

May/June 2021

While looking at the calendar, it appears as though summer might soon be upon us! Thankfully, May seems to be the month that inspires good weather to gather at our doorstep. It is also the month that includes Memorial Day as a holiday. This issue will begin by thanking all of our alumni who have served in the U.S. military. Due to your services, we, as a nation, enjoy many rights & freedoms that other people around the world do not have the privilege of experiencing. On this holiday, we especially honor those who gave their lives for us. We are so [grateful!!](#)



“Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country’s cause. Honor also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as best he can, the same cause – honor to him, less only than to him, who braves, for the common good, the storms of heaven and the storms of battle.” – Abraham Lincoln

IN MEMORY

Sadly, this newsletter reports the passing of another member of the Class of ‘67:



Raymond Giardina unexpectedly passed away on April 9, 2021, in Florida. He was a resident of Cape Coral, Florida, since 1981. During high school, Ray participated in Booster Club, Intramurals, Choir, Showboat, and was a Homeroom Officer. Ray had a passion for boating, business, cars and most importantly his family. He owned & operated many businesses such as Shur-Shot Pest Control and Shur-Shot Pool Service. He is survived by two daughters, two grandchildren, and brother, Gary, also of Cape Coral.

We have also recently learned that Ray’s wife, Monica (Duerr), a 1966 graduate of GHHS, passed away on May 10, 2021, in Cape Coral, FL, almost exactly one month after Ray’s death. She was born in Stuttgart, Germany, and after high school worked in cosmetology and owned Nu-Image Hair Salon & Applause Hair Salon.

Our sympathies are extended to Ray’s & Monica’s family and friends. They will certainly be missed!

To date, with Ray’s death, we are aware of the passing of 93 alumni from the Class of ‘67. At this point we would like to review for you those who Ray followed:

