

Aplington High School

Class of 1974

Class Reunion
August 24, 2024
Legend Trail Country Club
Parkersburg, Iowa

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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.

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Eileen Best Spree

We have not received any new information from Renee.

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Jim Boelman



- * One fantastic wife (Ilene Neymeyer)
- * Three fantastic MARRIED daughters. Last one married on March 2nd in Iowa with temperatures in the 70's. I golfed with my soon to be son-in law on March 1st. That was definitely a first.
- * Three fantastic son-in laws.
- * Five fantastic grand kids. Three girls and two boys. Three live in Cedar Falls and two live in the Tacoma, WA area.
- * One fantastic job for me and one fantastic job for Ilene. I'm still selling, and Ilene is still the Child Whisperer. She watches the three grand kids who live in Cedar Falls during the school year.
- * One fantastic house and

neighborhood. We have lived in the same house since 1988 in Cedar Falls.

*One fantastic church in CF. Along with one fantastic small group that I have lead for 25+ years.

*One fantastic brother-in -law (that's you, Russ) and of course his lovely wife. I actually have one fantastic family that I married into.

And of course, one fantastic high school class that I graduated with.

I have one fantastic life!

Renee Dix Uhlenhopp

We have not received any new information from Renee.

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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
- 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)
- Business Administrator at GracePoint Church in New Brighton, MN May 2015-June 2021.

2020's

- Retired from GracePoint Church July 1, 2021.
- Still do a little consulting in the accounting field.
- Moved to Cedar Falls, IA in April 2024.

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Vicki Duhn Fiacco

Upon retirement about three years ago, we moved to Delray Beach, Florida for about six months and a day. This summer , we are renting a home in Cedar Falls, and intend to do so in the future. We have done a lot of traveling, last year we spent 91 days on cruise ships. Our children are scattered all over the US, so we do a lot of traveling also in the U.S. We are blessed to still have good health so we plan on seeing more of the world the next few years. Sending my love to all my classmates of 1974.
Vicki Duhn Fiacco

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Cindy Eiklenborg Wolff

We have not received any new information from Cindy.

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Julia George

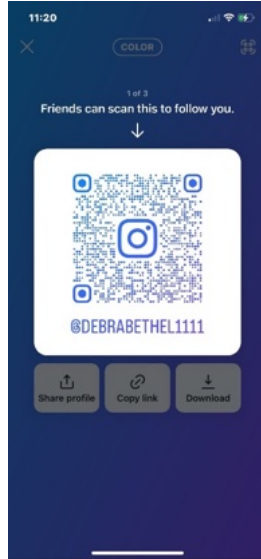


Julia was the exchange student that spent the senior year with us. She was hosted by June Lindaman and her family.

We have not received any new information from Julia.

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Debra Goff Bethel



I married in 2019 a man named Duncan Bethel. He moved to Seattle from New York. We met in Southern California at the Chopra Center. He works with First Responders as a Mobile Crisis Team social worker.

I am retired from working as an ICU nurse at UWMC and feel much more relaxed, very happy. I spend time gardening, volunteering in my community, camping, and enjoying the good things in life.

I like to influence AI with photographs of nature. You can scan my Instagram account if you're interested.

Ivan Groeneveld



Veronica and I have been blessed with good health, as to enjoy and remain on our acreage south of Aplington. Since the last reunion, we're both retired and we are traveling more. A highlight being Alaska, both Land and Inside Passage. Three more Grands were born, totaling 11, 6 girls and 5 boys. Their activities keep our calendar full. In March 2024, son Colin lost his battle with opioid addiction. Jillian and Jared live in West Des Moines, John and Jacie live near Pella and Sheena and Chris are in Urbandale. Our home and The Lodge are always open, just call and we can gather (I)319-231-5612 or (V)319-231-3702
Ivan and Veronica Groeneveld
19599 130th St
Parkersburg IA 50665

