



# NEWSLETTER of the Joliet Township High Schools

## RETIRED TEACHERS

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Our featured retiree for this issue of our newsletter is **Mary Gaydos**. Mary retired in 2011 from Joliet Central as Department Chair of the Math/Science Division. She was at Central Campus for 34 of her 35 years of teaching. Like many retirees she started looking around for an interesting project for her spare time. She was pointed towards the JTHS Foundation. She has assumed an important part of the organization as a volunteer for various projects for the Foundation. She is a board member and has served on a committee for the annual Trivia Event (more on this follows) which will be held this year on March 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 2:00 p.m.

The Joliet Township High School Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation for providing financial support for selected high school programs. It is an important part of showing the community the need for the extra funding and it is always looking for people to contribute in any way. Its Board of Trustees is comprised of individuals, many of whom are JT graduates, past and present educators, and local business persona. The JTHS Foundation seeks resources that are not otherwise available to the schools in order to supplement school programs that support the District 204 Mission Statement - A Commitment to Educational Excellence. Some of the projects funded in recent years have been TI-36 Pro Calculators for a math teacher at JT West, a student grant to construct a 3D printing machine. Each campus is given scholarships for students to finance AP testing and Get Ahead summer school. This year grants totaling \$25,000 were given as well \$55,000 to be distributed in the Spring. One of the Foundations main fund raisers is the Trivia Event with a theme this year of "Also Known As" to be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 176 West located on the NE Frontage Road off of Black Road. Another popular fund raiser is the Wadsworth Golf Outing which will be held at Inwood golf course on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be available after the Trivia Event. Any one who would like more information on

these and other fund raising areas can contact Mary at [marylgaydos@gmail.com](mailto:marylgaydos@gmail.com) or contact the president of the foundation board Mark Turk at (815) 922-4065.

According to Mary JTHS retirees would be welcome additions to working on the Foundation projects and perhaps would also be interested in reserving a retirees table and entering a team at the Trivia Event. Details are on the internet at [www.jthsfoundation.org](http://www.jthsfoundation.org).

### Deaths

- **Mildred (Millie) Anne Graham** passed away September 9, 2023. She was born May 13, 1927 in Curtiss, Wisconsin. She grew up on a dairy farm, was actively involved in the 4-H Club, played the flute, and often accompanied soloists on the piano at state contests and on the radio. She was proud to say she was educated in one of the last one-room elementary schools in rural Clark County. She graduated from a small high school in Owen, Wisconsin, where she began dating her fellow classmate and future husband, Douglas Graham. Mildred was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She and Doug first taught in the Wisconsin Rapids High School system. She and Doug moved to Joliet from Wisconsin in 1955, when he became a teacher at Joliet Township High School and later, Joliet Junior College. Mildred later received her Master's degree in Education from Northern Illinois University. When her children were old enough to be full-time students, she taught Home Economics at Joliet Township High School—Central Campus. She is survived by 4 sons (Paul, Peter, David, Richard) and 8 grandchildren. Among Millie's special interests were quilting, reading, playing the piano and grand-parenting. She and her husband were founding and long-time members of the Joliet Dulcimer Society.

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She was also active in the Joliet Women's Club and the Joliet Area Retired Teachers Association.

• **Daniel L. Janovyak** - Born: September 1, 1946 in Joliet, IL. Died: September 11, 2023 in DeKalb, IL. Dan graduated from St. Patrick Grade School (1960) where he was an altar boy, patrol guard, and Civic Club member. He then graduated from Joliet Township High School (1964). Besides making high scores on the JT bowling team, and playing lots of pool at Don Ladas's Chalk and Cue, he excelled in his vocational woodshop classes. He also worked for Highline Cabinets after school. Dan continued to work at Highline, while he attended and graduated from Joliet Junior College (1966). From there, he graduated from Illinois State University (1969), achieving his goal of becoming a wood shop teacher. Dan began this teaching career at the Glenwood School for Boys (1969) before becoming the Industrial Arts wood shop teacher at Joliet Township West High School (1970), plus teaching night classes and later CAD drafting. While at JTW, Dan became the coach for the inaugural hockey team. He finished out his teaching career at the Joliet Juvenile Detention facility. Dan also was a member and officer of the Joliet Schools Bowling League for 50 years.

• **Phyllis June Keca** nee Knudtson, passed away peacefully at her home with her children and caregivers by her side on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at the age of 97. Phyllis dedicated years of her life as a secretary at Joliet East High School and Joliet West High School, where her warm smile and caring demeanor left a lasting impact on students and colleagues alike. She was also an active participant in Operation Care Package, creating crocheted and knitted hats for active-duty soldiers. One of Phyllis's most cherished roles was her lifelong membership in the Al-Anon Family Group, where she offered solace and support to countless individuals. Over the years, she ministered to hundreds, sharing her strength, hope, and love. These were attributes she learned at a young age while living at The Guardian Angel Home due to her mother's early passing when Phyllis was only 10 years old.

• **Robert V. Mores**, age 77, a resident of Naperville and formerly of Joliet passed away Sept. 21, 2023. He was born Dec. 5, 1945 in Joliet. Bob graduated from Northern Illinois University, was an avid golfer and a longtime teacher in Joliet. He taught at Hufford Junior High and Joliet East, before spending the majority of his career at Joliet Central. He coached football and basketball at East, football and girls golf at Central, and basketball at St. Paul the Apostle School. Bob also ran

a painting business with fellow teacher/friend Richard Sterioti. In retirement, he enjoyed golfing with family and friends, spending time with his grandchildren, traveling to Nevada to golf each winter, and was a member of Cooper's Hawk Wine Club.

• **Joyce Tynan**, age 84, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2023. Joyce was born and raised in Joliet, attended St. Patrick School, St. Francis Academy, and went on to achieve undergraduate and master's degrees in business education, both from Lewis College. She was a member of St. Jude's parish in Joliet. Her first job was at the family sandwich and ice cream stand called "The Brite Spot" which was located in Lockport. As a youth, Joyce studied music and dance, and made appearances as a member of The Kelly Adorables. The Kelly Adorables appeared at charity events around Joliet and on local television back in the 50's when TV was still a novelty. Joyce dedicated over 30 years to educating young people. For the majority of her career, she taught business classes at Joliet East and Joliet Central high schools. Her teaching areas included typing, shorthand, accounting and computers. Joyce and her husband Don were married for almost 39 years. They spent their later winters in sunny Fort Meyers Beach in Florida. Their shared interests included home improvements, square dancing, going to shows, and game nights with their friends.

*...And Finally ...*

*John Williams of WGN Radio has been broadcasting speed jokes every day since he began from the start of the Covid shut town. Here's some that have been featured.*

- The doctor handed me a cup and said, "urinate." I said, "Thank you. My wife says I'm a six at best.
- I accidently put my phone in airplane mode and my front door blew off.
- A young couple just started dating. She said would you like to have kids one day? He said, Yes no longer than that.
- I called the incontinence hotline, and they asked if I could please hold and I said, "Lady, if I could hold, I wouldn't be calling."

The next issue of this newsletter will be published at the beginning of May, 2024. 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.

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