

Vanguard Alumni Happenings! November 2004

Welcome to our first post-reunion Vanguard Alumni Newsletter. First and foremost, this is for you and serves as a supplement to the Vanguard Alumni website. Each alumnus who is registered on the website will be receiving this.

So, what is our purpose? Through this venue, we will provide change of contact information, news (i.e.: new children, grandchildren, retirement, professional accomplishments, prayer requests, travel), and any other information you, our brothers and sisters in the Vanguard, want to share. *Got a band? We'll publish your schedule and maybe even become groupies!* But most importantly, we will provide information relating to future alumni events. The sky is the limit!

Memory Book Additions/Changes

Our first order of business has to do with some folks whose memories did not make it into the Vanguard Alumni Memory Book. We've also been informed of some incorrect information in the Memory Book, and are including corrections. We apologize for the oversight, and provide the information on the next two pages. **We encourage all alumni to keep these pages in their memory books for future reference.**

If you find any other errors or omissions, please email me at the address in the next column for publication in the next newsletter. We want to make sure that all of your contact information is current and correct!

Vanguard Website

If you know of people who are not logged on to the guestbook of the Vanguard website, please encourage them to sign in right away! The Webmaster, Jay McGuffin, has done an amazing job of providing us with awesome pictures and historical artifacts, in addition to up-to-the-minute information. The website is the clearinghouse for all contact information and details about upcoming events. Visit **www.desplainesvanguard.com** often,

check out the great new photos, and participate in the Forums and Polls. **The Website is the heartbeat of the Vanguard and is the place to go for all questions.** Many thanks to Jay for his phenomenal technical talents with the website that got the reunion ball rolling!

Bill O'Connell Chicago Skyliners Big Band – 11/28 6PM – **BE THERE!**

Those who were at the reunion know what an awesome job Bill's band did. [Even I, his sister, could find no fault in the performance!] If you enjoy big band and want to get together with fellow Vanguard alumni, come to Fitzgerald's in Berwyn on Sunday, November 28th at 6PM. Cover charge is \$8 and a dinner menu is available. Address and directions can be found at www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com. A good time was had by all on October 24th when Mike Deane, Toni O'Kelley-Pope, Michelle Engram Thomas, Ray Smith, Ed Morrissey, Bill Agnello, Jim Grosso, Jim O'Donnell, Cathy O'Connell Letourneau, three Norwood Park alum, and many spouses/significant others gathered there. If you are interested in coming on 11-28, email me at the address below so we can arrange enough tables to accommodate everyone. ***Be sure to bring your spouse or significant other. Ah, heck – just bring both!***

Does anyone own....?

If you own an audiotape of '73 and/or '75, it would be appreciated if we could borrow them to burn CDs for folks interested in having them. As some of you have noticed, those years did not make it on the CD set provided at the reunion (through no fault of anyone). Please respond to my e-mail address below if you can help us out. Many thanks! Cathy O'

To contribute to our newsletter, please contact the newsletter editor, **Cathy O'Connell Letourneau** ('69-'76) at glenletourneau@wowway.com. ***I look forward to hearing from you!***

Memory Book Additions/Corrections

Allen, Ken “Buster”

6800 S. Carpenter, Chicago, IL 60621 773-531-1104

Years Marched: 1967 through 1969 French horn

1967 Rookie of the Year

College/Degree: Engineering

Profession: Stationary engineer for post office, and arbitrator

Children: Kenneth, Jr., Latasha, Kenya, Miguel, Casey, Dalgrim, Christopher, Mario
14 Grandchildren

Favorite corps music: All Vanguard – 1966 through 1969

Favorite corps memory: Acting a fool with lots of fun involved and traveling all around from state to state. But, most of all, everyone I came in contact with!