Virginia Haan



Hi everyone, as you all know in 2014 I made a major move in my life and moved to Texas, I can't believe it's been 10 yrs ago already. I lived in a couple different places in Killeen TX and then when the pandemic hit I moved in with my daughter Kierra in Houston TX in 2020, I only lived there for a year, it was great living with her and Houston was an exciting place but living in an apartment and the busy city life and traffic was not for me. So in 2021 I moved back to Killeen TX and bought a house and this is where I reside. I love my house and living in Killeen is not bad. I have my good friend Sharon and

her family near by. I have been retired for 10 yrs now and I do as I please, I kind of enjoy the freedom, I don't miss working, but I think the most I miss is the daily conversation. I also miss having my own family near by with Kierra being the closest, 3 hours away. I enjoy fishing, swimming, outdoors, gardening, doing my own yard work, going to the gym, and doing different crafts. Most of all I enjoy my dogs they keep me busy, I guess you could call me the crazy dog lady, but they are good company, I have 5, a chocolate lab named Mocha she is 3, 4 long haired miniature dachshunds, Reese's who is 13, she is the oldest, Logan is 8, Chip is 2, and Olive is 1. They keep me entertained, and they are my fur children! 🐾 My oldest daughter Alicia lives in Cedar Rapids she is 45 and works for the state in the juvenile division, she's a supervisor, she is single, her oldest Child Jaydin (27) lives with her and is working at a restaurant, Antwone (20) her youngest lives with her and will be going to Kirkwood this fall, and works for Menards, my old stomping grounds! Her middle son Dion (24) lives in Chicago, he's working but I'm not sure where, he changes jobs often, 🤔. My middle daughter Charice also lives in Cedar Rapids she is 42, and also works for the state in the juvenile court division, she's divorced but has a boyfriend (Brandon), her oldest son is the only one still in Texas with me, Kahlil, (23), his girlfriend (Utaya) and himself both live in San Marcos, he's in the food industry, KeAndre (21), her middle son lives in Cedar Rapids with his girlfriend (Sophia), he works in maintenance, and Kwaevon (18), just graduated from High School and will be attending college this fall in Minnesota for basketball. She also has a stepson Amir who is 8, (Brandon's son) who is in elementary school who lives with her. Kierra my youngest child is 28, she lives in Houston graduated from UH in 2020, she has an English major but doesn't work in that field, the pandemic kind of ruined that for her, but she has worked for the same restaurant for 4 yrs now and makes great money, she has an apartment, she is single, she has 2 dogs, Trippy and Pumpkin who are my fur Grandpups! 🐾 My sister Vickie lives in Norwalk Wisconsin with her husband Kevin, her 5 kids all live in Iowa, 3 are married, 2 are single, they all have families. Vince lives in Janesville by himself, he's retired, and his son lives in Denver Iowa, he is married and they have a boy, and his daughter lives in Cedar Falls with her Mom, she is single. Victor lives in Cedar Rapids with his wife Deb of 30 yrs, he is retired also and Deb works for Mercy Hospital she has for 29 yrs now, they have no kids. George lives in Cedar Rapids he is divorced and works for Kettlesons, he has one daughter, who lives with her Mom in Marion, they share custody. I only have one Aunt left on my Moms side, Aunt Doralene, she lives in Aplington with her husband Roger, she will be 90 next year. One Uncle on my Dads side Uncle Ervin, he now resides in a nursing home in Waverly, he's 89, his wife died a few years back. I try to get to Iowa at least once a year, this year this will make my 3rd trip. Fall is my favorite time of year, and of course sweet corn, I try to get some every year. In 2021 I went on my first cruise with my friend Sharon to the Bahamas, it was 7 days, we had a great time, a lot of fun! Last year I went

on a cruise to Alaska with Sharon, for 7 days, and it also was a lot of fun, the scenery was gorgeous. I would like to go on one more cruise, not sure where or when, but soon! I can't believe it's been 50 yrs where has the time gone, and that we are all almost 70. It's crazy to me! We are now the old generation! Wow!

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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.

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Gaylen Harken June Lindaman Harken



Education:

Gaylen – BS Agronomy, Iowa State University 1978

June – BA Education, Northern Illinois University 1980

Married: 9-3-1977

Gaylen retired in September 2019. Worked 5 years for Del Monte and 36 years for Bayer Crop Science. Currently enjoys fishing in MO & Canada, hunting pheasant and quail MO, KS, IA, & SD with Star (our Brittany), deer hunting MO, and spring turkey hunting (with a 4-10) in MO & KS. Gaylen also keeps busy with family activities,

cooking, following sports and yard work.

June has supported Gaylen's past work related travel schedule, family needs and worked various jobs in education and home décor. She is a regular volunteer at the local Hillcrest Thrift store kitchen department the past 10 years.

We continue to enjoy the home we built in Platte County MO in 2013. We both are actively involved at the Platte City United Methodist Church. We are continually available for whatever daily needs and activities of our children and grandchildren.

We have two sons, Andy & Bryce. Andy & Emily have 2 sons Huntley 14 & Graham 11. Bryce & Heather have a daughter Max 10 and son Lake 6.

