

Comments Received from Those Who Could Not Attend:

Randy Swart - The JMHS Class of 1961 web site is still up at <https://jmhs61.org/> and has been updated.

I will count on people to send me their photos for the 2023 Reunion update in July.

Not happy to miss this.

Hope Howard Green -

Re: Canadian Wildfire Haze - I hope you and my other classmates aren't suffering with this environmental hazard and the Reunion isn't impacted. I won 3 Gold Medals in Corporate Challenge track meet (1 mile, 400 meters and 100 meters) I had a thriller in 100 meter dash with a real come-from-behind squeaker. 23.504 seconds beats 24.006 seconds.

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My husband, Dick, passed away to congestive heart failure on June 23, 2020 -- 1 month and 1 day shy of his 93rd birthday.

I continue to participate in the KC Corporate Challenge (organized in 1980). This organization holds events for corporate teams to compete in running, swimming, biking and games such as volleyball, softball, flag football, soccer, pickleball, corn hole, disc golf, bowling table tennis, tug of war, etc. The events are divided and scored by gender and age increments. (e.g. Women 70+, Men 18-29, etc.)

This year I entered:

Bike 3 mile time trial, 5K road race, 100, 400 meter and mile at track, Long Jump, Women's doubles pickleball, Swim, 50 yd; free, back, breast, 100 yd; free and individual medley. I won 4 gold medals in the 5K and track events.

I am an avid Therapy Dog volunteer with 3 certified dogs over the last 12 years: Eddie, a Jack Russell; Ikey, a dachshund spaniel mix; and now Otis, a wire hair terrier mix.

Most of my visits are to facilities for at-risk youth and nursing homes. Ikey taught himself to skateboard, bowl with his nose, put his toys away and was able to catch a treat that he had been asked to balance on his nose.

Let me share with you 2 sweet therapy dog memories:

A Tender Moment: A hospice patient was actively dying and her daughters asked if their mom could pass while holding Ikey in her arms. He was a blessed comfort to Mom and both of her adult daughters.

A Humorous Moment: A student in the READ program had been reading to **Eddie** one Tuesday and he ran out of time before he finished the story. The next week I had to substitute **Ikey** as the Read Dog. The student was saddened that Eddie wouldn't be able to hear the end of the story he had started the

prior visit. He made me promise to tell Eddie that he would keep the book available until Eddie returned so the student would be able to finish reading the book to Eddie.

Lynn Davis

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Hello Classmates of 1961! So sorry to miss a sentimental journey to Fredericksburg to reconnect with friends. My last visit was the fun reunion in July 2011. Except for being mostly isolated in 2020-2021, I have had a really nice 10 years of retirement. Luckily, I have remained fairly active. I have sent a photo of me at the Chicago Ritz in late April marking my 80th. Ouch! (Picture sent to Randy Swart's web site for JMHS Class of 1961, jmhs61.org). The gay came out during the Pandemic. It was time. Have a great time at the three weekend events. Hello to all!

Beverly Sacra Knight

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I will not be able to attend the 1961 Reunion events. Please convey my "hello" to everyone. I bet it is going to be a good one and I do hate to miss it. I will enjoy looking at the pictures.

Sue Shelton (Mike Shelton's wife)

Just wanted to inform you that classmate, Mike Shelton, passed away last November. He was quiet as a classmate, so I'm sure you couldn't have known, but please take his name off of the email chain.

Randy Rosebro

I am not going to attend as Sue has back surgery scheduled for the 6th of July. I have to miss it but...! Have fun and I'll be thinking of all of you.

Jay Pavlansky

I have a prepaid rental at the beach with my extended family for the entire week. Regretfully, I will be unable to attend any of the reunion events.

Billy & Patti Loughridge

I am very sad to say I will be unable to attend our reunion in July. Patti & I are leaving for our cottage in the Cotswolds on July 5th returning to the U.S. on August 7th. Hugs and kisses to everyone and I will be thinking about all my friends in the 'burg.

Caryl Litman Bremer

Sorry I can't attend the reunion but wish everyone a wonderful time! I'll be there in spirit & look forward to seeing the photos. Wishing y'all much good health & an enjoyable reunion.

Janet Woolley Banerjee, Murphysboro, Illinois

I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend the reunion. I would love to see all of you again. Have a wonderful time!

