

Newsletter - July 2023

Pasadena High School Alumni Association

The View from the Sidelines: Remembering Vaughn Simmons (Class of 1983)



Beginning in 1971, continuing into the early 1990's, I was chaplain to the PHS varsity football teams, supporting them in prayer and presence in the locker room and on the sidelines. For almost 50 years, from the sidelines of life, I continue connection with these young men at PHS sports events, on social media and alumni gatherings. They have become police officers, social workers, community activists, corporate officers, teachers and coaches (many of whom returned to serve at PHS). One observation that resonates in my heart is appreciation for the deep bonds of friendship among these men, with roots going back to elementary and junior high school.

The varsity football team of 1983 stands out as one of the most remarkable teams in PHS history. Two team leaders are Stacy Harvey and Vaughn Simmons. I remember a CIF Playoff football game between PHS and South High School in Torrance. For some reason, Vaughn Simmons, an outstanding tailback, did not play in the first half. PHS was not doing well by half-time. As the third quarter began, Vaughn ran on to the field. A thunderbolt of energy surged through the team. Vaughn electrified the crowd as he ran for touchdowns and Stacy guided the team to a great victory. Vaughn Simmons was a blue-chip prospect in field and track and All-American high school football player, destined to receive a scholarship to the University of Southern California.

My friendship with Vaughn grew as we were founding board members of the Pasadena High School Alumni Association. We met at the board meeting every month and I admired his quiet wisdom and commitment to building bridges among alumni. He and Stacy continued to have an energizing presence. Sadly, Stacy Harvey died a few years ago and Vaughn died suddenly in July. The Alumni Association celebrates with gratitude these two Bulldog champions.

The picture is at a Pasadena Sports Hall of Fame Event. Stacy Harvey #7 and Vaughn Simmons #11.

Fr. Brad Karelius
PHS 1963



Varsity Football Team 1981 - 1982

Vaughn Simmons - Row 4
2nd from the left
Stacy Harvey - Row 5 6th
from the left
Troy Clewis - Row 1 2nd
from the right



Birdie Tussle 2016



Vaughn Simmons #11

Turkey Tussle 1981 - 1982.
Final Score PHS 10 - John
Muir 0.

Vaughn Simmons Memorial Celebration

The memorial celebration for Vaughn Simmons will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 29, 2023. The location is the Gladiss Edwards Auditorium at Pasadena High School. Parking is available in the rear of the school (entrance on Washington Blvd.). You are requested to wear White or BRIGHT colors only.

Following the service there is a "PicNic" Repass in Victory Park on the corner of Paloma St/Altadena Dr. This is a bring your own food/drink. David McClendon will have his mobile DD's Chicken and Fish mobile truck with food for sale. Bring chairs and blankets for the park. Don't forget to bring your Vaughn Simmons memories to share.



