

Aplington High School

Class of 1974

Class Reunion
September 7, 2019
Aplington Recreation Complex
Aplington, Iowa

Click a name to go to their profile

[Mitzi Aalderks](#)
[Eileen Best](#)
[Jim Boelman](#)
[Renee Dix](#)
[Gordon Druvenga](#)
[Vicki Duhn](#)
[Cindy Eiklenborg](#)
[Julia George](#)
[Deb Goff](#)
[Ivan Groeneveld](#)
[Virginia Haan](#)
[Georganne Hanlin](#)
[Gaylen Harken](#)
[Kelly Harken](#)
[Kevin Harms](#)
[Galen Hippen](#)

[Wes Huisinga](#)
[Darwin Janssen](#)
[Sheila Johnson](#)
[Russell Jungling](#)
[Kerry Kannegieter](#)
[Kim Kramer](#)
[Belinda Kromminga](#)
[Janet Langland](#)
[Toni Lewis](#)
[June Lindaman](#)
[Ron Luchtenburg](#)
[Dave Meyer](#)
[LaVonne Meyer](#)
[Jolene Miller](#)
[Mitzi Muller](#)
[Warren Oelmann](#)

[Jeff Patet](#)
[Terri Pruisner](#)
[Eunice Renken](#)
[Terry Ridder](#)
[Terry Schipper](#)
[Verlyn Schipper](#)
[Sally Schurman](#)
[Craig Smiens](#)
[Doyle Smiens](#)
[Sharla Stahl](#)
[Rhonda Ter Hark](#)
[Steve Thompson](#)
[Denise Uhlenhopp](#)
[Keith Van Dyk](#)
[Doyle Voss](#)
[Jan Willeke](#)

[Class Photo](#)

[Groups](#)

[Candid Photos](#)

Mitzi Aalderks Collins



We lost Mitzi to a battle with cancer in May of 2019. Following is her obituary:

Mitzi L. Collins, 62, of Independence, died Monday, May 27, at UnityPoint Health-Allen Hospital in Waterloo of stomach cancer. She was born July 17, 1956, at Allen Hospital to Willie and Phyllis (Miller) Aalderks. She married Virgil Collins on Aug. 4, 1978, at the First Reformed Church in Aplington.

Mitzi graduated from Aplington High School in 1974. She worked as a secretary at O's Gold Seed, Mid Equipment, Clay Equipment and later at Schuster and Mick Law Office. She spent most of her life as a homemaker, devoting her time to her children and grandchildren. She was very active at her churches, St. John's Lutheran Church in Guttenberg and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Independence.

Survived by: her husband; her children, Lisa Peek of Machesney Park, Ill., John Collins of Guttenberg, Mike Collins and Jill Collins, both of Traer, and Tina (Jeff) Fischer of Whitleyville, Tenn.; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; her mother, of Aplington; a brother, Randy (Camie) Aalderks of Aplington; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by: her father; a son-in-law, William Baumeier; and a great-grandson, Layton Matthew.

Services: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 1, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, with burial at Mount Hope Cemetery, both in Independence. Friends may call for visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 31, at White Funeral Home in Independence.

[Return to Index](#)

Eileen Best Spree

Alan and I live in Parkersburg and I work at Mercy One Hospital.

We have two children, Brooke (Robbie) Kolder and Jenna (Paul) Hubbard.

We have two grandchildren, Jace (age 4) and Hadley (17 mo.) Hubbard.

We have a trailer home in Lake City, Minnesota where we spend as much time as possible during the summer months. Sunshine, fishing, bonfires and spending time with family and friends are a blessing.

[Return to Index](#)

Jim Boelman



Married to Ilene (Neymeyer) for 41 years and counting. Still living in Cedar Falls.

Three daughters:

Sara: Married to Alex Seeberger. Parents to our two grandkids: Erin (3 years old) James (almost 2 years old) Sara is a Family Therapist and Alex is a First Officer for Delta Airlines. They live in Gig Harbor, Washington. A great place to visit, but a long way from Cedar Falls.

Katie: Married to Matt Coughlin. They are expecting their first child in October. We will actually have a grand child within driving distance. Katie and Matt live in Cedar Falls. Katie is a 1st grade teacher in Waverly, Iowa. Matt is a service technician for Oxbo International in Grundy Center, Iowa.

Lisa: Single. Living in Brooklyn, NY. Works for Tommy Hilfiger in Manhattan. We have visited her a number of times and have really enjoyed a number of Broadway shows. A great palace to visit.

Ilene has recently semi retired from her day-care business. It will be somewhat short lived as she has agreed to watch Matt and Katie's new baby when Katie returns to the classroom after the Christmas break.

I plan to retire one week before I die. I currently work for Strand's Industrial Coatings in Marshalltown, Iowa. I travel most of the eastern part of Iowa and on my card it says "Coating Consultant". I'm actually professional interrupter. (Salesman)

Ilene and I have been blessed with good health and great relationships. Although since our last reunion I have tried to beat myself up on a couple of occasions. I've separated a shoulder (mountain biking), torn an Achilles tendon (running) and recently ruptured my right quad tendon (misjudging a bottom basement step). The solution seems to be a padded room, which has been suggested a number of times for various reasons.

[Return to Index](#)

Renee Dix Uhlenhopp

We have not received any new information from Renee.

[Return to Index](#)

Gordon Druvenga



1970's:

- Graduated from UNI with an Accounting degree
- Moved to Minneapolis
- Started my work career in a CPA firm in the IDS building

1980's:

- Married Cindy Carney from International Falls, MN
- We lived in Peru 1983-87, serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Our son Dan was born 1984
- 1988: We purchased our first house in Mounds View, MN, where we still live
- Our daughter Amy was adopted 1989

1990's:

- Worked my dream job as Controller of World Wide Pictures (Billy Graham movie ministry) 1987-2003
- Our son Isaac was born 1994

2000's

- Worked as Trust Accounting Director at the Evangelical Free Church National Office 2003-08
- Got an MBA degree in 2006
- Worked as CFO at YouthWorks 2008-13
- We had at least one teenager in the house 1997-2014
- Our first grandchild born to Dan and wife in 2009

2010's

- 5 more grandkids born to Dan and wife 2010-17—and they live in Keosauqua, Iowa now! (They lived in Alaska 2014-18)

After doing some consulting in 2013-14, I have been the Business Administrator at GracePoint Church in New Brighton, MN since May, 2015.