Most recent travel event was to Andy & Emily's wedding in Dominican Republic

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Kelly Harken

No new information from Kelly



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Kevin Harms



We are pacing farm life and still able to conquer the job. We have 2 horses, a dog and 2 chickens.

I have been doing carpenter jobs almost as much as farming which keeps me busy.

Barb is semi-retired but always a helping hand in all I do.

We have 3 children and 6 grands.

Emily Williamson, our oldest, is an upper Elementary Principal and Special Ed Director with Aplington-Parkersburg schools. Her husband Travis is a Regional Sales Agronomist with FarmersWin Coop. They live in Parkersburg and have 3 daughters, Adi almost 20, Aubrey 16 and Ava 12.

Our middle daughter, Amber Vaughan, along with her husband Jordan and their 2 children Ellis, 23 months and baby boy Benson, 4 months, live on an acreage on the edge of Ankeny. Amber works for Lean Techniques as a software Delivery Consultant and her husband is an Engineer for John Deere.

Our son, Blake, works for Henry Schein Dental as an Equipment Sales Specialist. He has a 13 year old daughter Lily. They just moved from Johnston to Waukee this summer.

We are very thankful for our health and family.

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Galen Hippen



Things have changed a little from 5 years ago. Caryl and I have now been married 5 and a half year. I am no longer working for the farming operation. I started helping a good friends widow with closing down her appliance business after he was killed a year ago in June. I am about done with that and have started Hippen Appliance repair. I just can't seem to get away from fixing appliances. Caryl is still working at Mercy One Hospital (Covenant in waterloo) .She has been there 26 years. We spend a lot of our time with our grandchildren as in taking them camping and events. They are Elliot is 11, Marshall is 8, Oliver is 5, and Jerome is 4. We also attend there events like Soccer, Baseball, Wrestling and Singing . I also do a little golfing and Caryl loves her crafting. We have been blest with good health and still live on our acreage north of Parkersburg,

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Wes Huisinga



Married for 42 years, Lisa and I are still living in the country West of Cedar Rapids. I am still working as an attorney in Cedar Rapids after 43 years (much too long) and plan to retire by the end of this year. Lisa, retired from teaching in 2013, donated me one of her kidneys in 2014 and now spends her days watching after me! (a full time job). Our Daughter, Laura (Dr. Laura) is a tenured professor of Graphic Design at Fresno State University in Fresno, CA. She and her husband, Glenn have given us two grandchildren, Garrett

(almost 4) and Liam (almost 9 months). Liam did not make it to the hospital and was delivered at home by his dad, in the hallway, with nothing but one of his shoestrings to tie the cord. Amazing and all was well! After 7 years in CA, Laura and family are relocating to Minnesota this Summer and will be living with us in Cedar Rapids while they search for a new home up North. We are thrilled to have them move closer. Our son Joseph and his wife Sky met while they both worked in Glacier National Park, Joe as a Law enforcement Park Ranger for the National Park Service. They now live in Choeteau, Montana where Joe is a Deputy Sheriff for Teton County and Sky works for the National Forest Service. They are expecting our third grandchild coming around the first of August! They will never leave Montana, but at least it is a great place to visit. The picture I have enclosed was from Joe and Sky's Wedding in 2022 on Sky's family ranch in Walla Walla, Washington. Married in a historic horse barn surrounded by pastures, wheat fields and chickpeas. I spend my spare time gardening, taking care of the yard, and spending every couple of weeks in the summer at our lake home in Northern Minnesota on the Woman Lake chain. My dream, after retirement is to spend most of our time between our home on the lake in Northern Minnesota and traveling to visit our children in Minnesota and Montana.

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Darwin Janssen



I am still married to Marcia and am still farming. We have one daughter who has a daughter starting her first year at Iowa State University. Our daughter has twin boys who will start 6th grade at Prairie Intermediate School in Cedar Rapids. We also have a son who has two daughters, one starting 5th grade and one starting 3rd grade at Jordan Creek Elementary School in West Des Moines

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Sheila Johnson Gordon



We have not received any new information from Sheila.

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Russell Jungling



I cannot believe we have been out of high school for 50 years! We are still currently living on our acreage just outside of Iowa Falls. 15 acres is turning out to be a lot of work as we get older. Years ago, I would have put a garden together and Jean would fill those with flowers. I usually made a place to sit in each garden. I didn't know why because we were always too busy to sit. Well, at our age, we now do sit in all those spots, so I guess I had insight I didn't even know I had. We have 8 gardens that we cover with new mulch each year. It takes 2 truckloads to do the job as these are not small gardens.