Track Team 1981 - 1982

Vaughn Simmons top row
3rd from the right



Vaughn Simmons and Troy Clewis

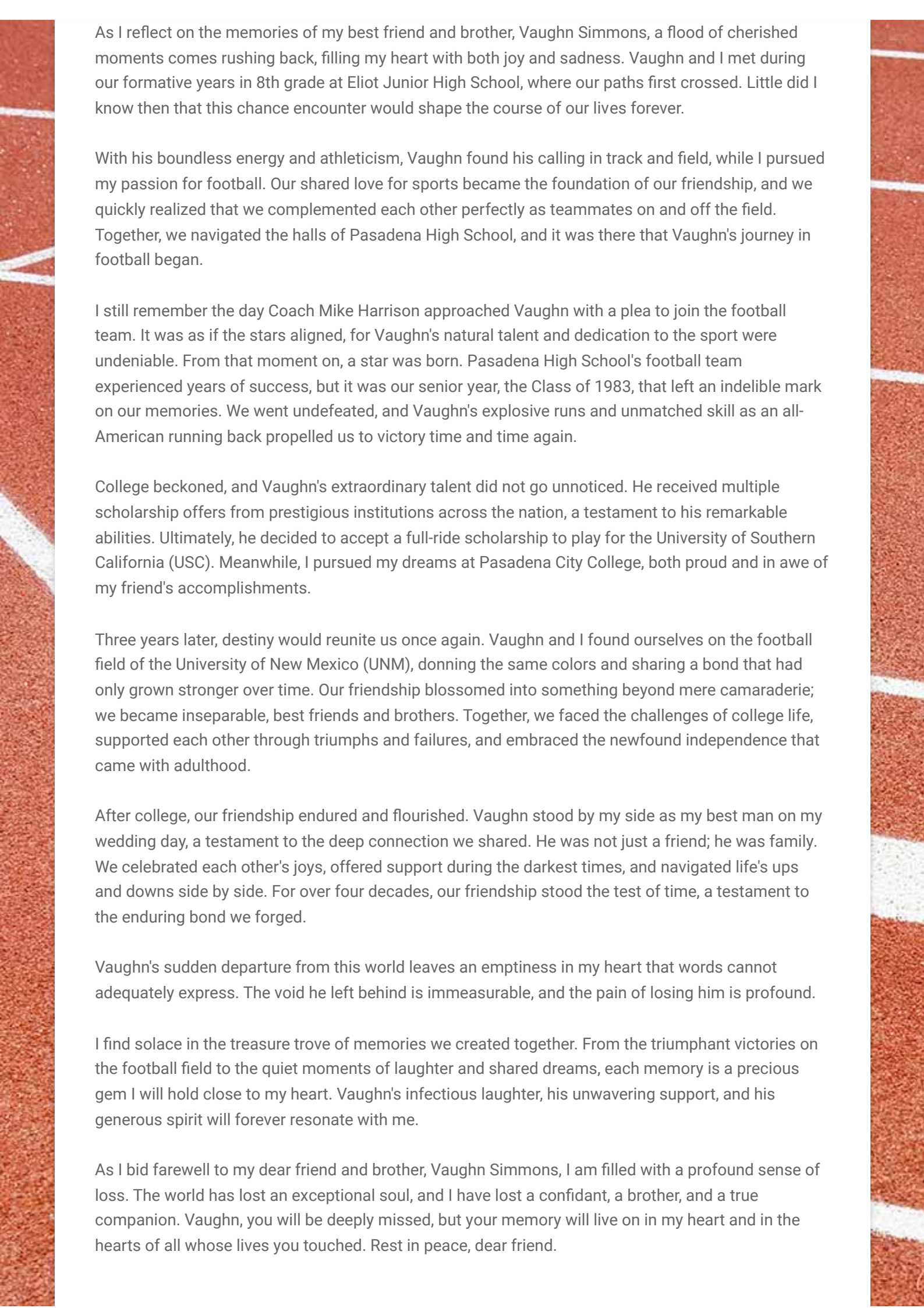
Vaughn was the best man at
Troy's wedding.



Vaughn Simmons and friends

Vaughn is sitting (2nd from
the left).

Reflecting on the memories of Vaughn Simmons



As I reflect on the memories of my best friend and brother, Vaughn Simmons, a flood of cherished moments comes rushing back, filling my heart with both joy and sadness. Vaughn and I met during our formative years in 8th grade at Eliot Junior High School, where our paths first crossed. Little did I know then that this chance encounter would shape the course of our lives forever.

With his boundless energy and athleticism, Vaughn found his calling in track and field, while I pursued my passion for football. Our shared love for sports became the foundation of our friendship, and we quickly realized that we complemented each other perfectly as teammates on and off the field. Together, we navigated the halls of Pasadena High School, and it was there that Vaughn's journey in football began.

I still remember the day Coach Mike Harrison approached Vaughn with a plea to join the football team. It was as if the stars aligned, for Vaughn's natural talent and dedication to the sport were undeniable. From that moment on, a star was born. Pasadena High School's football team experienced years of success, but it was our senior year, the Class of 1983, that left an indelible mark on our memories. We went undefeated, and Vaughn's explosive runs and unmatched skill as an all-American running back propelled us to victory time and time again.

College beckoned, and Vaughn's extraordinary talent did not go unnoticed. He received multiple scholarship offers from prestigious institutions across the nation, a testament to his remarkable abilities. Ultimately, he decided to accept a full-ride scholarship to play for the University of Southern California (USC). Meanwhile, I pursued my dreams at Pasadena City College, both proud and in awe of my friend's accomplishments.