[Return to Index](#)

Vicki Duhn Fiacco

Vicki did not update her profile.

[Return to Index](#)

Cindy Eiklenborg Wolff



I am currently working as a nurse at MercyOne Family Practice in Cedar Falls as I have been for the last 21 years. LaVern and I live on his family farm where we farm with our youngest son, Brian.

Brian and his wife Trista have a 4 year old son (our only grandchild), Colton. We are happy they live only about 6 miles from us.

Our oldest son James moves frequently for his job. Currently he is living in South Hadley, Massachusetts. He manages a medical supply factory in South Hadley as well as Moberly, Minnesota.

We both treasure the times that we are able to spend with our family. That is truly one of our greatest blessings.

[Return to Index](#)



Julia George

Julia was the exchange student that spent the senior year with us. She was hosted by June Lindaman and her family.

We have not received any new information from Julia.

[Return to Index](#)

Debra Goff Bethel



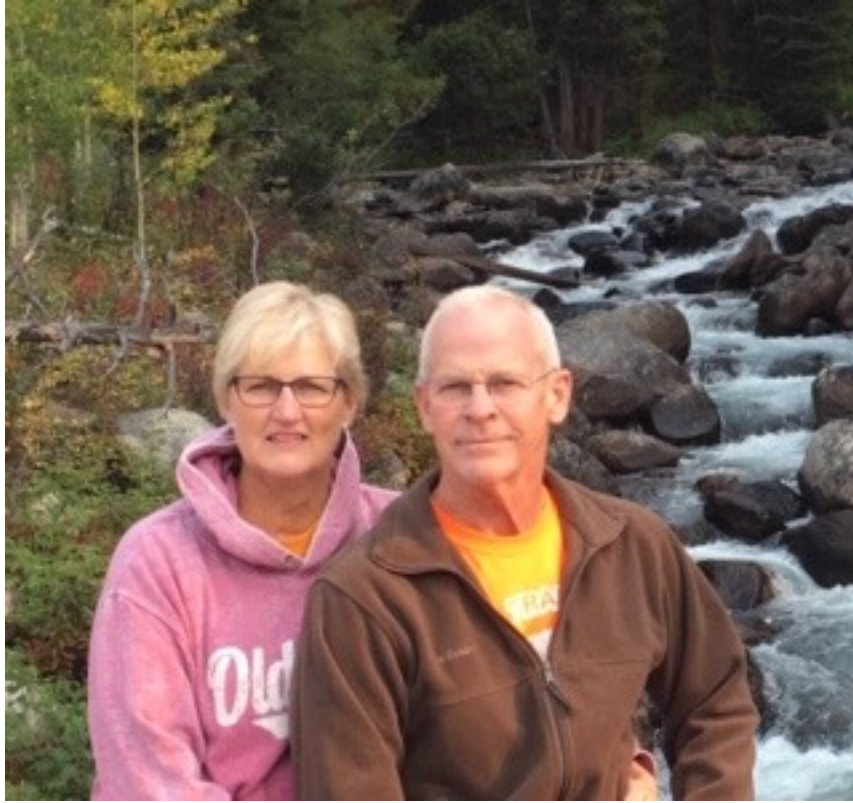
I worked as an ICU nurse at University of Washington until 2016. I then transferred to the Bezo Family Immunotherapy Clinic at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, where we did research treatments with CAR-T cell therapy. Currently I'm starting my own website with an LLC as a Cannabis Advocate and educator about Cannabis as medicine. I've been a member of the American Cannabis Nurses Association for several years. The website isn't published yet, but it's Mrs B's Word About Weed, and the email there is up: debrabethel@wordaboutweed.com

I became married this year and my new name is Debra Bethel. I met Duncan at the Chopra Center in Southern California. He was from New York, but moved to Seattle, where he is currently a Social Worker with First Responders on the Mobile Crisis Team. As you remember my son was killed, and we don't have any children.

My parents are doing well and going strong, as are the rest of the family. I encourage anyone wanting to talk to my brother to contact him directly. He lives in Spokane.

[Return to Index](#)

Ivan Groeneveld



After 17 years of marriage, we have all 4 children living within the borders of Iowa. The 8th grandchild will arrive in the spring of 2020.

Living on our acreage allows us to enjoy many of the activities it has to offer. Creating it was our hobby, now maintaining it is my job. Now that we are “of Age” we feel as though we qualify for bus trips around the country. It’s particularly nice if they have adult beverages and drop us off at the front door.

We are currently healthy, happy and looking forward to reminiscing with each of you.

[Return to Index](#)

Virginia Haan



It will be 5 yrs ago in October that I moved to TX, shortly after our last class reunion. I retired at the end of September 2014, from Corrections after 13 yrs, and packed up my house, family, and dogs, and headed to TX. This was something I always wanted to do my whole life and I made it a reality. I now live alone with my 2 lil dogs, Reese's and Logan, and they are great company to me. I enjoy gardening, swimming, walking, going to the gym, watching TV, going to the movies, and of course fishing, my favorite. I also keep busy with my friends, and grandsons, spending time with them, and attending their sports events, that keeps me really busy at times. I enjoy living in TX , but IA, is still my home. My youngest daughter Kierra is now a Senior at the University of