Jean (Neymeyer) and I were married in June of 1977. We have 1 son, Joshua, who is married to Lacasta, and they live in Ankeny Ia. with our granddaughter, Eva. Eva currently is playing the Cello and plays 1st chair in the Des Moines Junior Symphony.

I went to Ellsworth Community College and graduated with a farm\swine management degree. I went to work for a farming\hog\cattle operation in Allison Ia. The next chapter had me driving a boom truck setting up feed bins. When they closed, I drove

cross country running a reefer on the south and east coast. I wasn't home much so I found a local job driving a feed truck. After that, I started my own trucking company. After an accident, I was forced to close the business. I decided to go back to college at age 40. I graduated from AIB with a business degree. I then worked for Principal Financial Group as a computer technician doing phone support for Principal agents across the United States. 4 years later I became the manager of that helpdesk. 6 years after that, I started a RadioShack franchise retail store in Iowa Falls with the focus on computer repair. After 5 years I decided the retail world is not for me. I started working for a large swine growing company and was back to delivering feed to swine facilities. I worked there until I retired in 2018. Jean retired in 2021 as a Vice President of Greenbelt Bank and Trust in charge of residential mortgage lending. She worked for this bank for 42 years starting as a bank teller.

We are enjoying being retired and working at our leisure on the acreage. Since our retirement we have started doing some traveling. We have become addicted to cruises, and we try to plan one each year. Our favorite cruise line is Holland America.

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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.

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Kim Kramer Hilgendorf

I retired from John Deere in 2009. I am still playing the piano/organ at church. My husband, Larry, retired from farming to become a full-time gardener. I help Larry with his garden projects....strawberries, tomatoes, etc. We do a lot of canning and freezing.

We will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary in December. We aren't too exciting, so that's it for us!

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Belinda Kromminga

- Retired at the end of the year 2017.

- Past life insurance underwriter with Principal Financial Group, ING, Met Life, Lincoln Financial Group and Reinsurance Group of America.

- Moved from Iowa almost 30 years ago. Now live in Thornton, CO one of the suburbs of Denver.

- My step-daughter, Cheyenne Dutcher, now lives in Fairbanks, Alaska after living in various locations such as Key West, FL, Mystic, CT, Burlington, VT, and Erie, PA. She also lived on various historic Tall Ships sailing along the east coasts of North America and South America plus the Great Lakes. She took positions as First Mate, Cook, and quickly earned her Captain's license. During her adventures she made friends with people who raced sled dogs in Alaska, volunteered to be a dog handler during one of the races, and decided to join their business by offering kayak rentals and doing their photography. Now she is working doing logistics for a national trucking company. I just know we will see her on "Ice Road Truckers" next!

- I'm still a dog parent. After my last two dogs passed, I thought no more dogs. But then Covid hit, I got lonely! That's when a little 4 pound bundle of hair moved in with me. Jasper is a shitzu/maltese cross, more than 4 pounds now, cute as can be, and his favorite pastimes are snoozing on the couch, running up and down the deck steps or scamming for treats. He is known as the "Treat Terrorist"!

Retirement agrees with me and I have been busy with my flower gardens, photography, and traveling. This year I learned how to play Mahjong and belong to a group that plays weekly plus we have a monthly Bunco group.

Its seems of late I have spent a great deal of time planning travels. Recently I spent several days at the Wildflower Festival in Crested Butte, CO and we have a girls trip planned for Nashville. For international travel I recently did a safari in South Africa with a visit to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. In a few months, I going to Peru. In past years I've gone to Kenya, Egypt, Scotland, England, France, Holland, Mexico, Monaco, Malta, Spain and a few other countries.

My goal is to go to all 7 continents before I hit 70 at the end of 2025. So next year I have plans for a trip to Australia and a cruise to Antarctica. I'm looking at various options for an Asia trip. Wanna go?

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Janet Langland

We have not received any new information from Janet.

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Toni Lewis Cress



The past 5 years have been eventful for myself and my husband Scott. We lived in Marion, Iowa for 12 years and made the decision to move closer to children. We found our home in Aplington. Talk about going full circle for me. We made our move during Covid, which wasn't an easy task. I retired after 21 years as a Registered Nurse. My retirement wasn't planned, but Non-Hodgkins Follicular Lymphoma Stage 3 and Covid made my decision for me. After 2 years of Chemotherapy, I am currently in remission by the Grace of God. Scott and I celebrated 20 years of marriage. We have a blended family. I have 3 daughters, Annesley, Jennifer and Tara. Scott has a daughter Elizabeth and his son Adam died this past April, which was heart breaking. We share 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. We share our home with two Goldendoodles and a cat. We love being closer to our children and their families. I keep busy with family, friends, gardening and crafting.

