



NEWSLETTER of the Joliet Township High Schools

RETIRED TEACHERS

Vol. 57 - September 27, 2021



Shad Hallihan

Our featured JTHS person for this issue is Shad Hallihan, principal at JTHS Central Campus. We were inquiring about the back to school experiences that the building, faculty, students have experienced this Fall.

Shad has been principal at Central for 6 years. Prior to his present position he was an English teacher for 9 years and also coached baseball and football, was Assistant Athletic Director for 3 years and Assistant Principal at West Campus for 7 or 8 years before he was named Principal at Central. He graduated from Joliet West in 1990.

The school is trying to catch up with last years distant learning mandate which essentially put the students a year behind academically. It also was a learning experience for both students and staff with the social and emotional needs which are much more important now than the previous year. As for the start of the school year Central is going along with the wearing of masks but has not made an issue if a problem arises. They are using SHIELD testing for Covus-19 which was developed at the University of Illinois last year. It has been proved highly effective. Central campus is doing the testing every day to insure the safety of the students and staff. Larger groups such as Band and Choir who are closer together because of the nature of their activity are considered high risk and are tested every week. During the past school year they have had to deal with problems that have not been experienced previously. JT was ahead of the problems that have arisen because each of the students have been supplied with a lap top computer and software for remote learning. Hot spots were developed for access to Wi-Fi where it was not readily available. Another area that appeared last year was the serving of meals to the community. Any member of the community whether adult or student could drive up to the school where staff would work to hand out the meals to them. The importance of the school to the community was shown as parents, students and staff realized the problems of being away from the social and academic benefits of a school community for a long period were very important. No one predicted the detrimental impact of in-person attendance on the stability and mental health of students. Central campus will be having their homecoming on October 2nd coming up. Athletic events are being held and hopefully will continue. The most profound item which Shad cited has been having all the students and staff back in the building.

Deaths

• **Marshall Erickson**, 90, of Bozeman, Montana passed away on July 3, 2021. He was born August 31, 1930, in Waukegan, Illinois. He graduated from Waukegan Township High School in 1948 attended the University of Illinois, where he earned his bachelor's degree and graduated with his master's degree in Music Education in 1953. He also had an additional 32 hours in Music, English, and Administration. Marshall loved his work as band director. He taught at Longview High School in 1952. He then taught in Hoopston, Illinois from 1957 to 1958, and Joliet Township High School, where he also coached high school and Junior College golf. He was also the band director at Joliet East High School as well as a private clarinet teacher from 1959 until his retirement in 1996. He was a member of multiple music groups, including the Waukegan Municipal Band, Bozeman Municipal Band (where he was also a Board member), Bozeman Symphony Orchestra, and Butte Symphony Orchestra. Both he and his wife Lucile served in the Musicians Union Local #709, where he was Vice President. Besides his main profession in the band field he was also a framing carpenter, Manager at Dogs and Suds, an electrician, and a shoe salesman as well as Course Marshal at Wedgewood Golf Course.

• **Marilyn Ruth Hopkins**, age 89, passed away peacefully, Sunday, May 30, 2021 at her home. She met her husband, Donald "Hop" Hopkins, at the Brookfield Zoo in the Monkey House! They were married for 60 years until his death in 2011. "Hop" as he was known by everyone was a Physics teacher and Tiger backer/promoter at West Campus from its opening until he passed away. Marilyn was the loving mother of Diane Loucks, a security para-pro at West, and David (Patty) Hopkins; dear grandmother of Lauren, Amy, Collin and Callie Hopkins

• **Theodore R. (Ted) Lega** of Joliet, age 77, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of Monday May 10 at Lightways Joliet Hospice with his wife Marsha at his side. Ted Lega was the consummate musician and educator devoting his life and career to the joy of making and sharing music. Ted graduated from JTHS in 1962. During his college years Lega was a member of the Chicago Civic Orchestra playing Clarinet. He worked throughout college as an assistant to his high school band director, Bruce Houseknecht at Joliet Central. Upon graduating from college he took over the Joliet Central band as its director. For 39 years Ted was honored to work with the high school band students of

(continued on next page)

JTHS Web Page Update

For those readers of the Retired Teacher's and Staff Newsletter on line here's the new location on the JTHS web page:

www.JTHS.org

Quick Links

Alumni

Get Involved

JTHS Retired Faculty

Links located at the top of the page on pull down tabs.