Houston in Houston and is an English Major, she is also a basketball manager, second year, for the girls basketball team. She is doing very well, and I am very proud of her, she loves Houston and has made it her home. My middle daughter Charice lives in Marion, and has remained their over the years, she holds down 2 jobs, one as a waitress and another at Nordstrom's, she also takes care of her step kids, and although her boys live with their Dad they remain very close and she spends as much time with them as she can. She is a good daughter and Mom, and makes me proud. Her 3 boys are Kwae-13, 8th grade, plays basketball and football. Dre-16, Junior in HS, plays football and track, and Kahlil 17, First year freshman at RPA College in Arlington and plays football. All 3 boys are very good athletes, and are doing great, proud Grandma! Alicia my oldest daughter moved back to Iowa last year, Waco just wasn't a good fit for her, she has a degree in Social work and right now is working for the state of IA, she is very good at her job. She also makes me very proud and is a good Mom and daughter. Her youngest son Antwone lives with her , he is a freshman at Washington HS in CR, and will be 15 in October. He loves basketball, he's very smart and just an overall good kid! Dion her oldest son is 18, and lives in Waco TX, he remained their and is attending McLennan Comm. College now, he is a Freshman, he has 2 pt time jobs one in Theater and another as a Host at BJ's restaurant. He is studying Theater and Art is his passion! I try to go to Waco often to spend time with him. Jaydin is her daughter, my oldest grandchild, and only granddaughter, she lives in Tampa Fla, and is an esthetician, she is 22, she moved to Fla a few years ago and remained there, she loves it there, her dream is to open her own Tattoo/Nailshop. Her passion is also Art. Well that about sums it up for my immediate family, I will include a little info on my siblings, they are all doing well. Vickie lives with her husband Kevin in Norwalk WI, her 5 children are all grown and all still live in IA not far from Aplington, Vince is divorced has been for years and lives in Janesville IA, his 2 kids are grown and live in Denver and CF IA, Victor and his wife Deb live in CR IA, and never had kids, they've been married close to 30 yrs. George still lives in CR IA is divorced has 1 daughter Genna who is 10, whom he shares custody with his EX. That about sums it up, see you on September 7.



Georganne Hanlin Harms



We lost Georganne in July of 2009. Following is her obituary:

Georganne Harms, 52, of Allison, died Tuesday, July 7, at home. She was born Oct. 31, 1956, in Waterloo, daughter of Hubert and Nora Plummer Hanlin. She married David Harms on Sept. 2, 1977, in Allison.

She graduated from Aplington High School. She owned and operated Bunk House Gifts in Allison and was a member of St. James Lutheran Church.

Survived by: her husband; two daughters, Jani (Nate) Trotter of Parkersburg and Holly (Todd) Henricks of Rockwell; a son, Eli Harms (fiancee Tracie Snyder) of Allison; her mother, Nora Hanlin of Kirksville, Mo.; a sister, Denise (Garry) Bolhuis of Clarksville; two brothers, Jeff Hanlin (fiancee Heather Brown) of Novinger, Mo., and Larry Hanlin of Kansas City, Mo.; six grandchildren.

Preceded in death by: her father; maternal grandparents, George and Mary Plummer; paternal grandparents, James and Berniece Hanlin; and a brother, Gary Hanlin.

Services: 10:30 a.m. Friday at St. James Lutheran Church, Allison, with burial in the Allison Cemetery. Public visitation from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Sietsema-Vogel Funeral Home, Allison.

[Return to Index](#)

Gaylen Harken June Lindaman Harken



Status:

Married 9/3/77 (celebrating our 42nd anniversary)

Family:

Andy (37), grandsons Huntley (9) & Graham (6), Andy works for “Stine Seed”.
Bryce (34), daughter in-law Heather, granddaughter Max (5) & grandson Lake (1 ½)
Bryce works for “Bayer CropScience” & Heather for “Henry-Shein” Vet Supply
Both sons & family live and work in the Kansas City area.

Gaylen worked his first 5 years for Del Monte in Illinois & the last 36 years for Bayer CropScience living in Illinois, Nebraska, & Kansas City, MO. The last 17 years with Bayer CropScience he managed National Customer Accounts all across the United States. He will be retiring on 9/4/19.

June has retired from her work at the community college to provide more grandmother duties for the family. She also fills several days of her week with volunteer work at the local Hilcrest Ministry Thrift store.

Gaylen continues to enjoy the outdoors. Fishing locally in MO as well as Canada & MN. He is really starting to get the grandsons into the fun of fishing. Hunting is also a great time to enjoy the outdoors. Deer, turkey, pheasant & quail can be found in MO & KS (and his freezer). After his second back surgery in 2015 he realized he was ready to walk & in need of one more bird dog. So, in 2017 we found “Star” a female Brittany (2). She has been a lot of fun to train and watch develop into a really good hunter. Gaylen can also be found enjoying cooking in the kitchen, the grill, or smoker. (primarily organic meats provided by nature!)

June is always busy. Some of her hobbies include gardening, decorating, making jewelry, church duties, volunteering, etc. and with 4 small grandchildren all living in KC she is always on the go.

[Return to Index](#)

Kelly Harken



I married LeeAnn Uhlenhopp, Class of 76, in October 1979 after going to Luther and UNI. We have 3 children. Katie, 39, a teacher is married and living in Anchorage, Alaska with one daughter, Pearl age 4. Mark, 37, is currently serving time in FCI Sandstone, MN (long story). Holli, 33, is a nurse married and living in Aplington with two boys, Jeb 7 and Huxly 4. We purchased land formerly known as Bode's Pit in 1993 and built our home. I am still currently working at Harken Lumber and looking forward to retirement to spend time with my already happily retired wife.

[Return to Index](#)

Kevin Harms

We still farm north of Austinville and plan on doing that for a few more years as long as our health holds out. At our age, it can go down fast when least expected!

I enjoy doing small carpentry jobs on the side.

Barb is semi retired but she helps on the farm when needed.

Our oldest daughter is a teacher in Parkersburg. She is married and has 3 daughters we enjoy seeing and attending their busy events.

Our middle daughter lives in West DesMoines. She is getting married in Colorado September 8th which we are very excited for!

Our youngest son lives in Johnston. His daughter along with his job keeps him very busy. We are thankful everyday for our family and health.

[Return to Index](#)

Galen Hippen



I had an exciting year this year as I got married March 16th to Caryl. The photographer was the best as Doyle Voss did our Wedding Pictures. I am now working for T&K farms. Caryl works in Pre Admission testing at Mercy One (Covenant Hospital) in Waterloo. She moved to Parkersburg and has to drive to work but says she doesn't mind. I have 2

daughters, Koby and Haley. Koby is married to Evan and has 3 boys 1 to 6 years old. She teaches English and Reading at the AP middle school for 6th grade. Her home room is our 2nd grade room with Mrs Crosser. Haley has moved to Des Moines and works at Iowa Methodist Hospital as a Respiratory Therapist.

We spend our time with friends and family. I golf and like tractor shows for hobbies. Caryl loves flower gardening. We hope to travel more.

