

# Plattsmouth Alumni Association

Linking the Past with the Future

Published August 2010

## Flora Belle Mead Wehrbein '38 Named 2011 Plattsmouth Alum of the Year



Spirit, enthusiasm, service, and faith epitomize Flora Belle Mead Wehrbein our 2011 Alum of the Year. It started with school spirit. She graduated from Plattsmouth High in 1938 at the age of 15. She had taken part in speech competitions and was a cheerleader, but in those days, they never went to “away games”. By the time she got married at age 18, she had attended the University of Nebraska for one semester and taught in a country school for a year. Flora Belle Mead married Eddie Wehrbein, Class of 1932 and became a farm wife who handled all types of jobs inside the home and out.

Family life was important. Together she and Eddie raised Bill Wehrbein, class of 1966, Nancy Wehrbein, class of 1971, and Susan Wehrbein Cassat, class of 1976. She made many contributions to her children’s country school. She almost always baked a cake in the shape of Nebraska for statehood day on March 1<sup>st</sup>. She helped decorate the school float for the Kass County King Korn Karnival Parade. In addition, she was a Sunday School and VBS teacher at the First Presbyterian Church in Plattsmouth. Halloween was a favorite holiday of Flora Belle’s, she always had an idea for a clever home-made costume for herself as well as the kids. Even the Plattsmouth Journal office had received a visit from that witch, looking for her broom. She and Eddie hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration for years for ALL the Wehrbeins and extras were always welcome.

**Service:** Flora Belle’s service to others through music has been her theme song. She was a “music therapist” before most people had heard of that career field. For decades, she has brought the warmth and hope of music into the lives of residents of our nursing homes and care centers. At least one “break through” occurred when she put a harmonica into the hands of a man who was unable to communicate with the nursing staff. Residents of Plattsmouth and nearby towns have benefited from Flora Belle’s piano skills or her singing with the autoharp. She plays for several area Churches, Eastern Star and Masonic events. Flora Belle can still play over 300 popular songs from memory and play them in whatever key is best for your voice.

**Faith:** Flora Belle would go the extra mile in activities for the First Presbyterian Church, such as creating a display about the history of the congregation or writing a Christmas pageant. As an individual, she often reaches out to the person who seems to be left out by others. Presbyterian Church members very often say, “I remember Flora Belle on my first visit. She made me feel welcome.”

Flora Belle was the youngest to become Worthy Matron of the local Eastern Star chapter. She is a founding member of the Cass County Historical Society and her extension club, the Goldenrod Study Club. She received an Ak-Sar-Ben Good Neighbor Award in the early 1980s for her contributions to the community. She was proud to accept a Pioneer Farm Family Award at the Cass County Fair in 2009. After Eddie’s death in 1998, she stayed on the farm almost ten years, but a broken ankle brought her to town where she has an apartment at the Nebraska Masonic Home. The move to town was an adjustment but has not slowed her down a bit!

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A special thanks to the Plattsmouth High School ROTC Color Guard for the Presentation of Colors and the PHS Band Students for serving at the Banquet. Also to Sharon Ramge Smith '57 and Larry Vallery '54 for contributing pictures for this newsletter.

## 12TH ANNUAL ALL SCHOOL BANQUET HELD MAY 28, 2011

Approximately 180 classmates and guest came together to celebrate their return to their alma mater. Old friends and new coming from across the country and across town. Some coming for the 12th year and some for the first time! Brian Harvey '94, our President served as the Master of Ceremonies. Olivia Scott '11 started the evening off on the right note by leading us in the singing of our National Anthem, Reverend Debra McKnight '95 then offered an invocation. Jeff Wiles '81, Plattsmouth High School Principal, bragged about the accomplishments of his high school students this past school year and a little about what he looks forward to next year. Our meal was served by members of the High School Band. An excellent meal was prepared by Nancy Snodgrass Kiroff '78 of Kiroff Catering. Flora Belle Mead Wehrbein '38 was introduced as the 2011 Alum of the Year. Another highlight of the evening was the introduction of the honor class members present. Brian once again acknowledged the hard work of the high school band members serving the banquet, encouraging everyone to help with their next band trip by collecting a "tip". . We are hoping that the continuous sound of chatter and laughter indicate a good time was had by all. We look forward to seeing you next year!

