



# AHS 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## *SANDIE SPIRIT*

AHS 50th Alumni Association, P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114  
WEB SITE - 50<sup>TH</sup>AHS.ORG - E-mail – [AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com)

Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas '58, President  
Kurt Gehring, '70, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
Karen Caldwell '67, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Janette Park Whitsett, '59, Secretary  
Soapy Sudbury '58, Past President, Treasurer  
Emily Flint Boyd '56, Historian  
Bob Damon '53, President Emeritus  
Rita Benton Bryant '55, *Sandie Spirit* Editor

Peggy Lowe Martin, Class Rep '55 (Archives)  
Phyllis SoRelle Hicks, Class Rep '56  
Marjorie Royse Walsh, Class Rep '56  
Tuggie Tuckness, Class Rep '57  
Rose Somerville Gresham, Class Rep '59  
Gwen Bains Murphy Rep '62  
Phyllis Pannier Miranda, Class Rep '65  
Kirk Cunningham '71

AUGUST 2023

AMARILLO/POTTER COUNTY EDUCATION MODEL

**CAROLYN COMMENTS....**It is a great honor to serve the remaining term of Paul Matney's Presidency. I want to thank Paul for his service as President, as he plans to spend more time with his family. Paul has agreed to continue serving us on our Board of Directors.

Our Sandie Picnic will be held Saturday, August 12, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Amtech Career Academy Banquet Hall. We look forward to seeing you there. It is always a great time to renew friends and visit with everyone. Good food and great entertainment from the AHS music department.

As your President, I welcome your comments and suggestions. This is your association, and we want to make it better for everyone. You may contact me anytime at the addresses or phone number listed below. I am honored to serve you and will need your help in continuing to improve and grow our association.

Humbly and grateful-

Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas

Association email, [ahs50thalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:ahs50thalumniassociation@gmail.com)

Association address, 50th Alumni Association - P.O. Box 7146 - Amarillo, TX. 79114

Personal Email, [cmahs58@yahoo.com](mailto:cmahs58@yahoo.com)

Personal Phone: Text or call ...806-640-4642. Please leave a message, and I will call you back.

**"Once a Sandie, Always a Sandie!"**

## **FROM THE EDITOR.....**

**As indicated in the last Sandie Spirit, the issues moving forward will only include comments sent in by members, obituaries, and occasional interest stories about Amarillo and AISD.**

**I appreciate your comments, and photos and look forward to greater involvement from the membership to assure the continuation of the Sandie Spirit that keeps us all connected.**

**I look forward to hearing from all of you often. Let's keep the Sandie Spirit alive as we reach out with our stories, memories, and activities.**

**It has been suggested that we reserve a section for those who wish to send in stories about their favorite teacher. We received one story, and it was amazing (Thanks Toby Druin).**

**Keep those comments, photos, and stories coming!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!!!!**

**NEXT AHS 50<sup>TH</sup> ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION**

**OCTOBER 24, 25<sup>TH</sup> – 2024**

**LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED IN NEXT ISSUE**

**Your Board of Directors is working diligently to get the best hotel rates possible and to keep costs as low as possible.**

**Jack Sisemore is hosting a reception on Friday evening October 24 in his home.**

## **CLASSMATES CHATTER.....**

**RITA BENTON BRYANT '55, AMARILLO, TEXAS**

**I continue to enjoy relatively good health and enjoy continuing my Grant Writing Business in my home office. I love doing the research required to maintain my competitive edge when**

applying for funding for Maverick Boys & Girls Club of Amarillo. It is rewarding to see the difference that Maverick Club continues to make on the youth in our community. This is their 90<sup>th</sup> continuous year to serve the youth in our community. Congratulations!!!!!!

I recently enjoyed attending Senior Heritage Week at Glorietta Baptist Camp just outside of Sante Fe, New Mexico and of course dining at the infamous Maria's Spanish Kitchen in Sante Fe. It was our final visit there and there were a few of us who has been to camp there in 1951 and 1952 when the beautiful lodge was opened. The Southern Baptist Convention has sold the camp (so sad).

I am the PROUD MOTHER of Rhonda Osmus, GRANDMOTHER of Wilson and Madison and GREATGRANDMOTHER to Ellie Grace and Blakely Hope who all live in Ft. Worth. So, I spend lots of time in the air between Amarillo and Ft. Worth.