[Return to Index](#)

Wes Huisinga



Wes is still with the law firm in Cedar Rapids, but has cut back substantially, and is looking for the right day (soon) to retire and call it quits so that he and Lisa can travel to see their children, Laura and Joseph. Our daughter, Laura got married in Cedar Rapids this summer. She and her husband Glenn live in Fresno, CA where “Dr. Laura” is a professor of Interactive Design at Fresno State University. Our son, Joseph, after spending three years as a TV News Reporter with KRTV news in Great Falls, Mt, and 2 years with KGAN (channel 2) in Cedar

Rapids, decided to change careers and headed back to Montana where he works as a seasonal Park Ranger in Glacier National Park. In an effort to obtain a full time job with the National Park Service, Joe is going to attend the national park service law enforcement academy this winter. Our kids love to hike, camp and climb the mountains and most likely will never return to Iowa. This year marked our 37th wedding anniversary and the 5 year anniversary of Wes’ kidney transplant donated by Lisa. Things have worked out well on both fronts! During the spring through the fall, we spend as much time as possible at our lake home in Northern Minnesota, where Wes hopes to retire some day, to fish, hunt, carve decoys and hide out from the Democrats!

[Return to Index](#)

Darwin Janssen

Darwin and wife, Marcia, still live at 6118 W Shaulis Rd, Cedar Falls. I am still farming and Marcia still works at VGM Homelink. Our daughter is married and lives near Shueyville which is south of Cedar Rapids. Our son is married and still lives in West Des Moines. We have three granddaughters and twin grandsons. Life is never dull when they come to the farm!

[Return to Index](#)

Sheila Johnson Gordon



Right out of High School, I went to AIB and got my AA degree in Business Administration. I married in 1979 and had 2 children and I lived in Iowa. I did go back to night school in Mason City to get my BA degree in Accounting.

When I met my current wonderful husband George, I moved to South Carolina in 1996. We lived in SC for 10 years. We loved to go to the Smoky Mountains and hike on the trails there. We took every weekend we could to go.

When he retired, we moved to TN to be between IA & SC. Our blended family consists of 5 children, 11 grandchildren, & 3 great grandkids. They are in SC, GA, FL & IA. We have lived in TN for 12 years now and really enjoy it. It is very laid back here and we live in the country on 6 acres which really keep us busy. It is very hilly and we have lots of trees. It is so funny to come back to IA and see so few trees but love that black dirt! Took me 4 years in TN to get that soil going so I can have a decent garden. I love to garden (farming is always in your blood). For a while, we had 2 mini horses, 3 goats and still have some chickens. Oh, I should not forget the 2 dogs :)

[Return to Index](#)

Russell Jungling



I have been in touch with many of our classmates throughout the years since the invention of Facebook made that possible. For those of you who do not know what has been going on since we graduated...

I married Jean (Neymeyer) in the summer of 1977. We have 1 son, Joshua who is married to Lacasta and live in Ankeny Ia, with our wonderful granddaughter, Eva. Having them live this close to us gives us many weekends that Eva can stay at her "Papa and Mena's" place.

We live on 15 acres north of Iowa Falls and have called this home for more than 30 years. Many changes to the place have happened over the years

and it is still a work in progress. We have been remodeling our home for...let's just say many years. I recently did get our kitchen and dining room done so that was a huge item marked off the list. Getting this done sparked another interest for me which is cooking. I grilled meat in the past but never had I tried to prepare entire meals. I can say I have accomplished that and have been preparing our meals for a few years now. I have had a few flops but most are at least edible. I know I hit a home run when Jean says..."This is good enough for company".

We have developed, over the years, many flower gardens surrounding our house and outbuildings. Our goal is to be featured some day in the Iowa Living magazine. I don't know if that would ever happen but it is a fun goal to work towards. We have also taken up golfing a few years ago and although it is not a big priority of ours, we are pretty sure we are not PGA candidates so we play for the fun of it. I have an interest in woodworking and hope to get to that soon as the larger projects get finished. I wanted to buy a place where I never would run out of things to do. That is 1 wish that came through with flying colors. I may have overdone that one but that is what keeps us going every day.

We have 4 dogs...2 Great Pyrenees, Becky Lee and Daisy Mae. We also have 2 miniature dauschunds Trapper and Tanner. I have found I have a huge soft spot for dogs so I am not allowed to go into a dog shelter or I would come home with all of them.

A year ago last March, I retired from working for a paycheck and just work for nothing around the acreage. Jean is a VP at the local bank in Iowa Falls and is in charge of home mortgage lending. She hopes to be able to retire in the next couple of years or so. I do help my neighbor each spring and fall with fieldwork so I have gotten the opportunity to run large equipment with auto-steer capabilities.

I missed our last reunion and unfortunately will be missing this one as well. When Doyle sent out the date for the reunion we had just booked a flight to Maine to spend a week with some very good friends of ours. I would love to stay in touch with all of you so feel free to look me up on Facebook or email me at rjcc.russ@gmail.com.

[Return to Index](#)

Kerry Kannegieter



We lost Kerry to a work related accident in October of 1979. Following is his obituary:

Funeral services were held Friday for the two victims of the October 30 silo accident at the Corn Country Beef feedlot southeast of Dike.

Services for Trent Finger, 18, were held at 10:30 a.m. Friday at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, rural Wellsburg, and services for Kerry Kannegieter, 23, were held at 2 p.m. Friday at the First Presbyterian Church in Aplington.

Kannegieter had been employed by Corn Country Beef since June, 1978, and was foreman. Finger had worked there for about eight weeks. Both were of rural Aplington.

Kerry Kannegieter

Funeral services for Kerry Kannegieter were held at 2 p.m. Friday at the First Presbyterian Church in Aplington with Rev. Charles Orr officiating. Interment was in Pleasant Valley cemetery, rural Aplington.

Casket bearers were Jim Boelman, Kevin Harms, Doyle Smiens, Doyle Voss, Galen Hippen and Darwin Janssen.

Miss Sheila Best was organist and vocal music was provided by the quartet consisting of Leon Johnson, Michael Schutte, Darrel Koenen and Verlyn Schipper, with Cathy Stevenson the accompanist.