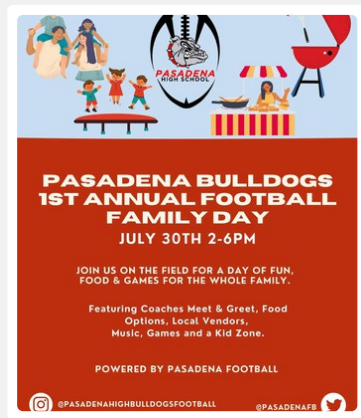
Three years later, destiny would reunite us once again. Vaughn and I found ourselves on the football field of the University of New Mexico (UNM), donning the same colors and sharing a bond that had only grown stronger over time. Our friendship blossomed into something beyond mere camaraderie; we became inseparable, best friends and brothers. Together, we faced the challenges of college life, supported each other through triumphs and failures, and embraced the newfound independence that came with adulthood.

After college, our friendship endured and flourished. Vaughn stood by my side as my best man on my wedding day, a testament to the deep connection we shared. He was not just a friend; he was family. We celebrated each other's joys, offered support during the darkest times, and navigated life's ups and downs side by side. For over four decades, our friendship stood the test of time, a testament to the enduring bond we forged.

Vaughn's sudden departure from this world leaves an emptiness in my heart that words cannot adequately express. The void he left behind is immeasurable, and the pain of losing him is profound.

I find solace in the treasure trove of memories we created together. From the triumphant victories on the football field to the quiet moments of laughter and shared dreams, each memory is a precious gem I will hold close to my heart. Vaughn's infectious laughter, his unwavering support, and his generous spirit will forever resonate with me.

As I bid farewell to my dear friend and brother, Vaughn Simmons, I am filled with a profound sense of loss. The world has lost an exceptional soul, and I have lost a confidant, a brother, and a true companion. Vaughn, you will be deeply missed, but your memory will live on in my heart and in the hearts of all whose lives you touched. Rest in peace, dear friend.



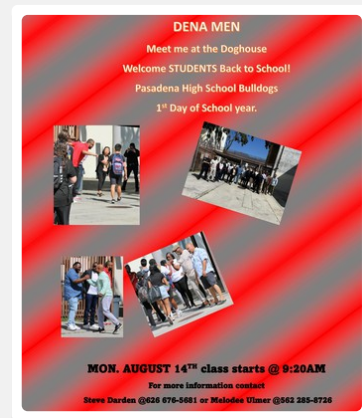
1st Annual Football Family Day

Everyone is invited to the 1st Annual Football Family Day on Sunday, July 30th from 2:00 - 6:00 pm on the Pasadena High School Football Field. Join us on the field for an afternoon of fun, food and games for the entire family. Meet the coaching staff, team members and featuring food options for sale, local vendors, music, games and a kids zone.



Bulldog Pass 2023 - 2024

Pasadena High School will once again be selling the Bulldog Pass. The Bulldog Pass allows one person free admission into home football and basketball games. The cost is \$80 per pass. The pass can be purchased through the Online Bulldog Store. Go to <https://www.pusd.us/phsstore> Passes can also be purchased in person. Contact Tatiana Reyes reyes.tatiana@pusd.us (626) 396-5880 ext. 84072.



Welcome our Students Back to School

Meet us at Pasadena High School on Monday, August 14, 2023 to welcome our students back to school. Class starts at 9:20 am. Let's start this year off right. We'd love to have you join us. For more information please contact Steve Darden (626) 676-5681 or Melodee Ulmer (562) 285-8726.

2023 Birdie Tussle - Monday, October 23, 2023

Save the date - your Birdie Tussle Committee is hard at work. Our 7th Annual Birdie Tussle John Muir vs PHS Golf Tournament is held at the Brookside Golf and Country Club in Pasadena. The Birdie Tussle benefits the athletic programs at both Pasadena High School and John Muir High School. Early bird prices are good until August 1st. If you don't golf you can still participate by purchasing a tee sign (\$75) or becoming a sponsor. Help support our student athletes. Go to www.birdietussle.com



Pasadena Bulldog Fall Athletics

It's almost time for Fall athletics. The Boys Water Polo, Cross Country, Football, Girls Golf, Girls Tennis and Girls Volleyball all begin in August.

Schedules can be found on the Pasadena High School website under the individual team section on the Athletics page. Go to <https://www.pusd.us/Page/968>

We hope you will join us for a game or two and support our Bulldog Student Athletes. Remember if you will be going to numerous football and/or basketball games why not purchase the Bulldog Pass. It will allow you free admission into the home football and basketball games for \$80. Contact Tatiana Reyes to purchase a pass reyes.tatiana@pusd.us (626) 396-5880 ext 84072.



Welcome to our newest Counselor, Adriana Cervantes.

