



NEWSLETTER of the Joliet Township High Schools

RETIRED TEACHERS

Vol. 49 - April 27, 2018

JTHS Retirees, Class of 2018

This year's class of JTHS Retirees will celebrate with their retirement dinner on Wednesday, May 17, 2018 at the Vegas Room of Harrah's Casino, 151 N. Joliet Street in Joliet. Details can be found below. Many JT Retired Teachers and staff enjoy attending the Retirement Dinner so we have included a sign-up form below. Please get the information to Tanya Rico in the Superintendent's Office by **May 4th**. Address: **300 Caterpillar Dr., Joliet, IL 60436, Phone: (815) 727-6970**. The JTHS Retired Teachers wish all of the new retirees well as they pursue their lives after retirement and urge them to keep up their JTHS contacts. Current retirees will concur that retirement is great.

There are 29 JTHS Retirees this year. The number in parenthesis represents their years of service where indicated.

- Ellen Begler - Math - West (33)
- Lynn Benson - Academy Coord. - Central (19)
- Lawrence Bienias - Para Pro AVAC - Central (10)
- Maida Bonetti - Health Services - West (16)
- John Bouchea - Cust. Maint. Mech. - West (16)
- Leandra Bradley - Maint. Mech. - West (19)
- Robert Carrero - Transportation - District
- Linda Evans - Office Staff - District
- John Figiulo - Central (12)
- Barbara Golden - Business Ed. - West (20)
- Donald Gray - Media Specialist - Central (22)
- Cecil Hawkins - Security - West (14)

- Kathleen Hester - Office Staff - West (19)
- Paula Howard - Office Staff - Central (8)
- Elizabeth Jordan - Media Para Pro - Central (6)
- Vernon Jordan - Teacher AVAC - Central (32)
- John Krebs - Applied Life Skills - West (20)
- James Leach - B & G - District
- James McDonald - Transportation - District (14)
- Luis Medina - Science - Central (12)
- Kristine Papa - Guidance - Central (17)
- Carol Parker - Business Ed. - West
- Barbara Racich - Para Pro AVAC - Central (29)
- Toni Rainey - Special Ed. - West (13)
- Judy Thompson - Computer Tech - District (18)
- Andrew Tomala - Industrial Tech. - Central (33)
- Yvonne Velnick-Pickett - World Lang- Central (1 6)
- Cheri Vogt - Special Ed. - West
- Cecilia Williams-Galvin - Para Pro AVAC - Central

Deaths

We have received word of the following retired teachers and staff that have passed away since our last newsletter:

• **William "Bill" Allen**, 87, passed away peacefully at his home in Plainfield on March 15, 2018. He grew up in Potomac, Illinois. After serving in the Navy during the **Korean War**, Bill received an undergraduate degree from Eastern Illinois University and a Master's degree from the **University of Illinois**. He married Rosemary (Devore) in 1955 and soon after moved to Joliet where he raised his family and made many lasting friendships. Bill

(continued)_

please cut here and return

JTHS Retirement Dinner - Wednesday, May 17, 2018
Harrah's Casino - Vegas Room, 151 N. Joliet St., Joliet, Illinois
6:00 p.m. - Cash Bar - 6:30 p.m. Dinner

For those who would like to join in the celebration, fill in the form below and return it to Superintendent's Office by **May 4, 2018 (address above.)** Questions: (815) 727-6970. Cost: \$40.00 per person. Make checks payable to J.T.H.S. (No refunds)

Name(s) _____

(please mark your choice(s) of entree): Stuffed Chicken _____ Almond Crusted Salmon _____ New York Strip Steak _____

All entrees served with salad, garlic mashed potatoes, broccoli, coffee/tea, and dessert.

No. of people attending _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Questions - Call Tanya Rico at (815) 727-6970 or trico@jths.org

JTHS Web Page Update

As of April 18, 2018 the JTHS Web access for the JTHS Retired Teachers and Staff has been updated. You can now access our present and past newsletters at:

JTHS.org
Quick Links
Alumni
Get Involved
JTHS Retired Faculty

(Deaths, cont.)

taught Biology at Joliet Junior College for 35 years and enjoyed his retirement in Sun City West, Arizona. A lifelong sports enthusiast he loved playing softball, golf and rooting for all Chicago teams especially the Chicago Cubs. In addition to participating in school and community activities throughout the years, Bill served as a Deacon and an Elder for the First Presbyterian Church of Joliet and also volunteered for United Way and Silver Cross Hospital

• **Valeria I. Davis**, age 92, passed away at home on January 31, 2018 surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Joliet, IL where she lived most of her life until a move to Ingleside, IL in 2006. As a young girl, she worked at the U.S. Navy Yards in Rockdale, IL and at the Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railroad. Then she worked as Chief Deputy to Recorder of Deeds Office at the Will County Courthouse from 1948-1964 and at Joliet Central High School in the Guidance Offices and finally in the Office of the Principal from 1965 until her retirement in 1987. Not one to sit idle, after retirement she volunteered at the Rialto Theatre for 14 years and at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center for 15 years making pillows for the heart patients and lap blankets for the rehab patients. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, westerns and needlework. Each of her grandchildren and great grandchildren received a beautiful handmade quilt from her.