Newsletter from the past 3 years are located on this page.

(cont. from page 1)

Joliet Central. His standards were high and he always believed the students could achieve these standards. After retirement he started the instrumental music program at Richland School in Crest Hill and helped rescue the Troy school band after the band program was temporary eliminated by the school district. For the past 6 years Ted has volunteered at Amita St. Joe's hospital with his therapy dog Roscoe. Ted received numerous awards during his career including an honorary Doctor's degree from Vandercook School of Music as well as the St. Genesius Award for cultural achievements, from Lewis University. He was elected into the prestigious American Band Masters Association. He was also inducted into the City of Joliet Hall of Fame. Ted was honored with the Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2015 Ted received 34th Annual Chicago Lifetime Music Award from Martin's International Culture, Inc. Ted received the Leonardo da Vinci Award for Outstanding Achievement in Performing Arts in 2012. In 1990 Lega took over the leadership of the Teddy Lee Orchestra. The Orchestra was started by Ted's father, Ted Sr. in 1958. Over the years, the orchestra has played for tens of thousands and performed over 9,000 engagements. The orchestra played Chicago Ballrooms, weddings, and charity and corporate events.

• **Dolores J. "Dolly" Eagan AKA Lunde**, 86, born July 16, 1935 in Milwaukee, WI; Passed away August 7, 2021 in Joliet, IL. She was the loving wife of Vernon Eagan. Dolly obtained her BA from the University of Wisconsin and her Masters from the University of Chicago. She was an English teacher for the following high schools; Crete-Monee, Peotone, Joliet East and Joliet West. She was also a real estate broker and tax consultant and taught Brokering and Real Estate Licensing in the State of Illinois. She was a member of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) and was a former member of Mainstreet Realtors Association.

• **Elizabeth Lyman**, born January 25, 1933 passed away at Falan Nursing Home in Romeoville on May 23, 2021. She worked in the cafeteria at JT Central for over 20 years starting in 1980.

• **Herbert L. Tatroe**, age 97, of Braidwood, IL passed away peacefully on May 26, 2021 at his home. Born May 14, 1924 in Joliet, Herb served in the United States Marine Corps from 1943-1945 in the Pacific Theater of World War II in the Fifth Division. Herb was the former Assistant Band Director for Lockport Township High School, where he led the marching

band to win first place in the nation, earning the Music Man award in 1962. He was also the band director at Rockdale Jr. High School, eventually retiring from the Rockdale Grade school. Herb was a part time police officer in the early 1950's, he also worked part time for the Street Department in Rockdale, was a former bus driver for Joliet Township High School. He also worked at Wedgewood Golf Course in Plainfield, and served as Rockdale Village Trustee. Herb also spent his time serving for the Rockdale Fire Department as a Fireman, Fire Protection District Trustee, and was the Fire Chief for over twenty years.

JTHS FOUNDATION NEWS

On September 20, 2021 the Executive Board of the JTHS Foundation met by zoom. This is the first meeting since the June meeting.

Several generous donations have been made - by the Lichtenauer family with a matching grant by Bank of America to the Lynne Lichtenauer scholarship fund, and by Rose Mancuso, by the JTHS Class of 1952 and by Mrs. Tracy Spesia to the endowment fund. This allowed the Foundation to budget \$42,500 for scholarships, \$24,000 in grants, \$6,000 for principals' emergency funds and \$7,400 in Summer School/Testing Support for the 2021-2022 school year.

Scheduled for fund raising for 2022 are a trivia event Sunday, March 13, 2022 and a golf outing in June. The trivia event in 2021 was not held because of the pandemic but the golf outing in June of 2021 made a profit of \$26,500 for the scholarship and grant accounts.

GETTING OLDER

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

"Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied,

"I'm wondering, then just how serious is my condition

because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'.."

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

The next issue of this newsletter will be published at the end of January, 2022. It will only be available in a PDF version on the JT Web page or mailed to those without internet access who have requested hard copies.

Alice Henderson
3205 Willardshire
Joliet, IL 60431
(815) 436-5418
Cah3205@aol.com

Dean Sayles
2618 Old Woods Trail.
Plainfield, IL 60586
(815) 267-7911
deansayles@comcast.net