# 2011 HONOR CLASSES



**CLASS OF 1930 – 81 YEARS**  
Helen Koubek Svoboda



**CLASS OF 1936 – 75 YEARS**  
Sophia Bierl Vinduska



**CLASS OF 1941 – 70 YEARS**  
James Yelick , Bernice Halmes Fahlberg  
Verona Toman Petereit



**CLASS OF 1946 – 65 YEARS**  
Alyce Roberts Green, Dee Smith Gall,  
Mary Libershal O'Shea



**CLASS OF 1951 – 60 YEARS**  
front Left to Right: Alvera Haase Tschirren, Charline Houloubek Brookhouser, Liz Matney Holman, Elaine Nickels Lurkowski, Ruth Hobbs McLeod, and Rita Fulton Schall. Back row: Ramon Koubek, Tom Carneal, John Glaze, Dean Meisinger, Robert Moore, & Wayne Rieke

# 2010 HONOR CLASSES CONTINUED



## CLASS OF 1956 ~ 55 YEARS

front Left to Right: Janice Wiles Freeburg, Bev Sprieck Hirz, Shirley Eledge Shea, RoseMary Nelson Reeves, Sally Amato Barrett, Brenda Ofe Todd, Nancy Siemoneit Teague, & Minnie Eta Frazer Topliff. 2nd row: Phyllis Martin Williams, Beverly Sullivan Ebersole, Cecelia Forbes England, Barb Lanum Krejci, Bill Gansemer, Roger Wehrbein, Don Parriott, Herman Weber, June Wagner, & Yvonne Fuller Bock. 3rd row: Nancy Painter, Allen Fairfield, Vernon Kaffenberger, Jim Ulrich, & Karen Jacobs Weaver



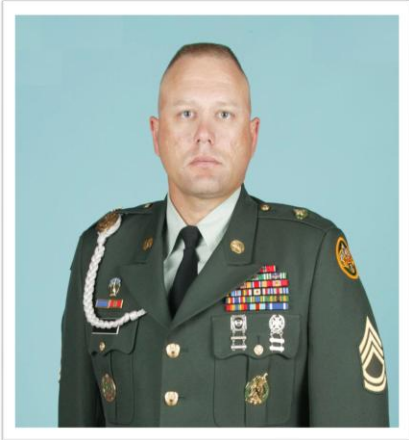
## CLASS OF 1961 – 50 YEARS

front Left to Right: Jerry Heim, Joyce Buechler Heim, Bonnie Roberts Keefe, Marily Morris Horn, Susan Petereit Dellinger, Patricia O'Farrell Goetzinger, Della Diggs Sullivan, Linda Ramge Lewis. back row: Carl Tiekotter, Kenneth Price, Neil Cole, Bill Farris, Allen Hansen, Larry Toothaker, Shirley Foster Key, Carol Spangler Gray, Albert Wetenkamp, Janice Morris Moore, Jerry Moore, Elizabeth Yelick Hall & Marie Gochenour Ficklin

## Hall of Fame Induction

The Induction of **Ronald Hicks Jr. '89** into the Hall of Fame is open to the public. Induction takes place on **September 30, 2011**. SFC Hicks will speak to the student body at a convocation in the PHS auditorium at 1:00pm. A reception for family and friends of Ronald Hicks will take place immediately following the convocation in the Media Center. Ronald will be introduced during half time of that evening's 7:00pm football game. A dinner is provided for family and friends before the game on the football field patio for \$10.00 per person. Advanced purchase of dinner tickets is required. To purchase tickets, contact Shaun Brothers, athletic director at the high school 402-296-3322..

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**Ronald Hicks Jr. '89** The Hall of Fame is proud to recognize an American Patriot. The Plattsmouth Community and Plattsmouth Alumni are proud to recognize Ronald A. Hicks Jr. as one of their own who serves his country with honor to provide his fellow citizens with the freedoms we treasure.

Ronald A. Hicks Jr. is a 1989 PHS graduate. Now residing in Kilean, Texas with his wife Pamela and children Tyler and Cassandra, Ronald has been a very busy individual these 22 years since high school.

During his days at Plattsmouth High School, Ronald played on the freshman, junior varsity, and varsity football teams. He also played on the freshman and junior varsity basketball teams. He started his Army career while still in high school by enlisting in the United States Army Reserve in March 1988 as a 19D Cavalry Scout. He experienced basic training during the summer of 1988 between his junior and senior year of high school. Ron stayed with the Army reserves until March of 1993 when he enlisted for active duty in the United States Army as a Cavalry Scout. He continues his active duty service today as a Cavalry Scout in the United States Army. He has been stationed at 6 duty stations: Fort Hood, TX; Fort Knox, KY; Camp Garry Owen, Korea; Fort Stewart, GA; Deltona, FL; and Fort Hood, TX. He has been deployed three times to Bosnia and Iraq. He has been both a Drill Instructor and Army Recruiter and has performed numerous funeral details honoring retirees and active duty service members.