My incredibly talented second grade great granddaughter designed the cover for her school yearbook this past year. She has won many awards for her art including the PTA State Award. Her design will be displayed at the National PTA Conference this year. She also won the contest to design the school Christmas Card in First grade.



On the day the contest winners were announced, Ellie walked into my classroom and goes, "Mom, I can't believe everyone at school heard my name on announcements. This is kind of a big deal, right?" to which I replied, "Your design is going to be on the cover of our school yearbook, I'd say that's a pretty big accomplishment."

She paused for a minute and said, "wow mom, I can't believe I really won. I'm excited but does this mean everyone is going to see the student on the left that I drew...because I went a little too extreme with his long neckline and the cowgirl pants are highly questionable!" SUCH an Ellie comment 🤪 Now I can't look at the yearbook without laughing! I told her the student on the left was by far my favorite student she drew and that it just added character!! ❤️

**SUSAN ALLEN PANDO, '59, EULESS, TX.**

This is all about Bill. He has always called this newsletter the Golden Rod Gazette. I think because sometimes it was on gold paper. We both always read it and admire the hard work everyone does. A lot of people know that Bill has been battling Alzheimer's for a number of years, but I want you to hear a story about him.

He came up to me with the last newsletter in his hand, and told me he was very tired. I asked why, and he stuck the newsletter out and said he'd been talking to all those people all day!

Please laugh. I try to do that whenever I can.

**LURA ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE MEMBER, AMARILLO, TX.**

Class of 1950-Carl was a proud Sandie. We had many lifetime friends who graduated from AHS. When the Sandie Spirit arrived, he always read the entire issue right away. Our two sons, Evan and Jeremy graduated from AHS also, so we were excited to attend activities as adults. We even got the "Gold Card" so we could [et.com/obituaries/amarillo-tx/carl-elliott-11234094](http://et.com/obituaries/amarillo-tx/carl-elliott-11234094)

**TOBY DRUIN, '53, WAXAHACHIE, TX.**

A Sandie "Called Shot" - By Toby Druin, AHS '53

Much will be written this September, the 90th anniversary of Babe Ruth's historic "called shot" home run in the 1933 World Series. Ruth gestured with his bat toward center field that afternoon and promptly hit a home run in that direction.

Although Ruth never said later that he was "calling his shot" with the gesture, it was taken as an indication that he would hit it, hence the "called shot."

There is no doubt in my mind that in May 1953, 20 years after Ruth's home run, I saw a called shot in Gold Sox Park by Sandie left fielder Jack Daniel.

Lubbock was our hated rival. The Westerners had won the state football championship the previous two seasons, and a few members of the football team were also on the baseball squad. They were cocky, to say the least.

We were to play them six times that spring with single games on Friday afternoon and doubleheaders on Saturday. We won the first game in the series, 3-0, but in the first game of the doubleheader the next day we were behind 3-0 going into the seventh and last inning.

With one out and the bases loaded, Jack Daniel came to bat. Jack was one of the smartest baseball players I ever played with. He always had his head in the game.

The pitcher for Lubbock that game was a righthander named Buddy Feris. He had a great fastball and better than average curve. He had pitched a great game against us.

I was very interested in what Daniel would do at the plate. I was the next batter. If Jack struck out, I would be batting with two out and the bases loaded. That's a lot of responsibility.

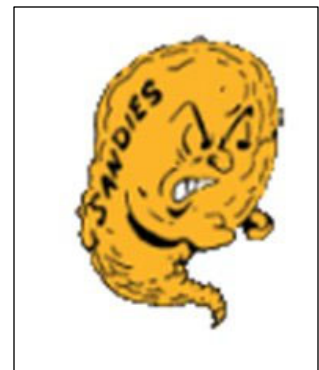
Jack took the first pitch from Feris, a fastball just below the letters, right down the middle of the plate for a strike.

Jack stepped away from the batter's box and came to the on-deck circle to put some rosin on his hands. I was standing in the circle, waiting for my turn at bat.

Jack patted the rosin bag on his hands and said to me, "If he throws me that same pitch again. I will hit it over the fence."

Well, Feris threw him the same pitch, and Jack, true to his word, hit it over the fence. I was never so happy as I watched it disappear to the north. We won 4-3, of course, and took the second game, 9-1. It was a great day--a day I witnessed a genuine "called shot." And a day when the Sandies beat Lubbock--twice!

