
ON THE STARTING LINE
FROM CHICAGO, SKOKIE, AND DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS ...

THE VANGUARD!

THE VOICE OF **THE VANGUARD**

www.DesPlainesVanguard.com

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April 2005

FAREWELL, GOOD AND FAITHFUL VANGUARD



**Kathy Blayney Carlin
(1950 - 2005)**

*Tribute to Kathy Blayney Carlin
By Gayle Dombroski Swanson*

Those of you who marched with Kath and saw her at the Vanguard reunion in September were once again able to experience her warmth and kindness. And didn't you love her sweet smile and adorable giggle. She had a zest for life that everyone admired.

Always the educator and good listener, Kath made everyone feel special and important. There were no hidden agendas with Kath. She was just sweet. I always gained insight and knowledge about myself and life from Kath. Her wisdom, support, and strength inspire me daily.

Many called her Kathy or Blayney (in the '60s), but I knew her as just Kath, my friend of 45 plus years. This remarkable woman inspired me to embrace life and create wonderful memories to treasure. I will always have those precious memories of Kath.

Nothing was more important to Kath than her family. Her loving husband, Steve, and her miracle children, as Kath would call them, Brent, Alissa, and Matt, completed her life and gave her so much joy. Kath's unconditional love and dedication to her family has given them all courage and strength.

Kath, you will be missed!!!

Your Friend Forever,

Gayle

Courage **By Lee Romes Aitken**

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God laid, you see.
I took His hand as I heard His call.
I didn't look back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
to laugh, to love, to rest, to play.
The things left undone must stay that way.
I found my peace on that fine day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy:
A friendship shared, a laugh, a smile.
These things, I too, will miss awhile.

Do not cry with thoughts of sorrow.
I wish you all the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full; I treasure much:
great love, good friends, my loved one's touch.

My time was really not all that brief.
Do not make it longer with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts in peace; you see,
God wanted me now. He set me free.

We've lost one of our own. At times like this, it is important to recall all the good memories that our Vanguard sister, Kathy, evokes when we think about her tenure in the corps, and all she meant to the people in her life. To that end, this issue of *Voice of the Vanguard* is dedicated to her. It is my hope that Kathy's spirit will remain with all of us, including those who, like me, didn't know her. To those who did, my prayers stay with you and her family. May the Lord soon replace your sadness with peace of mind and only happy memories. Please take a moment to enjoy pictures from happier times on the following pages. (Pictures courtesy of DesPlainesVanguard.com, Gayle Dombroski Swanson, and Mike Deane.)

Cathy O'Connell Letourneau
-Editor

Kathy leading the weapons squad.



FUN TIMES...









Below from left: Peg Kwielford Knebl, Jill Kozial Angel, Lee Romes Aitken, Kathy Blayney Carlin, Gayle Dombroski Swanson (1968 VFW Nationals).



Above from left: Kathy Blayney Carlin, Toni O'Kelley Pope, Angie Bevill Triche, Diane Traynor Brines (1968 Des Plaines parade).



Back row: Gayle, Lee, Kathy. Jill is in front. (1968)



Above: Kathy, Peggy, Jill and Gayle at the Reunion.



A charitable organization called The Kathy Carlin Foundation has been set up. If you would like to make a contribution, the family asks you to please identify yourself as being a member of the Vanguard. The address to which to send these contributions by mail is: Kathy Carlin Foundation, 211 Adler, Libertyville, IL 60048.

Upcoming Events:

In the fellowship of Vanguard unity, let's keep the gatherings going! If you are in a band or theatre group, please let me know so I can include your gigs/curtain times in our monthly newsletter. Here is what we have coming up this spring.

Bill O'Connell's Chicago Skyliners Big Band.

(For other information on Bill's band, including the summer schedule, visit the band website at www.chicagoskylinersbigband.com.)

Sunday, April 17th at Fitzgerald's at 6PM. Reply to this email if you plan on going so we can get an idea of number.

Sunday, May 8th at 1:30 at Lombard Lilac Festival, Lilacia Park, downtown Lombard. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and Mom! (It's Mother's Day.) The **O'Connell** family is always there so come and look for us.



Fitzgerald's on March 6th: back row from left: Pat Korn, Craig Rennack, Cathy O'Connell Letourneau, Bill O'Connell, Don Pesceone, and John Devito. Front row: Mike Deane, Diana Massoni Kranz, and Toni O'Kelley Pope. (Photo courtesy of Mike Deane)

Other possibilities to keep in mind....

Sunday, June 26th – (*tentative*) Reunion of alumni from the '50s, '60s, and '70s of ALL Chicago area corps. Will take place at a local drum corps show, and include food and fun. Vanguard folks will be heavily involved in the planning.

Sometime in October – All four **Bevills** (**Angie, David, Carl, and Bobby**) will be coming in to Chicago from Vegas for a family celebration with their **Boyd** cousins. *Possible Vanguard party while they are in town.*

More info on both of these events will be forthcoming. If you would like to volunteer to help with either of these events, please reply to this email and I will make sure your message gets to the proper person.

In our next issue....

- Memories from **Ted Baur, Jay McGuffin, and Bill O'Connell**
 - Article by **David Bevell**
 - News about Vanguard alum, **Larry Rock**, who won two Grammy awards
 - Updates on future activities
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As always, keep those memories coming in. If you would like copies of previous issues, please respond to this email and let me know which months you are missing.

As we close.... Losing our Vanguard sister, Kathy, proves to us that life is fragile. How lucky we all were to have had the opportunity to reconnect at the reunion in September. Moments like this make us realize how fortunate we were to have been led to the great Vanguard organization. Even though the Vanguard is no longer in existence, those special years have made us who we are today, and have given us many great memories. We must never forget that the Vanguard, in its unity, diversity, cutting-edge style, and discipline, was how the world should be. And we must keep that precious legacy alive through our children, grandchildren, the drum corps community, and all we meet.

Cathy O'Connell Letourneau ('69-'76)