Ronald has been promoted six times and is currently a Sergeant First Class (Senior Level Non-Commissioned Officer) in the United States Army with 17 years, 7 months of service. He is presently assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Apache Troop of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, TX. His duties and responsibilities as platoon sergeant in a Cavalry Troop of a Regimental Armored Squadron are as follows: multiple worldwide contingency missions; responsible for the welfare, morale and discipline, professional development and combat readiness of thirty soldiers; responsible for the maintenance, accountability, and readiness of six M3A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and associated equipment valued in excess of \$18 million dollars; assist the platoon leader in developing a lethal Scout platoon.

Ronald has received multiple achievements during his tenure in the U.S. Army. His awards are: three Bronze Star Medals for meritorious achievement in a combat zone during Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003, 2007-2009, 2010-2011), two Army Commendation Medals for superior achievement, five Army Achievement Medals, Presidential Unit Citation Award for Third Infantry Divisions spearhead into Iraq in 2003, Army Superior Unit Award, six Army Good conduct Medals, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal with 2 campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with the number 4 device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, Drill Instructor Badge, NATO Medal, Army Recruiter Badge (Gold with two sapphires), Driver/Mechanic Badge, Marksmanship Badge, the Bronze German Armed Forces Badge of Marksmanship (Schutzenshnr) and the Order of St. George Bronze Medallion. In addition he has received 25 coins from commanders, received the Draper Armor Leadership Training Award and the Henry Caro NCO Academy Certificate of Leadership. He currently holds a Top Secret Level security clearance.

Ronald has attended several colleges since graduation while serving his country. He is currently pursuing a Bachelors degree in Organizational Leadership through Mountain State University in Beckley, West Virginia. College courses and Army deployments don't make it easy, but Ronald is up to 128 credit hours and ready to graduate when he returns from his most recent deployment.

Ronald and his wife Pamela of 11 years call Georgetown, Kentucky home. They keep busy with the usual activities of their children Tyler and Cassandra along with their two Lhasa Apsos dogs. In response to his nomination to the Hall of Fame he comments, "The nomination alone is an honor to me as well as my family. A lot of people are unaware of the personal sacrifice I and my family have endured over the years. I would not change any of it. My family supports me fully with all my endeavors and the risk I take. They are proud of me for what I have done for them as well as the nation. This fact alone is the greatest award any father or husband could ask for."

# ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Let's all pat each other on the back for a job well done and commit ourselves to doing an even better job in the future. The Plattsmouth Alumni have done a wonderful job of increasing the availability of financial aid to our young counterparts. Since 2001 we have presented young people headed for a college education with a little help. Here is what we have done:

The first Alumni Association Scholarship was \$100 and five years of membership in the Alumni Association! The second year we were able to give \$250, by 2004 the Association was able to award \$500 to our new graduates. Through the generosity of our alumni we were able to award 2 graduates \$500 each in 2008 and 2009. Most recently in 2010 and 2011 three PHS graduates were able to start their college career with an additional \$500. The total so far is \$7850

In 2003 the Joe York Scholarship was started by two of his students, Gil Peterson '48 and Pete Hill '48. Mr. York was able to present the first two scholarships personally, with the comment that the experience is "very humbling" and "a proud moment". Pete and Gil still strive to fully endow this fund toward granting students a \$1000 scholarship someday. This year's scholarship award was \$700. Through your generous donations the Joe York Memorial Scholarship has awarded \$5100 to date.

In 2004 the Class of 1954 started the tradition of giving a \$500 scholarship to a new PHS graduate in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion. They also issued the challenge to every class approaching their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year to do the same. The challenge has been met time after time. The classes of 1951, 1954, 1956, have stepped up the pace by awarding scholarships every 5 years. Some classes are creative such as the Class of 1957 gave \$557, Class of 1959 with \$559, and the Class of 1960 presented \$600. The Class of 1938 has also donated a scholarship in the amount of \$1000. This tradition added to their own class reunion celebration has benefited our students by \$7716

In 2009 a group of "Band Geeks" got together to celebrate the life of their high school band director, the late Jack Herweg. They chose to honor Mr. Herweg through the one time presentation of 4 scholarships for a total of \$2000.00

Our Plattsmouth Alumni Association has been able to help our young PHS graduates to the tune of **\$22,666** in scholarship money. This mission of the Association is the most gratifying. On behalf of the students, their parents, the Plattsmouth School District and the Officers of the Alumni Association;