Memorial



Estelle
Angyal 10
July 2016



Peggy Balazi
21 November
2004



Paul Burik 31
January 2007



Michael
Dudley
August 1996



Louis A. Duli
April 2016



Daniel
Ebenhack 21
November
2008



John Caniglia
2 June 2017



Ernest
Chizmar 11
November
2012



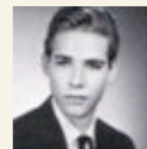
Barbara
Corsi



Dale M.
Evans 26
April 2011



Marlene
Farago 4
April 1969



Douglas J.
Fedor June
2010



Donna
Delewski
October 2004



William F.
Deka 2
January 2018



Donald R.
Dickens 2
June 1995



Joseph
Fetzter July
2008



Cynthia
Finney 2 April
1986



Tina Fossetti
February
2000



Marguerite
Gerak



Mildred
Gerak 7 April
2016



Ray Giardina
April 2021



Brian Jasin 3
July 2008



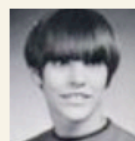
Allen Juriga
19 August
2009



Donna
Kaczmarczyk
6 March 2007



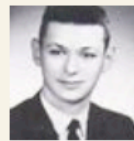
Anthony
Gribovicz
February
2004



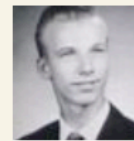
Mary
Grozdanik 12
December
1997



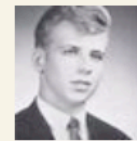
Sharon E.
Hatina 14
August 2014



Robert
Kalanish April
1997



Lawrence
(Larry)
Kaminski
June 2020



Mitchell
Karczewski
26
September
2007



Mary Hejduk
31 July 2020



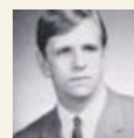
Russ
Horwath 15
March 2017



Craig Hubert
10 February
2020



Richard
Karwan 19
May 2002



Kenneth J.
Kaye 4
October 2014



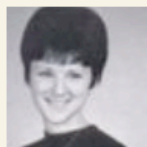
Patrick
Kennedy 28
June 2017



Janis
Koberna 26
May 2012



Sally Kopcsik
1 August
2005



Linda Kopp 2
October 2010



Dennis
Liniman 12
September
2009



Carrie
LoCastro
May 2002



Wayne R.
Lorettsch
January 2012



Marilyn
Kovac
October 2011



David Krailo
4 February
2011



Doreen
Kreps
January 2009



Michael A.
Lovasz 18
February
2016



John Maenza



Michael
Mann
February
2007



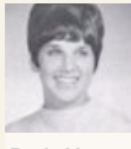
Delores
Krofta 22
November
1995



John Kucera



Julius
Leonardi 24
January 1985



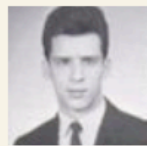
Paula Massa
October 2020



Joyce
Mattingly July
2003



Donna
Mazzola
December
2012



Russell
Mazzola 5
August 2016



Karen
McFadden
June 2003



Marie
Misterka 17
August 2016



Emily
Oberaitis 15
February
2008



Arthur
Orlowe



William
Oshelski
October 1968



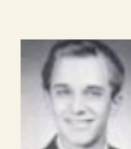
Allen Moon
December
1995



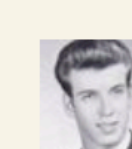
Eileen
Mundell
November
2005



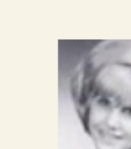
Mary Ann
Musarra
November
2005



E. Stephan
Penz July
2013



Paul Petrich
2004



Connie Pettet
January 3,
2021



John Nemi
January 1987



Dermot
Nolan
October 2019



Richard T.
Novak
January 2021



Patrick
Piekarczyk
10 June 2008



Dale Pohorel
31 August
2010



Kathleen
Powell 21
January 2010



David Priest
4 June 2017



Barbara
Regula 17
February
2017



Sharon Roth
July 1997



Jean Taksar



Pete Tarach
October 1983



Jack
Terranova
May 2017



Anthony
James
Rundo
January 2018



Thaddea Sak
April 2007



John
Schoeffler 31
August 2012



Gary Taraski
2020



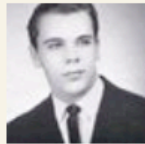
Joseph
Tornabene



Daniel Toth
January 2013



Donna Marie
Senick
September
2017



Ron Sigl



David Straka
March 1992



Susan Tuttle
17 December
2009



Marie
Valencic 31
May 2015



Tom Virgili
December
2012



Cynthia
Warner 3
January 1980



Marilyn Wolk
26
September
2009



Preston
Yuzwa 2020

Bulldog Banter

Our Traveling Alumni: We learned of a few folks traveling! **Linda Wike Calkins** returned to San Antonio, TX, in April and **Peggy Terry Berteau**, with husband, Bob, enjoyed New York City with family in early May. Their granddaughter finished her first year of college there, with her second year having her dorm move to Soho, so they had to check it out! We hope you all had a great time! During the Memorial Day weekend, **Mike Ritley** traveled to Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee, **Sharon Travagliente Weitzman** & husband, Skip, spent the weekend in Chicago, and **Stan Slempra** was a second alum enjoying New York City! The month of June saw **Rhea Jones Ashmore** road tripping through the State of Washington, **Kathy McCullough Scott** with husband, Rick, visiting Utah & Arizona, **Audrey Sopko** visiting Cape Cod, and **Floyd & Gayle Glowick Konet** had fun with cousins spending time in the Outer Banks & Duck, NC!

Kudos! Graduations are in full-swing and **Linda Capretta** was pleased to share with us that her grandson, Zak, graduated on May 13, 2021, from Loyola University of Chicago, summa cum laude! Of course, Grandma & family are very proud! And, **Kathy McCullough Scott** shared the news that granddaughter, Lauren, graduated May 22, 2021, from Hill Country Christian High School in Austin, TX. Lauren is now on her way to Texas A&M, where she will begin college.

There were also several anniversary celebrations: **Jean Alesci Ford** with husband, Richard, celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary on April 26, 2021, **Bill Sprengel** with wife, JoEllen (Ita), also a GHHS graduate of 1970, celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary on May 4, 2021, and **Linda Sindelar Kavaras** with husband, Mark, celebrated their 27th anniversary on June 14, 2021.

Congratulations is also extended to **Karen Parhamovich Felon** who was recently awarded a longevity certificate from PHI DELTA KAPPA for being a member for 35 years!! Very nice!

In Our Thoughts: Terry Blazey, husband of **Valerie Schwonek Blazey**, had a recent biopsy of the pancreas that came back negative. However, further tests revealed the need for a second biopsy for a lymph node in the right groin. There was also swelling at the pancreas & possible lymphoma.

Linda Tomich Anderson's husband, Bob, who is having medical tests and an MRI, as he is experiencing exhaustion, dizziness & shaky hands.

Jordan Blank, son of **Jim Blank**, who needs encouragement and strength with his health issues, and,

Linda Sindelar Steffen and family who await the treatment plan for her nephew, Brian, who was recently diagnosed with small cell lung cancer.

Remember, **Jim Blank** is the organizer of the **GHHS Prayer Circle**. If you would like to participate by either joining the Prayer Circle or making a prayer request, just email him at .

We are thinking of all of you & hoping for positive outcomes regarding these health issues with quick healing!