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Ron Luchtenburg



It's been three wonderful years that I've been retired from the University of Iowa and Local 125 Refrigeration Fitters Union.

With my abundance of now free time I enjoy fishing Iowa's lakes and rivers and attending my granddaughters sports events.

My granddaughters are also slowly learning the art of fishing this summer which can be joyful and sometimes painful.

Travis, Suzy, Alice and Ophelia continue to reside in Cedar Rapids. Travis is the Safety Coordinator for District Council 81 Union Eastern Iowa.

Suzy is a Underwriter Specialist for QBE North America insurance group.

Austin, Lindsay, Ryan, and Lennox reside in Tiffin. Austin works for CQ Medical as a Cyber Security Analyst in Iowa City.

Lindsay is a Graphic Designer for Symplicit in Virginia.

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Dave Meyer



We moved to Pella Iowa - address 207 E 14th Street - Pella, IA 50219

David & I are both retired. We moved to be closer to our children & grandchildren

We Have 12 grandchildren.

We are enjoying retirement - hope to travel - playing pickleball, riding bikes and doing water aerobics.

Spending time with the grandkids going to their events.

David is helping out at our church.

See you soon,

David & Diane

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LaVonne Meyer Witte



The Rock Valley Flood on June 22, 2024, changed our lives. We won't go back to our home of 39 years and there's a good chance our neighborhood will be destroyed. However, Our Hope is in the Lord. We're clinging to Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you." Scott, Seth, and I have moved in with our daughter, her husband, and two little boys, who have made sure we have everything we need and more. It's definitely a new normal for all of us. Their house is completely accessible to meet Seth's needs. We'll be here for at least a year until our new home is built.

Please pray for the town of Rock Valley as we heal and move forward. Our schools, churches, businesses, and so many families have been affected by the flood.

This past year has been a year of saying goodbye. My brother, Leland, passed in July following a short illness while my brother, Lyle, passed a year ago following open heart surgery. Scott's sister passed in April.

But....we continue to trust in the Lord.

Our daily routines have changed. Scott now mows and cares for the lawns of our children instead of his own. That is something he loves to do. I'm enjoying trails that lead to our new neighborhood. My hobby of quilting has been put on hold for a while. Since all of our children live in Rock Valley (one just upstairs), we never lack seeing them or our grandchildren!

Faith Reformed Church continues to be very important to us and we each have our own roles there.

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Jolene Miller Thorne

We have not received any new information from Jolene.

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Mitzi Muller Harris



I am serving as Music Director and Organist at St. Johns United Methodist Church in Davenport after retiring from teaching elementary music in 2018.

My husband Mark retired from John Deere in Moline last summer

Our son Isaac finished Arizona State in Computer Graphics and is living in the Los Angeles area, still looking for that perfect job!

In our retirement, Mark and I would love to travel, when we can get a dog sitter for our fourteen year old Havanese and can get time off from church responsibilities.

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Warren Oelmann

We have not received any new information from Warren.

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Jeff Patet



This is an update of my biography from five years ago. We are still a teaching family! My wife, Maritza has been teaching for twenty—one years and still enjoys it! She is teaching Kindergarten at Cambridge Christian School, which goes from K-12 grade. Maritza is very creative and her students love her. When Maritza isn't teaching school, she and I enjoy spending time with our grandson Andrew. Maritza also enjoys shopping, reading books, cooking and watching some favorite shows, such as: • Abbott Elementary, FBI and Pioneer Woman.

Our youngest daughter, Mallory, is also a Kindergarten Teacher and works at Walden Lakes Elementary School and is in her ninth year of teaching and her students love her! When Mallory isn't teaching, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Caleb and their dog, Obi. Mallory's husband, Caleb, works from home and is a Project Manager at a media company that creates 3D renderings and websites for home builder companies. The name of his company is: Media Lab 3D Solutions. The last member of their family is Obi, short for Obi—Wan Kenobi, a character in Star Wars. Obi is an Aussie Doodle, house dog and weighs eighty pounds and is very active!