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



Charles Stoehr & Erika Spangler  
Class of 1960 Scholarship Winner

Daughter of  
Mark & Laurie Spangler



**Plattsmouth Alumni Scholarship Winners 2011**

Olivia Scott  
Daughter of Randy '78 & Joanne (Bruns) '79 Scott

Justin Knight  
Son of John Knight & Kelli Henry '86

Jeffrey Church  
Son of Richard '86 & Cheryl Church



Roger Wehrbein & Jeffrey Church  
Class of 1956 Scholarship Winner

Son of  
Richard '86 & Cheryl Church



Olivia Scott & Eleanor York  
York Scholarship Winner

Daughter of  
Randy '78 & Joanne (Bruns) '79 Scott



At left:  
Elaine Nickels Lurkowski & Dean Meisinger  
with Jacie Wetenkamp  
Class of 1951 Scholarship Winner  
Granddaughter of  
Albert Wetenkamp '61 & Becky Wetenkamp



**Plattsmouth  
Alumni Association**

# "Create a Table" Luncheon

It is a "Create your own celebration," luncheon. For a mere \$8.00 per person attendees can experience a great lunch with friends. Reserve a table for 8, bring the decorations of your choice and enjoy a family style lunch. The table decorations are only limited by your imagination. Past participants have decorated for their favorite holiday from Christmas and Independence Day to Dr. Seuss's Birthday. Some have celebrated their favorite sports team, favorite decade, occupation, or season. OR You don't have to decorate at all, just enjoy the work of others and a great lunch with friends. However, there is the coveted traveling trophy to consider! **Come join the fun!**

The luncheon benefits the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Attendance is not limited to Plattsmouth Alumni. The only requirement is to have a good time!

**The date is Saturday, October 1, 2011, starting at 11:00am, in the Plattsmouth Middle School Gym. \$8.00 per person! Lunch served at 12:00**

**ADVANCED RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

For the luncheon to take place, a minimum of 10 tables must be reserved

Mail reservations to

Plattsmouth Alumni Assn.  
P.O. Box 283  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

For more information call  
Sandy at 298-8513.



## ALUMNI LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Name (Host) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tables (8 people per table)

Total \$ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$8.00 per person)



**CLASS OF 1986 – 25 YEAR**  
**Richard Church & Kelli Henry**



**CLASS OF 1991 – 20 YEAR REUNION**

**CLASS OF 1986**  
**25<sup>TH</sup> REUNION**

On September 23, 2011 we invite all friends and former teachers to join us anytime from 7:00 p.m. until close, at the Country Bar to help us celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion. On September 24, 2011 we will be at the Plattsmouth Country Club for dinner. Contact Wendi (Rice) Baker at [breezychic@hotmail.com](mailto:breezychic@hotmail.com) or 850-218-6772 or Facebook for more information.



**PHS HOMECOMING 2011**

Don't miss the 2011  
 PHS Homecoming Football Game

Plattsmouth vs Bennington

Friday, September 23, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.  
 Blue Devil Stadium



**“WHERE CORN IS STILL KING”**

The Oldest continuous Harvest Festival in Nebraska

**SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Make plans to attend this year's 80th Annual Plattsmouth Harvest Festival September 8th through 11th. It'll be a fun-filled 4 day event which will include Carnival Rides, Slow Tractor Races, Tractor Pull, Car show, Pie & Corn Eating Contest, Flea Market, Food Court, Fly – in Breakfast, Large outdoor Craft Fair, and more.... Plus a Kiddies parade Friday 9th @ 1pm, and the GRAND Parade Saturday Night Sept. 10th @ 5:30pm with entertainment following.

Visit [www.plattsmouthharvestfestival.com](http://www.plattsmouthharvestfestival.com) for complete details.

**FUN for the whole family!**

**DO YOU HAVE E-MAIL?**

The Plattsmouth Alumni Newsletter  
 is now available by e-mail.

To subscribe,  
 send the following in an e-mail to:

[plattsmouthalum@yahoo.com](mailto:plattsmouthalum@yahoo.com)

Name (include maiden name)  
 Graduation Year from PHS  
 E-mail Address

Plattsmouth Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 283  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

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## Become an Alumni Association Member TODAY!

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my **annual membership fee of \$5.00 per person** for the Plattsmouth Alumni Association.

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my **LIFETIME Membership fee of \$125.00 per person**.

Name (maiden name) \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name (maiden name) \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please put my name on the list of Alumni for the following activities: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to my annual membership, I would like to make a donation in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

Place my donation in the \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund, \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund.

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_