Kerry was born March 25, 1956, in Grundy Center, the son of Calvin and Johanna Johnson Kannegieter. His family lived in Ackley until he was two years old, and then moved to their present farm near Aplington. He graduated from Aplington high school in 1974, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Iowa. He had been employed at Corn Country Beef since June, 1978, and was foreman. Kerry was baptized in the First Reformed Church of Aplington, and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Aplington. He enjoyed teaching Sunday School and was a former member of the Aplington Jaycees.

At the time of his death he was 23 years, seven months and five days old.

He is survived by his parents; one sister, Mrs. Philip (Wava Jean) Buschman, Sigourney; one brother, Dr. Curtis Kannegieter, Knoxville; one niece, Michelle; one nephew, Aaron; his maternal grandfather, Henry Johnson, Aplington; and his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Maggie Kannegieter, Aplington.

The Schwartz-Engelkes Funeral Chapel in Aplington was in charge of arrangements.

[Return to Index](#)

Kim Kramer Hilgendorf



My life has been very rewarding. Since 1974, I've worked some, traveled some, and eaten a lot of good food (which is obvious)!

I retired from John Deere Waterloo Works in September 2009. I enjoy retirement. My husband, Larry, retired from farming eight years ago. He has set up an extensive hydroponic strawberry operation. I help with the strawberries and our other garden produce, especially when it comes to freezing and canning.

My favorite pastimes are playing the piano and organ, Aquarobics Class, and taking care of far too many cats. No, I am not a crazy cat lady or hoarder. They all live outside. From there, nature takes its course!

Larry and I spend a lot of time attending our neighbor kids' school activities. Go Chickasaws! Although we have no kids of our own, they make up for it. We're also very involved with the New Hampton FFA Chapter.

Lord willing, Larry and I will reach a milestone in December by celebrating our 35th wedding anniversary. Those years went fast!

Church (NH First United Methodist) keeps me busy. I play piano/organ every week, accompany the choir, serve on the Mission Committee, assist with VBS, and volunteer at the Chickasaw County Food Pantry.

Well, that pretty much sums up my life since 1974. God has been good to me, and I am thankful!

[Return to Index](#)

Belinda Kromminga



About 25 years ago, I escaped from the Iowa cornfields and moved to the Colorado mountains! I have lived at various places in the Denver Metro area and now live in Thornton, CO, one of the suburbs of Denver. There are many things I love about Colorado, but Iowa is always home in my heart.

After stumbling into a career as a life insurance underwriter from my Des Moines days at Principal, I continued as an underwriter at various insurance companies when I moved to Denver. They included ING, Met, Lincoln and Reinsurance Group of America. When I hit that magic age of 62, I decided it was time to experience retirement. And I highly recommend it!

About 8 and half years ago I was diagnosed with breast cancer. After multiple surgeries, chemo, radiation and lots of prayers, I'm still here and going strong!

Since retirement, I'm spending time at yoga classes, learning photography, hiking and snowshoeing, flower gardening, collecting Hallmark Christmas ornaments, concerts and traveling.

Some recent travel highlights are Kenya for a safari, the Louvre and Versailles in Paris, Stonehenge in England, and Keukenhof Gardens near Amsterdam. I just completed a "Keep the Blues Alive" cruise in the Mediterranean featuring 40 different Blues musicians including Peter Frampton and Joe Bonamassa with stops in Monaco and Malta. In the next year I have trips planned to Moab, Utah for a photography workshop and to visit Egypt for a Pyramids and Nile cruise.

My step-daughter, Cheyenne Dutcher, lives near Traverse City, Michigan.

[Return to Index](#)

Janet Langland

We have not received any new information from Janet.

[Return to Index](#)

Toni Lewis Cress



I have been working at Jones Regional Medical Center in Anamosa, Iowa. I have been a registered nurse for twenty years, the last five at Jones Regional. Jones Regional is an acute access hospital. I work night shift, which I never thought I would like, but to my surprise I do.

Scott and I celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary this past July. We have 5 adult children together. My three daughters, Annesley, Jennifer and Tara, and Scott's son Adam and daughter Elizabeth. We have seven grandchildren, my five, Cadi, Layne, Halee, Ryleigh, Alivia, Beck and Scott's grandsons Brian and Aidan and together we have Bentley our great grandson.

We continue to live in Marion, Iowa in a house that is too big for the two of us, so we added two golden doodles to the mix. Laddie is 1 1/2 years old and the newest addition is Jasper and he is 3 months. The pups keep us quite entertained.

I hope this note finds you and the rest of the class well.

[Return to Index](#)

Ron Luchtenburg

I now have worked for the University of Iowa for seven years now. Most of my spare time is spent in my boat fishing on the lakes of Iowa in the spring and fall. Summer now is spent at softball diamonds with my oldest granddaughter at her softball games.

My son Travis and his wife Susy live in Cedar Rapids. They have two daughters, Alice (4) and Ophelia (1). Travis is a Union Glazier working with architectural metal and glass at Forman Ford in Cedar Rapids and Susy works for United Fire Group in Cedar Rapids as a underwriting coordinator.

My son Austin and his wife Lindsay built a new house in Tiffin this year and now live eight blocks from my house. They have two daughters Ryan (11) and Lennox (4). Austin works for Civco Radio Therapy in Coralville as a network administrator. Lindsay works out of her home for Symplicity in Arlington, Va. as a graphic designer.

[Return to Index](#)

Dave Meyer

I still work for Sinclair Elevator and farm.

Diane works part time at the Peppercorn Pantry.

Any free time is spent with our 11 grandchildren and the rest of our family.

[Return to Index](#)

LaVonne Meyer Witte



Hello to the Class of 74! Hard to believe it's been 45 years!!!

Scott and I have lived in Rock Valley since we were married 40 years ago. I retired from teaching in 2014 after teaching 36 years. Scott continues to work for Hope Haven as Director of Employment Services.

Our three children all live in Rock Valley so that allows me many opportunities to babysit our three grandchildren besides the one day a week I take care of all of them! After chasing Cal (almost 3), Sky (just 2), and Bo (17 months), I'm ready to sit and relax.

Quilting and tending to my flowers keep me busy along with baking cookies at church every Thursday morning. Our fellowship time following our church service has exploded since we began serving homemade cookies. Being a part of Faith Reformed Church has certainly been a blessing to Scott and me.