Our oldest daughter Gina is in her tenth year teaching at Lake Myrtle Elementary School, in Pasco County. Gina taught third grade for the last nine years. Last year she got her certification in ESE and is now working as an ESE teacher and is glad for the change of not having to be in the classroom! Last year, Gina began an on--line Master's Program, from Grand Canyon University, in Phoenix, Arizona. She will be completing her program in October and wants to go to Phoenix, so she can walk in the graduation. This will be an exciting time for us all! This program is geared towards becoming a Principal, which is her goal. Gina's son Andrew and our grandson is twelve years old and is starting seventh grade this year. When Andrew isn't in school and isn't doing schoolwork, he enjoys playing video games, such as, "Fortnite" with his friends. He also enjoys playing baseball and going fishing, both of which are done through our church's Recreation Ministry. The last member of their family is Chewy, short for Chewbacca, another character in Star Wars. Chewy is a forty-pound Golden Doodle and gets pampered from us all!

For the last five years, I've been keeping busy working as a substitute teacher and a Chaplain. Last fall, I was hired to be a full—time Second Grade Teacher. The students were good in the beginning of the school year, but their behavior started changing throughout the year, which resulted in my behavior changing, along with the tone of my voice! I decided not to go back teaching full—time, but, instead, I will be substituting, which I can do everyday, along with doing Chaplaincy work several times a week. When not working, I enjoy spending time with our family, bicycling and "working out" at the gym.

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Terri Pruisner Best

I moved into Aplington on Circle Drive with the golf course in my backyard in September 2022. My husband Ron passed away from Covid in August of 2021 during a trip to Tennessee. I retired from banking after 42 years of service in 2020. This was right before Covid got extremely bad.

I have three sons and 4 grandchildren. Also have 4 step-children and 7 step-grandchildren. I spend most of my time enjoying my youngest granddaughter's events at North Butler in Greene. She will be a senior this year so these special times are going to be short lived. Other than that I spend most of my days at home.

I am excited to see everyone at the class reunion. Can't believe it's been 50 years!

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Eunice Renken Hutchins

I have been married to my husband Gaylen for 38 years. We have 2 wonderful kids and 4 awesome grandkiddos! We live in Cedar Falls.

My career was with Deere & Co as an accountant. I am now enjoying retirement; however, I still work seasonally doing tax work which I enjoy (nerd!).

For fun we enjoy going to our cabin in Minnesota and spending time with friends and family. Hope all are doing well and congratulations to the class of '74!

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Terry Ridder

We have not received any new information from Terry

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Terry Schipper

We have not received any new information from Terry.

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Verlyn Schipper

We have not received any new information from Verlyn.

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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.

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Craig Smiens



With the approach of our 50th class reunion I'm sure many of you pulled out our class of 1974 yearbook. Mostly to help remember those who were also in your graduating class. As you are perusing the yearbook take note of the awesome photography thanks in no small part to the annual staff photographers, myself, Al Bode and oh, Doyle Voss. In fact, it was at my strong encouragement that Doyle started his photography business. Ok, so I may have embellished this story a bit, but hey, isn't that what everyone does in their biographies? So, here's mine.

I retired in October 2019 and Cyndi retired in December 2021. We moved from Ankeny to Altoona in September 2023. I have been blessed to be married to Cyndi for 44 years, Cyndi maybe not so much.

Our youngest daughter, Mallory, and her family live in Altoona (thus the reason for our move). She and her husband Alex have three children ages 12, 10 and 5. Their band and sporting events fill our calendar.

Our oldest daughter, Andrea, and husband Brendan live in Minneapolis and have two children ages 4 and 2. So, road trips north also fill our calendar.

Cyndi and I keep busy visiting with friends about each other's health maladies. We keep active bicycling (she has a pedal assist e-bike to keep up) and hiking. We have done some travel to National Parks and freeloading off family and friends who live out of state.

We have an active group of retirees at our church and have events throughout the year to keep everyone connected. I have retired guys golf and breakfast on a weekly basis. We also have a "fix-it" team that does small repairs and general maintenance around the church. We usually take 3 hours to get ½ hour of work done, but we are also solving all the world problems at the same time (we can multitask).

I do wood projects and remodeling in addition to my love of cars. I continue working on my 1923 Ford model T street rod that I built. Cyndi claims I have more pictures of my car than of our grandchildren.

P.S. I hope everyone kept their wide ties, bell bottoms, peasant tops and miniskirts as they are now back in fashion. See, we are as cool as we always thought!

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Doyle Smiens



Greetings fellow classmates! 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 15 yrs. I enjoy the great weather, but the traffic can work my nerves! Currently, I am teaching part time at Hope 4 the Arts, which is a non-profit in Irvine, CA. It is a school for mentally challenged adults. I teach drama four days a week.