Baur, Ted

Spouse: Sharon

435 Timber Lane, Huntingdon, TN 38344 731-209-4477

Tbaur@Charter.net

Years Marched: 1975 through 1976 Soprano

College/Degree: BS Industrial Technology Education, Illinois State University

Profession: Production Services Manager

Children: Matthew (26), Brian (25), Mike (23), Joanna (22)

Favorite corps music: Somewhere, 1812 Overture

Favorite corps memory: All from '76: While celebrating after winning three shows in a row, having William M. saying something like, “You think you’re good? Who’ve ya beat, nobody.” He was right and I realized I wasn’t in a “C” corps anymore. The staff had their sights set much higher, to take the corps back to the top. I believe we were being measured against heritage, nothing else mattered. Racine, WI – Starting line hearing, “Go, Go, Big Red!” from a cheering section for the first time.

Guare, Gina

21 Kane Court, Willowbrook, IL 60527 630-323-4236

RMGJRL@aol.com

Years Marched: 1971 through 1976 Rifle, Guard Sergeant, Drum Major

1976 Vanguard of the Year

Profession: CFO – L & L Hardwoods, Chicago www.l-lhardwoods.com

Favorite corps music: Any music from “The Planets” and “West Side Story”

Favorite corps memories: My memories of the corps are really all about the people who were such an important and influential part of my life. Tom and Maddie, Frank Pamper, Bill Agnello, Mike Krueger, Wayne Jaros, Duane Walker. Two people I had such total admiration and respect for: John McClellan and Angie Bevill. The friends and fellow members of this great corps: Fuzz (who took me under her wing and taught me so many things), Ellen, Patty, Jane B., Vickie, Jan, Connie (my partner in crime on the weapon line), Sylvia, Robyn, Bill and Cathy, Gene and John, Kevin, Keith, Dave B., Mike C., Jane,and so many, many more. These are just some of the people who I “grew up” with and miss to this day.

Klapka, Lora “Moe” (we won’t relive the details) **Married name: Rodriguez**

Spouse: Tony Rodriguez

1219 W. Wise Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60193 classicrod@comcast.net or

lor1219@comcast.net

Years Marched: 1971 through 1973, 1976 Color Guard

College/Degree: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Accounting) and currently working on Master of Science in Accounting

Children: Non-human (we weren’t fortunate to have kids) so I substitute with fur and feathers: one German shepherd named Dusty, and two cockatiels, Cleo and Sheba

Favorite corps music: Simple Gifts and Holst’s The Planets

Favorite corps memories: There are so many memories that I don’t know what to pick, but I have thought of my days in the Vanguard often over the years. I truly treasure the memories of the practices, parades, shows, and the wonderful time I spent with all of you. I am so looking forward to seeing you all again.

Paoella, Pat “Pivot” **Married name: LaMontagna**

5474 N. New England, Chicago, IL 60656-2061 773-774-9198

patalope@aol.com

Years Marched: 1959 through 1966 Color Guard

Profession: Retired police officer

Child: Jacqueline (25)

Favorite corps music: Flag Presentation “Over There”

Favorite corps memories: Summer camp in Elkhorn – Who got sunburned first – Color Guard Competitions. I will miss the reunion (but will be there in spirit) because of being in California to welcome home my future son-in-law who is a Marine from deployment in Iraq.

Vombrack, Dean

Spouse: Laurie

30 Crestview Trail, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

847-459-9224

zorbadvw@aol.com

Years Marched: 1969 through 1973, 1976 ’69: boy guard ’70-’73: soprano bugle
'76: snare drum

1976 Most Improved Drummer

College/Degree: 3 years of college with Associate Degree in Science

Profession: decorating contractor

Children: Alexandria (21) and Christopher (19)

Favorite corps music: SC Vanguard, Phantom Regiment, Garfield Cadets, (anything classical)

Favorite corps memory: 1971 – US Open prelims (we had the big buzz!). 1972 – DCI Finals (beating the Kilts and Cavies). 1976 – Working my ass off to play snare drum...and making it! (On a pretty good drum line).

Corrections:

Dave Burkett – phone number should be 417-859-7136

JoAnn Pellettiere Luke – email address should be joann2speak@ameritech.net