Condolences to: **Jim Embrescia** and his family upon the May 27, 2021, passing of his wife, Patricia (D'Amico) "Pat" Embrescia, 73, another 1966 grad of GHHS. Pat battled pancreatic cancer & kidney disease, plus an earlier bout of Kidney & thyroid cancer. She and Jim were married for 51 years, and were together for 58! They met in beauty school in 1962. After Pat graduated from high school, she worked in social services administration as well as the psychiatric & mental health sector for 20 years. She received her Bachelor's Degree in social work & drug & alcohol treatment from Notre Dame College, with a minor in pastoral ministry. She earned her Master's Degree from Case Western Reserve University while working full-time & raising a family. After working for several social service agencies, she began her own private practice in 2003 called Wellspring Clinical Counseling & Consulting Services, LLC. Pat enjoyed crafting, sewing, loved music & dancing and researching her family history. She was always up for travel. She exemplified the Italian mama and relished exploring new recipes, as well as being a good baker & cook. Best of all she loved spending time with her family. She is survived by husband, Jim, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

She was the mother of seven children, grandmother of eight, and great-grandmother of seven.

To **Gail Russler Meyer** and her family upon the death of youngest sister, Suzanne "Sue" Boone, 66, who passed away February 22, 2021, from a six-month fight with liver cancer. Sue was a 1970 graduate of GHHS. She was also an enthusiast of the arts, enjoying painting acrylics on canvas, and was especially talented with black and white photography. She & husband, Bob, entered many art shows around the Cleveland area. A Celebration of Life service was held for her on May 16, 2021.

Our sympathies are extended to all families and friends. Each loved one will certainly be missed!

Newsy Reflections & Tidbits: Joe Dominak recently found a 1958 article published in the *Garfield Heights Leader* concerning Pee Wee baseball. Joe said he was 9 then, about the same age as his youngest boy grandchild (they have 14!) with a great-grandchild on the way. Joe submitted it to us, and while a line or two of the initial article did not copy well, I think you will be pleasantly surprised when reading it. These are the items that truly make us smile!

Lopez Nine Wins Pee Wee Title

Ed Straka, a former mound artist in Class A baseball, decided it was about time he became active again in the sport which he loved since he was a child. Out of baseball for the past three years. Ed took the managerial reins of the Lopez nine in the pee wee league this year.

Under Straka, coach Tony Deusanio, coach Len Backley and coach Ed Hoaglund, the Lopez's went on to register a 13-1 record, and including a 24-7 victory over the Boudreaus in the championship game last Tuesday at Memorial Field.

The losers tallied first. In the top of the second, Straka's clubbed the score when Lyn Backley drove home pitcher Ken Scott on a double. They scored three more times in the third only to see the Boudreaus score twice to make the score, 4-3.

In the fourth frame, however, the Lopez's exploded for 5 runs and repeated in the fifth with 5 more. Going into the sixth, the Boudreaus had an apparent chance trailing by a football score of 14-7. But 10 big runs were pushed across to give the winners a decisive edge. Joe Dominak paced the winners with two doubles and a single for 5 runs-batted-in. D. Harba banged in two runs with a double and three singles.

Harba led the team in homers for the season with nine. His .410 batting average fell second only to Ken Scott's .420 finish. Other leading hitters for the season were Dave Straka .370, Tom Krejny .350, and Joe Dominak .333.

The pitching records read Scott 5-1, Harba 4-0, Straka 2-0, Lyn Backley 1-0 and Mike Hoaglund 1-0. Aside from the aforemen-

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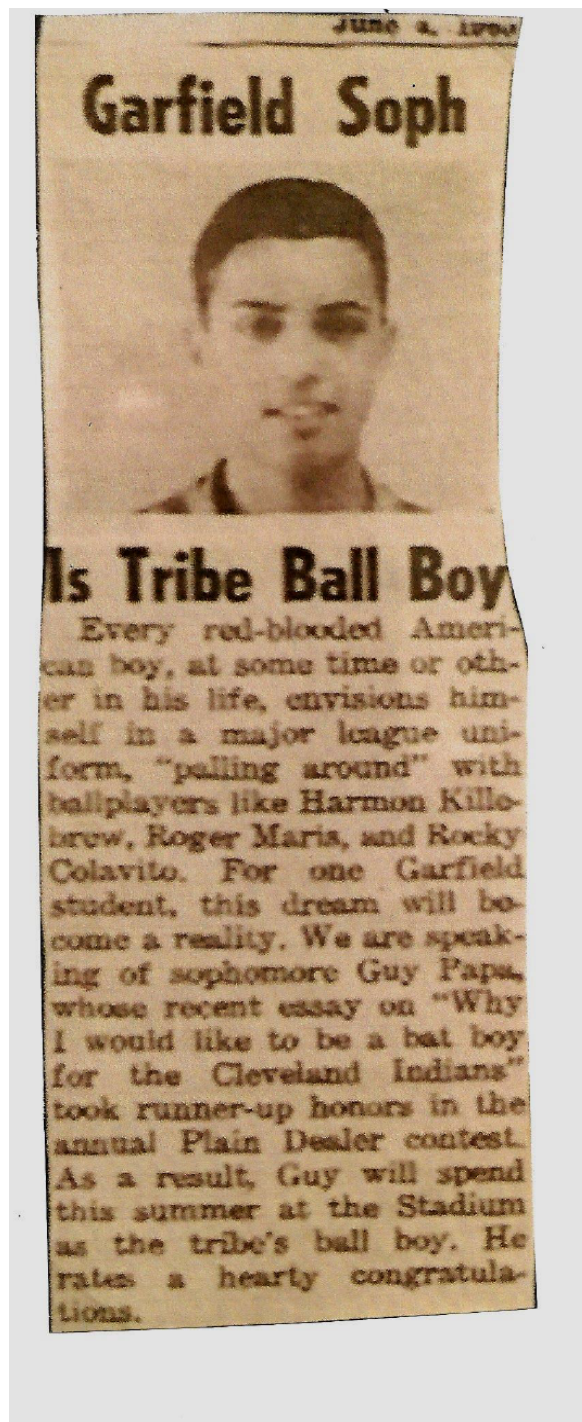
The pitching records read Scott 5-1, Harba 4-0, Straka 2-0, Lyn Backley 1-0 and Mike Hoaglund 1-0. Aside from the aforementioned, the team was comprised of a well rounded staff including Dan Lesczynski, Jack Daddario, Jim Blank, Ray Deusanio, Dale Harba, Gene Zizka, Bill Schumacher, Clinton Harris, and Gene and Gary Zizka.