I continue to be involved with storytelling and am continuing to share my one man show, Truth be Told. This past year, I had performances at the Hollywood Fringe Festival, the Atlanta Fringe Festival, Diversionary Theater in San Diego, the Santa Monica Playhouse, and the Long Beach Playhouse. I continue to look for other performance opportunities.

I have 2 children. My son Kyle, his wife Lisa and three children live in Chilliwack, B.C. Canada. My oldest grandson graduated high this June. My daughter Krystal, her husband Trevor and two children also live in Chilliwack, B.C. Canada. Be well!

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Sharla Stahl Kampman



Butch and I are doing well for a couple older people! Kampland keeps us busy with all things outdoors which we enjoy. Continue to attend Iowa Football and Drake Basketball games. Traveling as much as possible with our own bathroom on board!! Yeah!! Church involvement and some volunteering

After a stroke in 2016 we sold our HVAC business. Butch lost 50% of his vision. But continued to work part time for another company. After a fall and traumatic brain injury in 2022 he is now fully retired.

I am still working but trying to slow down. After years of removing wallpaper I now mostly hang paper!

Nathan is in North Liberty and is an engineer at HDR. Trish married a farmer and is a farm wife and mom to 4 kids. They live north of Pella

Beth works at UNI and hopes to finish her Interior Design degree next year

We have 9 grandchildren - the oldest 2 graduated from high school last spring.

We celebrated 48 years of marriage last March. We feel blessed and grateful to be able to do life together. If you are ever in the Pella area we'd love To see you

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Rhonda Ter Hark Rops



Life is good and I am truly blessed.

Not a whole lot of changes since our reunion 5 years ago. Denny and I will be married 8 years this fall and enjoy our life on Howard Street in the village of Aplington. My four daughters live close enough that we get to spend a good amount of family time.

Thirteen grandchildren, plus three spouses and seven great – grandkids. There are lots and lots and lots of sporting events, birthday parties, school/church programs and family gatherings. We attended grandson's Marshall Army graduation from Medic training in San Antonio this year.

Also visited Kenny at Fort Liberty in

North Carolina last year. Kenny is an Army Military policeman. He was at the Normandy 80th Anniversary in France this spring and was honored to escort a Veteran on stage with the President along with reenacting the parachute jump. Grandson Ayden is completing last semester of UNI in Queens New York this fall, on our travel list to visit this fall.

We travel from one end of the state to the other to watch our Jr. PGA /high school golf, cross country, track, soccer, swimming, dance, band, chorus, football, baseball and basketball. (I think that covers it)

Our camper is in Clear Lake during the summer. Our home away from home. Denny golfs, me not so much. I continue to quilt and sew. I took an art class this winter and I am working on my water color skills. Playing cards with "the 70s Girls" during the winter is a good excuse to keep up with 'the latest'. Denny and I enjoy working on home projects together, recent items – patio, sunroom and painting the exterior of our home this summer (so much fun and only minimal arguments)

Recent travels have included California, Wyoming and Alaska. All amazing trips.

I cannot give up nursing and work on an as needed basis a couple day a month at Hansen Family Hospital. I am on the women group at church and worked on renovating the parsonage this spring.

Now that I write this down, I realize why I am soooooo busy.

God is Good.

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Steve Thompson

We lost Steve on March 21, 2022. The following is his obituary:

Steven Ryan Thompson, age 66, of Eldora, Iowa, was born the son of Arthur and Arlene (McKinney) Thompson Jr. on October 9, 1955, at the Franklin County Hospital in Hampton, Iowa. He graduated from the Aplington High School and went to further his education by attending Hawkeye Tech in Waterloo, Iowa. Steven was united in marriage with Janice Schipper and to this union, Michael and Christopher were born. The couple then later divorced, and Steven moved to Ackley, Iowa. He worked as a machinist at Dayco in Eldora, Iowa for many years.

In his spare time, he enjoyed hiking, riding bike, jogging, and occasionally working on vehicles. He especially loved to go fishing and hunting.

Steven passed away on Monday, March 21, 2022, at Eldora Specialty Care in Eldora, Iowa, of natural causes. He is preceded in death by his parents; and one brother, Kenneth in infancy.

Steven is survived by two sons, Michael Thompson of Grundy Center, Iowa and Christopher Thompson of Marshalltown, Iowa; three grandchildren, Serena Thompson, Emmet Thompson, and Emeric Thompson; and four brothers, Rick (Simone) Thompson of Aplington, Iowa, Howard Thompson of Aplington, Iowa, Todd (Laura) Thompson of Aplington, Iowa, and Alan Thompson of Aplington, Iowa.

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Denise Uhlenhopp Foth



Here we are again! I would be very surprised if anyone said that time doesn't go fast...it's crazy! Beside adding grandchildren to our family, really, not much is new since our last reunion. I've been retired for I think 8 years now. It seems like yesterday and forever at the same time! Bruce is out of the cattle business now—thanks to covid! \$\$ We did learn something new at that time though. We butchered several of our own cattle and hogs for which lockers had no room...lots of work and mess!

I keep busy with church "things". We began going to a new church. Because of the need for people to help out, I couldn't/can't say no! I head up the praise team and play the piano (the new contemporary songs, which tax my mind). I continue using teaching techniques in Sunday School—still programs to plan! You know how it is... if you say YES to something, something else always comes your way!

Gardening/freezing/canning occupy my summers. How our moms did it with BIG gardens, I'll never know. My appreciation gets bigger every time I do it!

We "graduated" to a 3-wheel motorcycle for our entertainment. I guess we are of "the age!" You would think that we would have all kinds of time to ride it, but we almost have to schedule it between grandkids activities! We have 12 now, all of which are in the same school district. Ages range from 1-13 with the furthest family living only 20 minutes away. We certainly are blessed!

Hoping all of you fellow "74er's" are enjoying life and remain healthy—adding wealthy and wise!:)

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Keith Van Dyk

We have not received any new information from Keith.

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Doyle Voss



Remember when the Class of 1924 had their reunion during our senior year? Yeah, neither do I. But I remember thinking that people that had been out of school for 50 years were ancient. Well..... here we are!!

After a four year stint at Dordt (now University) I moved to Des Moines where I worked for NCR Corp. and met my blue eyed Dutch girl Janna. She had finished her degree in Art and was teaching in Johnston. I like to tell that we met at an exotic dance club where she was a performer, but we actually met at church!

In 1981 we were married and moved back to Aplington where I went to work with my uncle in the photography business and Janna taught art in Aplington. We brought two children into the world in our son Andrew and daughter Erin.

Andrew lives in Aplington and is an assistant administrator at River Hills school in Cedar Falls. He has four children: Nora (11), Gil (8), Howard (6) and Louisa (3).

Erin lives in Waverly where she is the mental health coordinator for the Waverly Schools and her husband John Hubbard is a special education teacher. They have two children: Tatum (4) and Addie (2)

By now I would have thought I would be joining the majority of my classmates in retirement. But alas, I still have no exit plan. I have discontinued photographing weddings, and am trying to gradually slow down. But I still enjoy what I do.

Janna retired from her principal job at Timothy Christian School in Wellsburg in 2016 and has returned to her first love; pottery! She has a studio in Austinville across the street from Voss Studio. She also spends a lot of time with grandkids taking care of them while parents are at work.

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 recent trip to the National Parks in Utah makes us long to see more of this beautiful country and take in more National treasures.

We are happy, healthy and blessed!

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Jan Willeke

I retired from full-time work at the Mason City Public Library in 2022 and since have been working about half-time for North Iowa Area Community College. I have always loved teaching and I get to teach English as a Second Language to both the international students at the college, and for NIACC's Continuing Education Department. Additionally, I tutor college students in education and study skills.

When I'm not working, I spend time volunteering, tending my herb garden, traveling, working on my family history and of course spending time with family and friends. I took a great trip to Croatia last year and am hoping to go to Iceland or Portugal in the near future. And of course, I want to return to Japan, my other "home country."

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Aplington Class of 1974 Photo



Front Row (L to R): Renee (Dix) Uhlenhopp, LaVonne (Meyer) Witte, Denise (Uhlenhopp) Foth, Toni (Lewis) Cress
Seated (L to R): Belinda Kromminga, Sharla (Stahl) Kampman, Janice Willeke, Virginia Haan, Duane Nevenhoven (Teacher), Tom Nosbish (Teacher), Ken Theobald (Teacher), Darwin Miller (Teacher), Terry (Pruisner) Best, Rhonda (Ter Hark) Rops, June (Lindaman) Harken
Standing (L to R): Doyle Voss, Jim Boelman, Kevin Harms, Gordon Druvenga, Jeff Patet, Dave Meyer, Wes Huisinga, Doyle Smiens, Russ Jungling, Ron Luchtenburg, Galen Hippen, Craig Smiens, Verlyn Schipper, Gaylen Harken, Darwin Janssen, Ivan Groeneveld, Kelly Harken

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Just Class Members



“The Crucible” cast members with Director Ken Theobald



Candids









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