A big Bulldog welcome to our newest Counselor, Adriana Cervantes. Ms. Cervantes is thrilled to join the counseling team at her alma mater! She is a first-generation latina, born and raised in Pasadena, and is beyond excited to work with students in her community.



Pasadena High School Alumni Association Meeting

There was no meeting in July. The next PHSAA meeting will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, August 12th in the Pasadena High School Library. Parking is available in the back of the school (entrance off Washington Blvd.) There will be a Zoom link set up and posted for those who cannot attend in person.



Bulldog Merchandise

Purchase your Bulldog gear from the Pasadena High School Online Bulldog Store. Go to

<https://www.pusd.us/phsstore>

Crew sweatshirts pictured are \$35. Any questions regarding the store contact Thomas Holmes

holmes.thomas@pusd.us or

Diana Costa

costa.diana@pusd.us

Notable Alumni - Zephyr Moore Ramsey Class of 1909

One of the first Black women to be admitted to the Bar in California, Zephyr Moore Ramsey was the author of an essay, "Law and Its Call to Women," which has been studied in American law schools for many years.

Zephyr graduated from Pasadena High School in 1909 and Howard University School of Law in 1922. Her first teaching job was at Livingston College in North Carolina. She had a law practice in St. Louis, Missouri from 1925-1930. She worked for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration during the Depression. After World War II, Ramsey returned to Los Angeles to practice family law.

In 1949, she was legal advisor to Black real estate brokers in Pasadena. This would have been a challenging time, because Black families seeking to purchase homes faced restrictive covenants in neighborhoods that would not sell to Jewish and Black families. She was a formidable force for justice and inclusion. She died in 1984, at the age of 91.





Join the Pasadena High School Alumni Association

The first steps of your participation in the synergy of PHS Alums is to join the Alumni Association. We all have had different high school experiences and each one of us can remember a teacher or activity that was a highlight of our PHS experience. Grateful for those students, teachers and activities you enjoyed, consider joining the PHS Alumni Association. It all begins at www.phsalumni.org.



Items requested for Back to School Drive

Pasadena High School alum, Steve Darden is coordinating a Back to School supplies drive. If you are interested in donating supplies please see the flyer. Donations will be accepted between now and August 8th at the locations listed on the flyer.



Turkey Tussle

The Turkey Tussle is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at the Rose Bowl. Mark your calendars for this annual homecoming game between Pasadena High School and our cross town rival John Muir High School. Pasadena High School is the current holder of the Victory Bell.

Class Reunions

Looking to see if your class has a reunion coming up? Check the Alumni section of the Pasadena High School website www.pusd.us/phs or our website at www.phsalumni.org.

Reunions are being planned for the classes listed below.

Class of 1963 - October 6 - October 8, 2023. For more information go to their Facebook page [PHS63Reunion](https://www.facebook.com/PHS63Reunion)

Class of 1964 - The Class of 1964 is seeking input from the class members to see if there is interest in holding a 60 year reunion in 2024. email Dennis Miller with your thoughts. epriepro@aol.com

Class of 1971 (Belated 50th) - September 23, 2023 pasadenahs71.com

Class of 1973 - 50th Reunion - Saturday, October 28, 2023 Clearman's Galley ("The Boat") For questions email phsbulldogs1973@gmail.com

Class of 1975 - 48th Graduation Anniversary Mixer - Friday, November 10, 2023 at the Brookside Golf Club Patio Restaurant. For more information go to their [Facebook](#) page

Class of 1983 - September 2, 2023 [Facebook](#)

Please email reunion information to Liz (Karl) Champion '72 championelizabeth@hotmail.com



Pasadena High School (Pasadena, California)
Class of '73 - 50th Class Reunion

MEET, GREET & EAT!

When: Saturday, October 28, 2023

Where: Clearman's Galley - "The Boat"
(next to Northwoods Inn)
7215 N. Rosemead Blvd.
San Gabriel, CA 91775

Time: **5:00pm until...

Your Reunion Committee is excited to see you - it's been a while! This one-day event will let us catch up, laugh it up & love on/with each other. The only cost is that you will pay for your meal & beverages.