We've been able to travel a bit more and I've tagged along on some of Scott's work trips. A couple of my favorite were Washington, DC and Burlington, Vermont.

[Return to Index](#)

Jolene Miller Thorne

We have not received any new information from Jolene.

[Return to Index](#)

Mitzi Muller Harris



I met my husband Mark at St Johns United Methodist Church in Davenport. I started playing organ there in 1985 when I finished Scarritt College in Nashville (masters in church music/organ). We met the following fall and were married in June of 1987.

Isaac came along 13 years later! 🤔😊 He is in his 3rd year of college, transferring this year from Michigan Tech in Houghton, MI to Tempe, AZ.

I taught elementary school music for 36 years before retiring last year. I continue teaching a college class one night a week at St Ambrose University in Davenport.

Church keeps me the most busy, where I direct the St. John's UMC music program through organ, bells and choir. It's nice to have

more time for that now.

Mark works as a patent engineer for John Deere at the headquarters in Moline IL, just across the river from our home in Blue Grass, IA. He plans to keep working while Isaac is in college. 🤔😊

I would love to see everyone.

Next reunion!

[Return to Index](#)

Warren Oelmann

In 1974 I started working at the Austinville Elevator until 1981. In the spring I took training as a track repairman for the Rock Island Railroad. That fall I worked for a construction company out of Kanawha building grain bins in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. That fall, when construction was done for the year, I went to work for Ackley Food Processors working as a shuttle driver between warehouses and as an over the road truck driver. The next spring I returned to construction until winter. I then returned to work back at the Austinville Elevator in 1983 where I continue to work.

Finally we are to the last five years where we get to enjoy all those wonderful aches and pains. Now to the rest of the Class, I wish everyone good health and good retirement!

[Return to Index](#)

Jeff Patet



To the Class of 1974:

I was hoping that my wife, Maritza and I would be at this Class Reunion, but our plans changed and weren't able to make it. However, we're looking forward to being at the next class reunion, which will be our 50th!

I'll be referring to our family picture as I introduce each of our family members. Also, this family picture was taken on our 40th wedding anniversary, which was last June.

I'd like to start by first introducing our oldest daughter Gina and her husband Santi (standing on the

left side of the picture) and their handsome little boy, Andrew who is 7 years old (standing in front, in the picture). It's very exciting being grandparents! Maritza and I are Lulu and Poppy to Andrew! Andrew likes Maritza and I to get down on our hands and knees to give him horseback rides. Getting down on the floor is easy, then having Andrew get on my back and I start moving is another matter, especially when he says: "Go faster Poppy, go faster!" He's lucky that I'm just moving, let alone going fast! Getting back up, from the floor, is also a challenge! Sometimes it's easier to just stay on the floor and get up the next day! Andrew also participated in a Basketball Ball Camp, this past summer, which was for a week, at our Recreational Center near us. He's really good at making those hoops! Andrew also played baseball on one of our church's leagues this past spring. There were over 500 kids playing on different leagues, from kindergarten through High School. His dad, Santi, was one of the coaches.

Now back to our family picture.

Standing behind Andrew, is our youngest daughter Mallory and her husband Caleb, they have been married a little over two years. As you can tell, Maritza and I are in the center of the picture. I know what you're thinking, we haven't aged a bit! LOL!

Both of our daughters and Maritza are teachers. Mallory, our youngest daughter, is starting her fourth year as a Kindergarten Teacher. The last three years she has been teaching in a Christian private school, but this year, she is teaching at one of the elementary schools in Hillsborough County, which is in Tampa. Hillsborough County is the eighth largest school district in the U.S. and they have about 250,000 students! Mallory's husband Caleb, works as an Account Manager for a company called, Medial.ab 3D Solutions..

Gina is starting her fifth year teaching in Pasco County, but has been in education for about twenty years. Gina teaches third grade and her school is only one mile from her house! Another added blessing is that their son Andrew, also goes to the same school Gina teaches at and is in second grade, which is very convenient for both of them.

Gina's husband Santi is the Sr. Vice President of Technology Operations at Concertium. He has a lot of hats to wear for that position!

Maritza is starting her seventeenth year teaching Kindergarten at Hillel Academy, which is a Jewish Day School. She is one of the Division Directors and has always been loved by all her students and staff. She also enjoys scrapbooking, watching Pioneer Woman, and cooking, One of her greatest joys is making special meals (New Year's Eve, Easter, birthdays and Sundays), for the whole family, which is about fifteen people!

Over the past thirty years, I have worked in several different areas. After Maritza and I moved to Tampa in 1990, I was in a Chaplaincy Internship Program at Tampa General Hospital for one year. After completing the Chaplaincy Program, I started looking for a Hospital Chaplain Position, but soon realized that there weren't many openings for Hospital Chaplains, because Chaplains who had those positions, weren't leaving. However, by looking for a Chaplain Position, I soon discovered that Psychiatric Hospitals were hiring Mental Health Workers. After looking and applying at several hospitals, I was soon hired as a Mental Health Worker. I worked several years in the Mental Health Field and then made the switch to teaching students in the Alternative Education Program, with the Hillsborough County School District. I started teaching students who were expelled from their regular schools, since this was the same population of teenagers I was working with in the Psychiatric Hospitals. I taught in the Alternative Ed. Program for about eight years and then transferred to a regular school, where I got certified and started teaching Middle Grade Social Studies. I taught for about thirteen years with the school district and then resigned. Presently, I am working as a Hospital Chaplain at several hospitals. I also enjoy bike riding, lifting weights at the gym and swimming. My long term goal is to ride in the Ragbrai, across Iowa, possibly next summer. I have a couple of friends who are bicyclists and also would like to go.

I would rather be talking to you all in person, instead of in a letter, but hopefully, we'll be able to do that in the next five years, for our 50th Class Reunion!

[Return to Index](#)

Terri Pruisner Best

My husband Ron and I have been married since June of 2013. We live on Ron's family farm north of Aplington. I am still working at the Iowa State Bank in Parkersburg as the administrative assistant. I have been there for close to 11 years. My banking career has been a total of 41 years. Hopefully I will be able to retire in the next year or two. Ron retired from farming this past December due to his health. We sold all the land, equipment and the acreage. Fortunately, our neighbor bought the acreage and we now rent from him. It was nice not having to look for a new place to live! As soon as I can retire we plan to travel and go somewhere out of the snow during Iowa's winter weather!