• **Elmer Joseph Jamnik**, age 92, passed away on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at the Joliet Area Hospice Home. Elmer was born in Bradley, Illinois on September 28, 1925. Upon graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943. He served in the South Pacific as a Pharmacist's Mate Second Class, attached to a Marine Seabee Unit. In 1946, he entered Eastern Illinois University majoring in Accounting. He graduated in 1950 and taught for four years in the business department at Charleston High School. He and his wife Nancy, moved to Joliet in 1954 for teaching positions in the Joliet Twp. High School and Junior College. Elmer was one of the first Distributive Education Coordinators in the State of Illinois. Many will remember him as the Athletic Business Manager for District 204 and Joliet Junior College. He was a mentor to many students with many of the Accounting majors becoming very successful business persons. He was a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon, social fraternity and Delta Pi Epsilon, a graduate Business Education fraternity. When Joliet West opened, he became the Business Education Department Chairman, a position he retained until he was named a Counselor. He retired in 1986.

• **Katherine (Kitty) C. Lester** (nee Kutzli), age 95, born April 20, 1922 in Urbana, Ohio. Passed away Friday, February 02, 2018, at Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center. Preceded in death by her husband, Paul F. Lester, Long tenured choir director for JTHS. She is survived by her three daughters, Paula Lester, Carolyn Lester and Nancy Sitton. As a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio (Class of '44), Kitty received a B.S. in Education, while a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, Kappa Delta Pi, and a Mortar Board recipient. She launched her 25-year teaching

career in Ashland, Ohio. Kitty returned to Ohio Wesleyan to accept the dual post of Assistant Dean of Freshmen Women and University Social Coordinator. While at her alma mater, she met a member of the music faculty, Paul Lester, married, and soon moved to Joliet. Kitty taught part-time as a kindergarten teacher at Reedswood and Pershing Schools in Joliet. Utilizing her background in art, she became an adult education instructor of arts and crafts at JTHS/JJC.

• **Kathleen Mary Rinehart** (nee Kelly), age 68, a resident of Plainfield, IL since 1976, passed away on Sunday, April 15, 2018 at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center. She was born on January 18, 1950 in Chicago, IL. A graduate of Northern Illinois University with a BA and from Lewis University with an MA. A retired English teacher and guidance counselor at Joliet Township High Schools. An avid Girl Scout in her youth, Kathy loved traveling, reading, camping and spending time with her children and grandson. Kathy was the beloved wife of the late Richard R. Rinehart, a social studies at Joliet West, whom she married November 29, 1974, and who preceded her in death on September 24, 1996.

• **Larry M. Shaw**, was born June 5, 1939 in Joliet, Illinois, and passed away at age 78 on March 27, 2018. Larry graduated from Joliet Township High School in 1957. He earned degrees from Joliet Junior College, Northern Illinois University and Lewis University. Larry was a Business Education teacher and Assistant Business Manager in Joliet Township District 204, teaching at Joliet East, West and retiring from Joliet Central after 30 years of service. Larry was beloved husband of Rosemary Shaw; son, Kevin Shaw; son, Brian Shaw (present Assistant Principal at JT Central); daughter, Stacey Shaw; identical twin brother, Lee Shaw (also a teacher for JT); sister in law, Carol Shaw; many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

• **Mary Lou Suitca** (nee Drobac), age 83, passed away Saturday March 3, 2018 at Joliet Area Hospice Home. Born in Gary, IN, living in Joliet over 60 years. She retired from JTHS Central after 30 years. Member of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church. Founding member, Past President and Honorary Member of the Serbian Orthodox Choral Association. Choir Director at St. Sava Serbian Church in Merrillville, IN. Member of Serbian Singing Federation, St. George Choir, Cultural Club, St. George Kolo, The Red Hatters, and the Gabby Girls.

Foundation

Trivia event yielded over \$11,000 for scholarships and grants. Pictures of the event are on the web site. In May 2018, \$27,550 in Foundation scholarships will be distributed to JTHS students. The annual Wadsworth golf outing will be at noon on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at Wedgewood Golf Course. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. You can reserve online or by contacting Nancy Waesco at 815-744-3653. New members for the executive board are still being solicited. Two new members were accepted at the April 3 meeting - George Gulas and Aleta Pavnica

The next issue of this newsletter will be published at the end of September 2018. 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