Joseph (Joe) Hooten

Wife: Carol

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Sorry we can't make it to the reunion. Siblings, Barbie & Dennis passed away. David & Brian still live in Fredericksburg. Lost Vicki in 2007, due to stroke. Kids: Lara, Joseph & Kim, seven grandchildren. Remarried in 2013 to Carol Lee Smith (met at the gym). She has two children and four grandchildren. Served 22 years in USAF, Master Planner at Charles Melvin Price Support Center, Facilities Manager at FKG Oil Company, building and managing MotoMart Convenience Stores across six states.

Updates Received from Some of the Attendees

Virginia Mann Torrice

Just wanted to give us a brief update. Anthony & I will celebrate our 61st anniversary July 20 of this year. We have experienced lots of joy and lots of heartache since our last reunion. We traveled to Florida every year for a while to spend time with friends on the Gulf Coast and Orlando. Played lots of golf - Florida, Hilton Head, North Carolina, Myrtle Beach, Kings Mill in Williamsburg. Enjoyed time with grandchildren Rachel, Juliana, & Destiny. We became great-grandparents in July of last year (Carter Dean Wilson). Anthony and I were both hospitalized in January 2022 with Covid Pneumonia -- I was back home in a week, unfortunately, Anthony had to stay a month in the hospital and another six months in rehab. We were so blessed and so happy to have him back home and well.

Our oldest daughter, Lisa Rene', died of heart failure in December of 2019, and our son, Anthony Daniel (Dan) died May 31st of this year. Our daughter, Nicole (Nikki) lives close by in King George, and we give thanks every day for her. She is a constant help to us and loved beyond measure.

Anthony & I look forward to seeing my classmates and our friends at the reunion.

Maury Wolff

This is sort of an update of things since we last met in 2016:

2018 - "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times" - thank you Mr. Dickens.

June, 2018. We spent two weeks in Scotland and England with family members celebrating a cousin's birthday. It was fantastic. We ran out of time way before we ran out of things to see and do.

September, 2018. Hurricane Florence took up residence just offshore of Morehead City and spent almost three days lashing us with Category 1 winds and somewhat over 33 inches of rain. We had a pine tree come through the roof on the first night taking out the east end of the house and with little roof, the rains took care of our bedrooms and baths. We were able to secure a rental home down the road from a wonderful neighbor and lived there for 7 months before moving back into the reconstruction zone. The final repairs took place a little over a year after the storm. We learned a lot about the insurance industry and which company to never deal with again.

May 2019 - I got together with 4 of the 8 surviving members of the 10 members of the 1959 Boys State Track and Field Championship (the first objective State Championship won by a JMHS team) for a mini reunion on the JM track. Joe Hicks, Winston Ward, Charles Green & I took some laps (at a slow stroll--no

jogging allowed) and tried to remember that day 60 years prior. It was a joy to see those gentlemen again after such a long time.

2020-21-22 - At that track team get-together, Charles Green and I found out that JM has an Athletic Hall of Fame. We also became aware of a terrible oversight at the time in that Coach "Chuck" Holt was not a member of the Hall of Fame. We spent the next two years plus putting together an application to have Coach Holt entered into the Hall of Fame. After dealing with "back room intrigues," Covid delays, many administrative turnovers, and countless delays while various folks made rulings, Charles and I were notified in April 2022 that Coach Holt had been selected for a place in the Hall of Fame. On the night of 18 May 2022, it was my honor to present Coach Holt for installation into the JMHS Athletic Hall of Fame and to present his plaque to his daughter, Kim Holt Adams. After a very long time, a slight had been corrected.

October 2021 - The passing of an era. We sold our boat! The first time in about 55 years that there was not a boat in the driveway. Do I miss it -- oh boy Howdy do I! Do I want another one -- nope.

Jane Woodbridge Wolff

What a special weekend reunion the Committee members arranged. You are all wonderful friends and excellent planners! Maury & I spent so much time recalling old times that I didn't get to talk with everyone as much as I would have liked. I miss all of those classmates that were unable to attend because they had previously made other plans. And I miss those classmates who died much too early. Mary Van Sickle was an "around the corner neighbor and friend" when we lived in Fredericksburg and I think of her often. I wish all of you and your families good health and good humor.