Ron and I have seven children between us and 10 grandchildren ranging from ages 3 months to 18 years old. The grandchildren keep us busy with all or their school activities which we love attending! We also enjoy taking our camper out during the summer months. This year was not a good year for that with all the rain that we had as we couldn't get the camper out our gravel roads!! Hopefully next summer will be much better.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you once again and hearing some more good stories! See you all soon.

[Return to Index](#)

Eunice Renken Hutchins

Married to husband Gaylen Hutchins 33 years, our son & wife live in Clive and daughter & husband live in Cedar Falls with our two grandchildren. Retired from John Deere in 2009 as an accountant, then worked part time for Deere as a business analyst for another 9 years ending in 2018. My current 'job' is grandma babysitting our grandchildren 3 days a week. Hobbies are #1 spending time with kids and grandkids and also fishing, enjoying our cabin in Minnesota, and being a Kansas City Chiefs fan for 35 years (through good times and bad!)

That's about it, very grateful for good health and family. Hoping a good time is had by all at the reunion!

[Return to Index](#)

Terry Ridder



Hi, everyone. This is from Terry and Gail Ridder. We just celebrated our 42nd year of marriage on August 19th. And we have 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

Our daughter, Melissa, and her family live in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. They have one son, Andrew who is a senior year this year. Melissa works for Toyota and Khrys works for Mark's Retail.

Our son, Mark, and his family live in Waverly and have one son as well. Cooper is starting 7th grade. Mark works at John Deere and Amber is a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in New Hampton, Iowa.

I retired in 2017 after many years in sales and I have a lot of hobbies to keep me busy. One may sound strange, but Gail got me into quilt-making and I really enjoy the process that it takes to make one. A good thing to try during the winter months when it is too cold to be in the shop wood working. Plus I love hunting and fishing and gardening.

Gail works from home for VGM & Associates in the Homelink Division as an Accounts Payable Associate and can't wait to retire too.

We've been living in the Waverly/Shell Rock area since 1985 and currently live in Shell Rock. It's a great small town to live in.

We wish we could join you but we have a prior commitment.

[Return to Index](#)

Terry Schipper

We have not received any new information from Terry.

[Return to Index](#)

Verlyn Schipper



Verlyn is the salesperson at Aplington FS and Janie keeps the farm and home going.

Number one son Brandon is working in the ER at Allen Hospital. Lesa his wife is teaching at Parkersburg. They have two sons, Bodee and Jovee.

Our daughter Brittany lives in Texas with her husband, Yasir, and daughter, Bella. They both work in the Hospital.

Our second son, Bryce, is getting married Sept. 14th 2019 to Katlynn Ridder. He is working for John Deere at the research farm.

[Return to Index](#)

Sally Schurman Harken



We lost Sally in June of 2018. Following is her obituary:

Sally Harken, 63, of Evansdale, died at home Sunday, June 3, of complications from small cell carcinoma.

She was born May 11, 1955, in Waterloo, daughter of Dick Jr. and Patricia (Halloran) Schurman. She married Jack Ivan Harken on July 25, 1975, at First Presbyterian Church in Aplington; they later divorced.

Sally graduated from Aplington High School in 1974. She was manager at the ARC in Aplington for four years, then worked for 14 years at Kum & Go, first in Parkersburg and eventually was the assistant manager at the Waterloo store.

Sally was a former member of Bethel Reformed Church in rural Aplington where she served as a Sunday school teacher.

Survived by: two sons, Sam Harken of Waterloo and Ivan (Jessica) Harken of Onawa; three grandchildren, Avery, Jackson and Henle Harken; a brother, Curtis (Marge) Schurman of Kesley; a sister, Connie (Grant) Jones of Sedalia, Mo.; a brother-in-law, Curtis Kannegieter of Littleton, Colo.; and a special friend, Wilhelm Dauth of Waterloo.

Preceded in death by: her parents; and a sister, Debi Kannegieter.

Services: 10 a.m. Saturday, June 9, at First Congregational Church, with burial at Oak Hill Cemetery, both in Parkersburg. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at Redman-Schwartz Funeral Home, Parkersburg, and for an hour before services at the church.

[Return to Index](#)

Craig Smiens



Married to Cyndi since 1980. We have lived in Ankeny for 24 years.

Cyndi is a nurse working in Ambulatory (gets you ready for surgery, takes care of you when you get out) for Mercy Hospital in Des Moines.

I work for Marel Inc., Des Moines, as an engineer for the current products group. This company used to be Townsend Engineering and I have been here for 24 years. In the near future I hope to join some of my fellow classmates in retirement.

Children

Andrea is married to Brendan O'Shea and lives in Minneapolis.

Andrea is an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, College of Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology.

No children, only a dog.

Mallory is married to Alex Stubbers and lives in Altoona.

Mallory is a Core Curriculum Director in the Saydel School District.

They have 3 children.

[Return to Index](#)

Doyle Smiens



Hello Fellow Graduates! I am sorry that I am not able to attend the reunion, it would have been nice to reconnect with everyone. I currently live in Long Beach, CA. Long Beach is located about 30 miles south of LA and has a population of around a half million. I have been here for about 10 yrs.

As you may remember from high school, I really enjoyed performing in speech and theater events and have spent the last couple of years exploring that passion. Most people do the starving actor thing in their 20's but I decided to delay that opportunity until my 60's! I enjoy doing a lot of storytelling events and most recently I did a one man show. It had been a dream of mine to do the one man show for about six years. I spent about 2 years off and on

writing the show and then in January of this year I started the memorization process. For some reason, it seems to take me a little longer than it used to memorize but I did manage to memorize the 28 page script. I did three consecutive Saturday night performances in July. I really enjoyed those performances and hope to find other opportunities in the area to perform the show again.

I have 2 children. My son Kyle, his wife Lisa and three children live in Chilliwack, B.C. Canada. My daughter Krystal, her husband Trevor and two children also live in Chilliwack, B.C. Canada.

Take good care everyone and will look forward to hearing about all of your adventures!

[Return to Index](#)

Sharla Stahl Kampman

We have not received any new information from Sharla.