The defeated Boudreaus needn't be shamed by the lop-sided score. Their performances throughout the season indicated that they are a strong ball club. They were 9-8 victors over the Lopez team earlier in the season.

They are managed by Dick Hart, coached by Frank Debelak and Frank Plush. Hart's lads were definitely weakened when leading hitter and pitcher Dave Fryzel broke his arm a few weeks back. His team consists of Dale Bender, Mike Ritley, Chuck Debelak, Frank Remesch, John Kristofco, Chris Karabinas, Jim Kosakowski, Dick Hart Jr., Dick Lamperzyk, Bill Deka, Dan Eisenman, Gary Plush, Terry Scott, Jim Eisenman, Paul Petrick, Jerry Gredesky, and Steve Huffman.

AUG 28, 1958

And speaking of baseball, **Guy Papa** shared with us an article from *The Plain Dealer* regarding his becoming a Cleveland Indians bat boy! Again, some more interesting reading is shown below!



And finally a **little Trivia:** Barbara Filipski Bunsey has done it again! Another painting of hers was on the cover of the May issue of *"Pixelated Palette"*. She painted *"Honor and Glory"*, shown below, as a dedication to those who fought for our freedoms and gave their lives to keep us free. Barb used her Dad's Army hat from World War II, her uncle's Army cap from the Korean War, and a borrowed Navy hat from a vet of the Viet Nam War. You certainly make us proud, Barb!



A few special holidays in May & June – We hope all of you had a wonderful Memorial Day and/or weekend, and were able to once again enjoy festivities with family & friends. We all have our traditions when it comes to celebrating holidays. For **Memorial Day**, traditionally known as Decoration Day, it is a day that commemorates all men and women who have died, and paid the ultimate price, while serving in the military for the United States of America. One tradition of this holiday is the laying of a wreath at a grave or memorial and it is understood in almost every culture around the world.

Memorial Day was originally referred to as Decoration Day because of the tradition of decorating graves with wreaths, flowers & flags. The first widely observed Decoration Day happened May 30, 1868, as a way to commemorate the sacrifice of Civil War soldiers. During that first observance, Ohio Congressman, James Garfield, made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery. Afterward, 5,000 people helped to decorate the graves of more than 20,000 Union & Confederate soldiers. In the three years after the Civil War, that first celebration inspired other celebrations to take place in towns throughout America. In 1873, New York became the first state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday, and many states followed thereafter. The holiday became widely established after WWI.

Father's Day is June 20th and we certainly hope that all Dads out there will have a special Father's Day with family & friends!



AND, for some fun, did you know that June 23rd is National Pink Flamingo Day in the United States!?! Rather than celebrate the large wading birds, this day recognizes the pink lawn ornament that was sculpted in plastic by Don Featherstone in 1957 for Union Products of Leominster, Massachusetts! The day was established in 2007 for the 50th anniversary of that iconic lawn decoration, bringing summer fun for some folks and tackiness to others. Real flamingos finally got their own day in 2020 when the Flamingo Specialist Group presented the first International Flamingo Day on April 26th. This group is a “global network” of scientists & non-scientists concerned with the study, monitoring, management & conservation of the world's six flamingo species populations.

Well, that's all folks! Please keep us informed of any new contact info for you, and if you have some news to share, please get it to us. Be safe & until our next issue, **GO BULLDOGS!**

*Your energetic editor,
Gail Russler Meyer*