I realized that a trade-school-destined, former greaser could be witty, charming, and intelligent. Looks like Joe and I learned our most important lesson during our final week at Maine West in June of 1968.

Spring Months of the WLS Silver Dollar Survey – April, May and June, 1968

April 29, 1968

- 1. Honey – Bobby Goldsboro**
- 2. Mony, Mony – Tommy Jame and the Shondells**
- 3. Tighten Up – Archie Bell and The Drells**
- 4. A Beautiful Morning – The Young Rascals**
- 5. The Good, The Bad and the Ugly – Hugo Montenegro**
- 6. I Got the Feelin' – James Brown**
- 7. The Unicorn – The Irish Rovers**
- 8. Cry Like a Baby – The Boxtops**
- 9. Young Girl – The Union Gap**
- 10. Hey Girl, My Girl – Bobby Vee**

May 20, 1968

- 1. Yummy, Yummy, Yummy – The Ohio Express**
- 2. Mony, Mony – Tommy James and The Shondells**
- 3. Beautiful Morning – The Rascals**
- 4. Mrs. Robinson – Simon and Garfunkel**
- 5. Tighten Up – Archie Bell and the Drells**
- 6. Master Jack – 4 Jacks and a Jill**
- 7. Shoo-Be-Doo-Be-Doo-Da-Dey – Stevie Wonder**
- 8. Cowboys to Girls – The Intruders**
- 9. Hey Girl, My Girl – Bobby Vee**
- 10. Reach Out of the Darkness – Friend and Lover**

June 17, 1968

- 1. This Guy's in Love with You – Herb Alpert**
- 2. Angel of the Morning – Merilee Rush**
- 3. Mrs. Robinson – Simon and Garfunkel**
- 4. How'd We Ever Get This Way – Andy Kim**
- 5. Yummy, Yummy, Yummy – The Ohio Exprss**
- 6. I Need Love – The Third Booth**
- 7. If I Were a Carpenter – The Four Tops**
- 8. I Love You – The People**
- 9. She's A Heartbreaker – Gene Pitney**
- 10. Pictures of Matchstick Men – Status Quo**



Historical Events & Other Stuff from April, May, and June, 1968



April

- April 4 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated in Memphis, TN
- April 8 – 40th Academy Awards postponed until April 10th due to the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- April 8 – Baseball's Opening Day postponed because of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination
- April 9 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. buried in Atlanta
- April 10 – 40th Academy Awards "In the Heat of the Night," Rod Steiger and Katherine Hepburn
- April 11 – President Johnson signs 1968 Civil Rights Act
- April 18 – 178,000 employees of U. S. Bell Telephone System go on strike
- April 24 – Leftist students take over Columbia University in New York



May

- May 10 – Vietnam Peace Talks begin in Paris between U. S. and Vietnam
- May 11 – Richard Harris releases "MacArthur Park"
- May 14 – The Beatles announce formation of Apple Corporation
- May 21 – Cubs Billy Williams sets outfielder record of 695 straight game
- May 25 – The Gateway Arch in St. Louis dedicated



June

- June 1 – Simon & Garfunkel's "Mrs. Robinson" hits #1
- June 5 – Sirhan Sirhan shoots Bobby Kennedy
- June 6 – Bobby Kennedy dies from gunshot wound
- June 8 – James Earl Ray is captured
- June 18 – Supreme Court bans racial discrimination in sale and rental of housing
- June 28 – Daniel Ellsberg indicted for leaking the Pentagon Papers