[Return to Index](#)

Rhonda Ter Hark Rops



I am sure you don't want every detail of my wonderful life so here are some high lights.

I married Denny Rops, November 19, 2016 so we are sort of newlyweds. We live in the sweet village of Aplington.

My four daughters and their husbands all live less than 1 hour and 45 minutes away. We have 13 grandkids ranging from the age of 1 to 25. Two great grandkids and one on the way due as I write this.

Since everyone is close we spend lots of time at the kid's activities. They participate in football, track, baseball, soccer, dance, band, golf, cross country, basketball so just imagine how many sport events, school and church program we are blessed to share with our family. Shopping trips with my daughters are the best.

Denny and I enjoy camping, golf and put on lots of miles on our bicycles. Since our last reunion I have traveled to Wales, Greece, New York and Michigan. Denny and I also enjoy traveling this summer have visited Arizona and Wisconsin. We are planning a trip to the Netherlands next spring.

We are both active member of the Aplington First Reformed Church, so many special memories and friendships there. Last year Denny and I went on a mission trip to St. Thomas to help rebuild after the hurricane.

I decided to return to direct care nursing rather than working in an administrative role. For the past 2 years I have worked Hansen Family Hospital in Iowa Falls as a health coach. I am easing into retirement working 3 days a week (perfect)!

As for many of us, I have said goodbye to my parents, miss them dearly but feel blessed by their lives and their faith.

Happy, loved, blessed and grateful

[Return to Index](#)

Steve Thompson

In 1996 Steve suffered a stroke as the result of a blood clot that traveled from his leg and through his heart. It was not determined what the cause of the blood clot was. He lived in his home for a few years and then around 2003 determined it would be best to reside in a care facility. He currently resides at the Eldora Specialty Care facility in Eldora, Iowa.

[Return to Index](#)

Denise Uhlenhopp Foth



Hello everybody from the class of 74!

Life at the Foth house remains active. I have retired from teaching but am busier than ever. I am “grandma on call” and “on call” happens quite often! Love watching those kids grow up. We are so fortunate that they all live within 15 minutes from our house. We currently have eight grandchildren but in a couple weeks we will have another. My baby girl will have her first child.

My mom died a year ago so now both of my parents are gone. We are still in the process of getting everything settled up with that. That takes up a lot of time. It’s been really hard getting rid of things that were so important to somebody else. I’m not good at that!!!

I may do some subbing again this year. I find that even some of those elementary subjects are pretty tough to sub though. My goodness! I didn’t like math when I was in school and now their math about drives me crazy!

Bruce still farms and they have cattle in custom yards. I guess cattle are his hobby....An expensive one many times!

Life otherwise remains pretty much the same around here. We are in the process of putting on an addition.

Living in a construction zone with constant dust is about to drive me nuts! I don’t deal well with chaos! 😞
But....We are grateful for for many things and especially our health, which we know is pretty precious especially as we get older! God has been good to us.

[Return to Index](#)

Keith Van Dyk

We have not received any new information from Keith.

[Return to Index](#)

Doyle Voss



Since the last reunion in 2014 I have gotten older and crankier. Things have started to hurt all over. My Google searches are mostly for things like Geritol and hearing assistance devices. Reruns of the “Lawrence Welk Show” aren’t as boring as they used to be. I can’t remember where I put anything! But if people ask, I always say, “I’m doing good! Really good!”

We keep our huddle close. Andrew and wife Kelly and their three (or four, including Erik, an orphan from Latvia they are hosting) children have moved even closer to us. Instead of three blocks, they now live one half block away. We get to see our grandkids Eleanora (6 1/2), Gilbert (almost 4) and Howard (17 months) often. We consider that a huge blessing! Andrew is a special ed teacher and Kelly is a social worker.

We somehow let Erin and her husband John move over 20 miles away in Cedar Falls. We’re still not sure how that happened and intend to get that corrected. Erin is a social worker and John is a special ed teacher.

Janna has retired from teaching and principal of Timothy Christian School and now enjoys spending time in her pottery studio, my grandpa’s former implement dealership building in Austinville.

I have no plan. I will forever be stuck behind a camera. It’s not all that bad though. In 2015 I photographed a wedding in Hawaii and in 2019 I photographed a wedding in the Rocky Mountains. I still love what I do and I have met so many great and interesting people.

I competed in a Sprint Triathlon in May of this year. I probably don’t need to do that again, but my kids are able to get me to do stupid things.....

Janna and I continue to be involved in many church and community events. At some point we would love to travel and enjoy more of this world God has given us. A goal would be to return to Germany, preferably during Oktoberfest! We have taken a fondness to the craft beer industry!

We are happy, healthy and blessed!

[Return to Index](#)

Jan Willeke



Currently, I am living in Mason City, Iowa and working full-time at the Mason City Public Library as one of the children's librarians and part-time at North Iowa Area Community College teaching English as a Second Language.

When not working, I spend time with friends and family. I also volunteer as both a pen pal and an international friend for RSVP, as the administrator of the Facebook page for my church, quilting with a group of women who make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and more as other interesting opportunities come up. I enjoy being back in small town Iowa (except for winter) and probably will retire here.

[Return to Index](#)

Aplington Class of 1974 Photo



Front Row (L to R): Jim Boelman, Ginny Haan, Vicki Duhn Fiacco, Jan Willeke, Kim Kramer Hilgendorf, Denise Uhlenhopp Foth, June Lindaman Harken, Wes Husinga, Doyle Voss
Back Row (L to R): Tom Nosbish (teacher), Darwin Janssen, Verlyn Schipper, Gaylen Harken, Kelly Harken, LaVonne Meyer Witte, Galen Hippen, Rhonda Ter Hark Rops, Eileen Best Spree, Gordon Druvenga, Terri Pruisner Best, Ron Luchtenburg, Cindy Eiklenborg Wolff, Ivan Groeneveld, Ken Theobald (teacher) Belinda Kromminga

[Return to Index](#)

Football Players with Coach Noshish



Speech and Drama Participants with Director Ken Theobald



Candid



[Return to Index](#)



Class of 1974 mugs still available.
\$15 plus shipping.
Contact Doyle at 319.239.0350 or
Janna Voss at 319.239.1903