**AHS Happenings:** The Amarillo High School Cheerleaders went to UCA camp at Great Wolf Lodge and brought home many great memories and awards! These Sandies came home with 11 trophies, 12 All American Cheerleaders and tons of new skills!



**Blow Sand Blow!!!!!!!!!!!!**





## IN LOVING MEMORY

### CLASS OF 1944



Billie Jean Sudbury Phifer died April 13, 2021, in Colorado Springs, Co.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/billie-phifer-obituary?id=51789816>

### CLASS OF 1950



Carl D. Elliott died April 4, 2023, in Amarillo, TX.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/amarillo-tx/carl-elliott-11234094>

### CLASS OF 1953



Barney R. Williams died October 14, 2022, in Amarillo, TX.

<https://www.coxrowlevfuneralhome.com/obituary/Barney-Williams>

### CLASS OF 1954



Earl D. Whitt died May 2, 2023, in Amarillo, TX.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/amarillo-tx/earl-whitt-11276748>



**Michael “Mike” Powell died April 27, 2023, in Amarillo, TX.**

**<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituary/michael-mike-powell/>**

### **CLASS OF 1955**



**Jerry Don Smallwood died April 15, 2023, in West Valley City, UT.**

**<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/west-valley-city-ut/jerry-smallwood-11251993>**

### **CLASS OF 1956**



**Hermalyn Smith LaFon died July 25, 2023, in Amarillo, TX.**

**<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/amarillo-tx/lynn-lafon-11385153>**

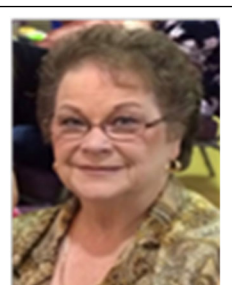
### **CLASS OF 1958**



**Nadia Kay Holmes Cox died July 15, 2023, in Dallas, TX.**

**<https://www.amarillo.com/obituaries/paco0534901>**

### **CLASS OF 1965**



**Sylvia Ann McGee McDade died May 1, 2023, in Amarillo.**

**<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/amarillo-tx/sylvia-mcdade-11273752>**

## MEMORIALS

### DONOR

Robert Smith  
Susan Allen Pando  
Susan Allen Pando  
Lura Elliott

### MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM

Doris Chesser Epps-Smith  
Matt and Dawn Mitchell  
Victor Shawgo  
Carl Elliott

## SANDIE AWARDS AND HONORS

Good luck to our Track state qualifiers as they go to represent AHS in the 800 and 4X1600 relay. Gracee May, Madyson Castellion, Keely Harper, Sierra Cornell. Special thanks to all the students who have contributed to this relay team this season to get us where we are today! Great job ladies and coaches. Go for Gold!!!!

Our Amarillo High Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Wade, was recognized yesterday for being named a finalist. Thank you for representing AHS and passing on our profession's values to the next generation of teachers. Good luck to our Softball and Baseball teams as they battle for their playoff game wins on Saturday.

- Congratulations to all our students and families who received recognition this week at our Evening of Excellence and Scholarship Night. Academic excellence is our purpose. We are so proud of the great work you all have done this year.
- Thank you to our PTSO for their luncheon for our teachers, scholarships for our seniors, snacks for Evening of Excellence, and so much more.. We appreciate all you have done this year to make AHS a great place to work and attend school.
- Congratulations to our Girls State Track competitors. Our 4X1600 relay team Gracee May, Madyson Castellion, Keely Harper, and Sierra Cornell broke the school record and came in 4th place in state. Sierra also came in 7th in the 800. Way to Run ladies!
- Please congratulate the following students who competed at the State Academic UIL contest. Maryam Adnan is the 5A State Champion in Headline Writing, Axel Willis placed 7th in Headline Writing, Garrett Saied placed in the top 25 in science. Way to go Sandies.
- Friday, we celebrated 487 Superintendent Scholars. This is a record for AHS. Great job students for your hard work and dedication this year.
- Mrs. Villanueva was named Mrs. Baird's Teacher on the Rise for the Month of May. As you see her, please congratulate her on a job well done.
- Thank you to Mrs. Read and Mr. Martin for their leadership in our Latin department. Please join us in congratulating these students for their achievements at the [Texas State Junior Classical League Convention](#).
- The girls' Golf team placed 10th at the State Golf Tournament. Charlee Thacker had a record-breaking tournament shooting the low round of the day on Tuesday. She shot 78 on Monday and a 2 under par 70 on Tuesday. Tyler Held, Addi Britten, Christie Jones, Kylee Demetro joined her as members of the team. Awesome group of girls that will all be playing for the sandies again next year! Way to go Coach Walden.
- Kianna Ortiz was recognized at the Texas Panhandle Student Art Show and was awarded "Best in Show." Thank you, Mrs. Kelly, and Kianna, for your diligent work and congratulations on your award.