If you need hotel accommodations, please reach out to Catherine at catherine.a@travelstore.com

Please continue to send all questions to:
PHSBULLDOGS1973@GMAIL.COM

Reunion Planning Committee:
Catherine Adda (Ehmark), Florina Berry (Smith), Alan Mendrala, Carol Lewis & Sheila Washington (Neasey)

PLEASE CLIP AND TAP WITH ALL INFORMATION



CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE FUN AT OUR MILESTONE 60TH YEAR REUNION

Date: October 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2023

DROP-IN MIXER

Friday, October 6th, from 6:00 - 11:00 PM.
Location: Pasadena Courtyard Marriot
180 N. Fair Oaks, Pasadena, CA 91103
No charge. Cash Bar/food

RECEPTION + DINNER + DANCING

Saturday, October 7th, from 6:00 - 11:00 PM.
Location: The Scott Pavilion at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly Street, Pasadena, CA 91103
(Corner of N. Raymond Avenue and Holly Street)
Featuring: Appetizers, Buffet-style Dinner, Live DJ, Dancing, Photo booth, and complimentary digital Memory Book. Printed Memory Books also available.

PICNIC & TOUR OF PHS

Sunday, October 8th, from 12:00 - 3:00 PM.
Location: Pasadena High School
Bring your own lunch. More details to come.

Join Our Facebook Group
Pasadena High School Class of 1963
[Facebook.com/GroupPHS63Reunion](https://www.facebook.com/GroupPHS63Reunion)

RSVP and Ticket Purchase:
Each ticket includes admission, appetizers, dinner, music, dancing and a digital Memory Book. Early Purchase Special \$89 per person (first 30 tickets only)
\$99 per person after Early Purchase tickets are sold. Tickets will not be available at the door.
Cash bar will be available at the Friday mixer and Saturday dinner.

Purchase Tickets Safely Online:

1. Go to ReunionPHS.com
2. Click on the yellow "find me" link at the bottom of the homepage. Or on mobile devices, use the "touch here for tickets" button.
3. Type your last name/last name and first name if needed.
4. Click on your record and follow the prompts.

Please update your bio information.
Even if you are not attending, it's best to go to ReunionPHS.com. Click on "find me" at the bottom, then click on your photo to tell us about yourself, family, interests, job, etc. If we have your email address you will receive a FREE digital Memory Book after the event.

Any Questions?
Contact: Reunion Committee
PHS1963Reunion@gmail.com

We are looking forward to seeing you. Your reunion planning committee: Richard Bray, Carol De Tocq, Mary Lou Fourcade, Helen Farkush-Spencer, Melinda Howell, Richard Jacks, Brad Kambler, Jim Kern, 

Class of 1973

**Coach Bill Duwe
and the 1994-1995
Varsity Boys
Basketball Team**

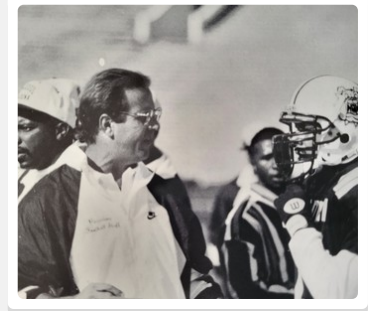
Class of 1963



PHS Choir 1994-1995



Pride of Pasadena Bulldog Marching Band 1994 - 1995



Varsity Head Coach Jack Loos with football team 1994 - 1995

Social Media Links

Listed below are a few Pasadena High School social media links that might interest you.

Pasadena High School Alumni Association

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#) @PasHSAlumniAssc

[Instagram](#) @pasadenahsalumniassoc

Pasadena High School

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#) @PasHSBulldogs

[Instagram](#) pasadenahsbulldogs

Pasadena High School Bulldog Band Centennial

[Facebook](#)

Pasadena High School Football Boosters

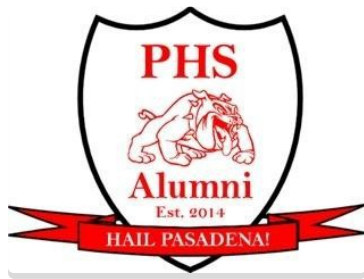
[Facebook](#)

Pasadena High School Aquatics

[Facebook](#)

Pasadena High School Sports

[Twitter](#) @Pasadenahs




Pasadena High School Alumni Association

 Facebook


 @PasHSAlumniAssc

We are a nonprofit organization 501(c)(3) focused on helping the students and staff at Pasadena High School make our former alma mater into a great learning experience. We organize fundraisers, award scholarships and hold community-building events.

 530 South Lake Avenue #961, P...

 phsaa@yahoo.com

 (626) 767-2925

 phsalumni.org