## AHS 50<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association Membership/Renewal Form

P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114

[AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com)

The AHS 50<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association is active in promoting fellowship among graduates of the finest school anywhere—Amarillo High School. People really do enjoy hearing from the old gang and our bi-monthly publication is the surest way to get regular updates. Please share membership info with fellow Sandies who are not members.

_____	_____	_____	_____	
First Name	Last Name in High School	Married Name (Ladies)	Class	
_____	_____	_____	_____	
Spouse Name	Last Name in High School (Only if AHS) (Only if AHS)	Married Name (Ladies)	Class	
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Address	City	State	Zip	Home Phone
_____	_____			
Cell Phone	E-mail Address			

Annual Dues (due January 1, each year): Single Dues \$10.00 \_\_\_\_ Couple's Dues \$15.00 \_\_\_\_

### DONATIONS

Amarillo High School 50<sup>TH</sup> Alumni Association, Inc. is a 501c3 corporation,  
Tax Id # 75-2597825. Donations may be tax deductible. (Consult with your accountant)

DONATIONS MAY BE MADE IN HONOR OF SOMEONE ALIVE OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE  
DECEASED (Attach the Memorial/Honorarium form or list on back of this form)

SCHOLARSHIPS: GENERAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ KEN KOHLER \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Gary Biggers \$ \_\_\_\_\_

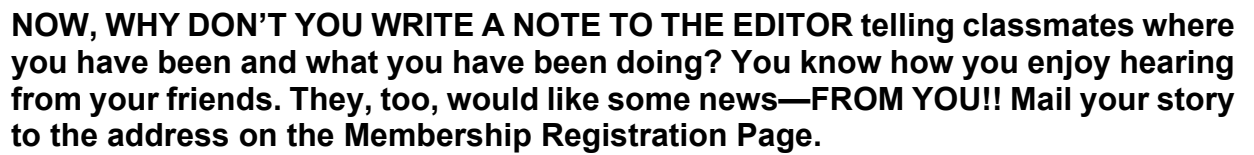
ART RESTORATION FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_

HALL OF HONOR SCHOLARSHIP & MAINTENANCE FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Honoring Sandies who served and/or died in the U.S. military)

POLK STREET SCHOOLS HISTORICAL MARKER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SANDIE SPIRIT PUBLICATION FUND (To help Keep Our Dues Low) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Mail check & this form to the address at top of this page) TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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# AHS 50<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association

P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114

[AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com)

## MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name in High School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Married Name (Ladies)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

In Memory \_\_\_\_\_ Honor \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ AHS Class \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

AMARILLO HIGH SCHOOL 50<sup>TH</sup> ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC is a 501c3 corporation,  
Tax Id # 75-2597825. Donations may be tax deductible. (Consult with your accountant)

Scholarships: General \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Ken Kohler \_\_\_\_\_ Gary Biggers\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hall of Honor Scholarship & Maintenance Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Honoring those Sandies who served and/or died in the U.S. military)

Art Restoration Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Polk Street Schools Historical Marker \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sandie Spirit Publication Fund (To help Keep Our Dues Low) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Mail check & this form to the following address):

**AHS 50<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association, P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114**

**ONCE A SANDIE! ALWAYS A SANDIE!**



**Amarillo High School 50th Alumni  
Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 7146  
Amarillo, TX 79114**

**RSVP FOR THE PICNIC NOW!!  
CAROLYN MAAS – 806-640-4642**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR/SAVE THE DATE  
OCTOBER 24 & 25<sup>TH</sup> 2024  
AHS 50<sup>TH</sup> ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION**