



# **AHS 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

## ***SANDIE SPIRIT***

**AHS 50th Alumni Association, P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114**  
**WEB SITE – 50thahs.org E-mail – [AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com)**

**Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas, '58, President**

**Karen Caldwell '67, 1st Vice-President**

**Kurt Gehring '70, 2nd Vice President**

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**Soapy Sudbury '58, Treasurer**

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## **OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE AMARILLO, THE “CROWN JEWELL” OF TEXAS**

### **CAROLYN’S COMMENTS----**

**The past one and a half years have certainly gone by swiftly. Since becoming your President, so much has happened in our world, at AHS and in our lives. Amarillo High School has received so many awards and recognitions. We, as alumni, are so proud of and for them.**

**We are getting ready for our every three (3) year Reunion to be held at the Holiday Inn West Medical Center at the end of this month (October 25 and 26). There is still time to register. Please send in your reservations as quickly as possible. We CANNOT accept any registrations after OCTOBER 20, 2024.**

**The party at Jack Sizemore’s is Friday, October 25, and our dinner will be held at the Amarillo Club on Saturday, October 26. All registrations must be paid in advance to receive your entrance to all the events.**

**It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your President. It is now time to “turn the page” and start a new beginning. I have received so much help, advice, information and support this year. Thanks to all of you for all you have done to help me in fulfilling the**

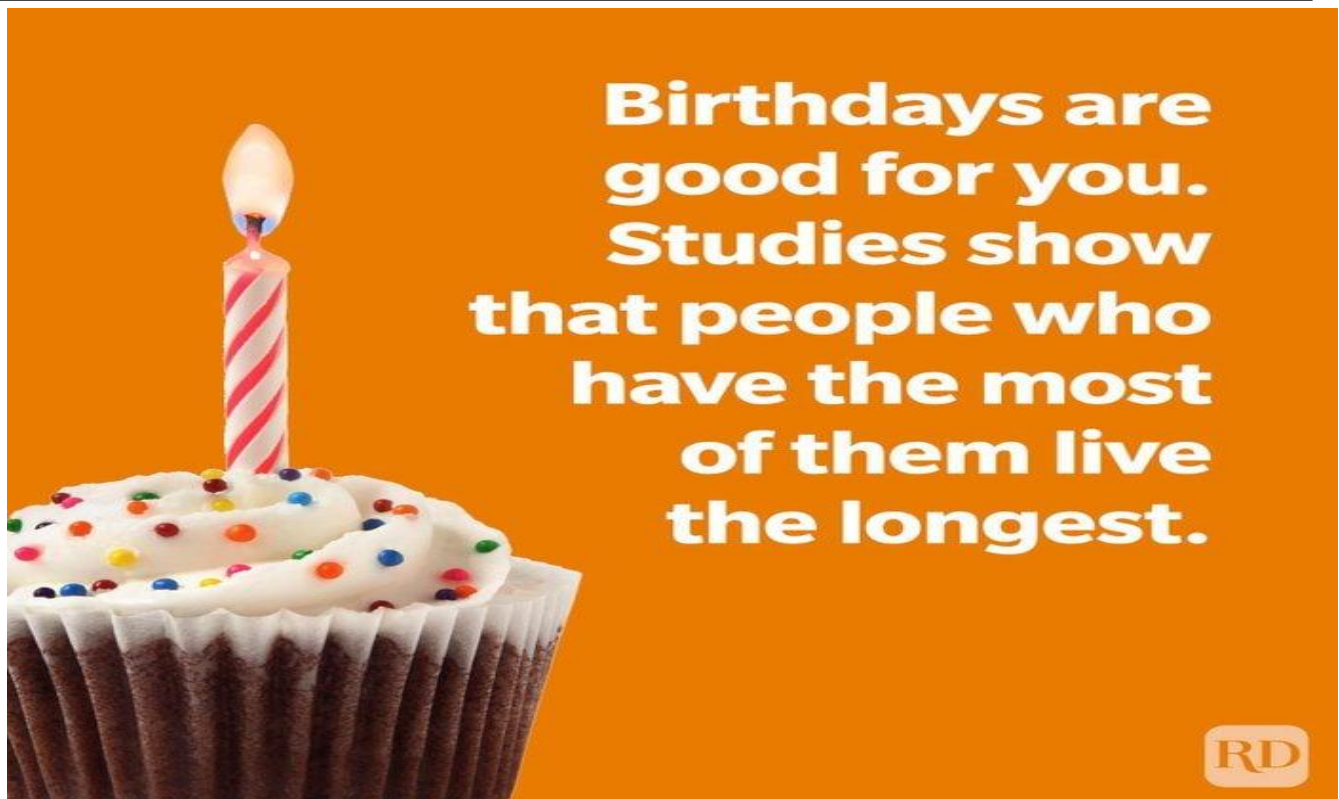
responsibilities required by our by-laws and some things that just happened along the way. Without all of you, none of it would have been possible.

I do not have enough words to thank you for this precious, memorable time I have had with all of you. Just a great big, from my heart, **THANK YOU!!!** All of you have my sincere gratitude and appreciation for this past year. Best wishes for the continued success and growth of this fantastic association. Keep up the good work!

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

Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas '58, President

**CALLING ALL SANDIES!! THE SUCCESS OF THE SANDIE SPIRIT DEPENDS ON YOU!** Your fellow classmates want to hear from you..... Where are you? What have you been doing since high school? Memories from high school, family information, trips, etc. Please send in stories, photos etc. It would be especially meaningful if we got some stories and photos from the first few reunions, as well as, pictures and stories from this reunion.



**AMARILLO NAMED ONE OF THE MOST AFFORDABLE AND DESIRABLE PLACES TO LIVE (summarized by Rita Benton Bryant '55 from article in Amarillo Magazine December 2023 issue)**

With Texas among the most moved to states in the nation, those moving to Texas have many cities to choose from. The city of Amarillo is regularly named among the most affordable and desirable to live in.

*Business Insider* (August 2023), listed Amarillo as the 13<sup>th</sup> most affordable in which to live in the United States. *Forbes Advisor* names Amarillo as the eighth best place to live in the state. Amarillo was also named among the top ten affordable and booming cities for a college graduate to buy a home. Overall, the city's cost of living is about 15.8% below the U.S. National Average so able to get more bang for their buck for their households. Local real estate brokerage firms noted that "Amarillo is the perfect place for someone to plant their roots and watch them grow and prosper."

An increase in diversity of industries and businesses are relocating to the Amarillo area. So, with the potential of the future job market and low comparable housing costs, the city is becoming a hub for companies on the interstate 27 corridor with agriculture, energy, and logistics.

The Amarillo unemployment rate of 3.2% is below the national average of 3.7% and the state average of 4.1%. Aviation and aerospace are two of the burgeoning industries that are growing the diversity of available jobs in the area.

With the high demand professionals within the city, home prices in Amarillo are about \$172,000 below the national median home price and about \$100,000 below the state's median price of \$240,000 as of September 2023. Home values have risen over 3% in the last year according to Zillow. Residents of Amarillo spend only 7.4% of their income on home expenses, which is half of the national average.

It is generally accepted that one of the greatest benefits of living in Amarillo is the short commute times, which can have you in any area within about 20 minutes.

As a part of metro that is over 200,000, many residents enjoy a growing city that still has the feel of a more rural area with access to a variety of outdoor adventures and activities. Chief among the area's natural sites is Palo Duro Canyon, the second largest in the United States, and known as the Grand Canyon of Texas. There are other multiple trails to hike within the canyon with scenic views such as the Lighthouse which is a 5.7 mile hiked to the iconic rock formation. Horseback riding and camping are also available in the State Park. From June through August of each year visitors can enjoy the Musical Drama *TEXAS* in the park's amphitheater.

### **Other attractions include:**

- **Working Ranch Cowboys Association Rodeo,**
- **Texas League Champions Amarillo Sod Poodles Baseball Team (AA minor league affiliate for the Arizona Diamondbacks),**
- **Route 66, once known as the Mother Road and one of the first major highways in the nation.**
- **Cadillac Ranch**

**Amarillo has such a unique culture that cannot be found anywhere else. It is the Beef Capital of the U. S. and home of the iconic Big Texan Restaurant. World famous for its 72-oz. steak with the trimmings which brings people from across the globe to finish the mighty place of beef in the hour allotted.**

**Two excellent school districts serve Amarillo for those moving to the area along with Amarillo College, awarded the Aspen Award for outstanding community college in the nation. Just outside of Amarillo is the City of Canyon, home of West Texas A&M University, a four-year college.**

**For those looking for an affordable city that is growing with a lot to offer with lower housing costs and a multitude of things to do, Amarillo is the one; the “CROWN JEWELL OF TEXAS.**

### **MORE FROM EDDIE SCOTT, '57, DALLAS, TX**

#### **THINGS YOU LEARN IF YOU IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH**

**I told my physical therapist that I broke my arm in two (2) places. He told me to stop going to those places.**

**I put our scale in the bathroom corner & that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.**

**I hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart when they've never even seen one of his paintings.**

**Never trust an electrician with no eyebrows.**

**So my neighbor knocked on my front door at 3 a.m. 3AM!!! Luckily I was already up playing the bagpipes.**



**Here are some pictures from our Annual Sandie Birthday Party, 8-17-2024 at the AmTech Learning Center, 3101 Plains Blvd in Amarillo.**



## **More Birthday Party Pictures**



**EVER WONDER IF YOU PAID YOUR DUES?**

**LOOK AT THE ADDRESS LABEL ON THIS ISSUE—YOUR EXPIRATION DATE IS RIGHT ABOVE YOUR NAME!**

**IF YOU RECEIVE THE SANDIE SPIRIT BY EMAIL, YOUR EXPIRATION DATE IS LISTED IN THE SUBJECT LINE!**

**This is a photograph of the AHS 1913 Football Squad. It was given to Winifred Moore when he was minister at First Baptist Church. It was donated to the AHS 50<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association by his daughter, Anne Moore Preston.**

**On the back, the names are listed:**

**Top Row (L-R)**

**Henry Fifer, Roy Sowder, Rex Rodgers, Abie Crudgington, John Crudgington**

**Center Row (L-R)**

**\_\_\_\_Rigg, Harry Webster, Coach Bivins, Ed Sittle, Mark Colburn, Elmer Black**

**Bottom Row (L-R)**

**Hoag Lancer, Dean Hiatt, Sam Rodgers, O Madison, Elmer Sowder**





## THE '40'S IN AMARILLO – HISTORICAL TIMELINE (City of Amarillo Archives)



1940	—	POPULATION 51,686
1940	—	EMERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 700 N. LINCOLN STREET.
1942	—	SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE WAS ORGANIZED.
1942	—	AMARILLO ARMY AIRFIELD WAS ESTABLISHED.
1942	—	PANTEX ORDINANCE PLANT WAS OPENED.
1945	—	EL ALAMO PARK WAS ESTABLISHED AT S. E. 16 <sup>TH</sup> & HOUSTON.
1946	—	AMARILLO AIR TERMINAL WAS ESTABLISHED.
1948	—	THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION MOVED TO AMARILLO.
1948	—	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 611 N. HUGHES STREET.
1948	—	DICK BIVINS STADIUM WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3301 E. 10 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.
1948	—	NORTH HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 607 N. HUGHES ST.
1949	—	A TORNADO CROSSED AMARILLO CAUSING THREE MILLION DOLLARS OF PROPERTY DAMAGE AND THE LOSS OF SEVEN LIVES.



### THE '50'S IN AMARILLO – HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1950	—	THERE WERE 60 ORGANIZED CHURCHES IN AMARILLO.
1950	—	MEMORIAL PARK LOCATED AT 24 <sup>TH</sup> & WASHINGTON WAS DEDICATED.
1950	—	POPULATION 74,246
1951	—	WONDERLAND AMUSEMENT PARK WAS FOUNDED AT THOMPSON PARK.
1951	—	PANTEX WAS SELECTED AS THE SITE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPON ASSEMBLY.
1951	—	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1808 WIMBERLY ROAD.
1951	—	LAMAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3800 S. LIPSCOMB ST.
1951	—	ROBERT E. LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 119 N.E. 15 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.
1951	—	AVONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1500 AVONDALE STREET.
1953	—	CANADIAN RIVER MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY WAS FORMED.
1953	—	HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1330 N. W. 18 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.
1953	—	AMARILLO'S FIRST TV STATION, KGNC, WAS ESTABLISHED.
1954	—	PIONEER NATURAL GAS COMPANY WAS ORGANIZED.
1954	—	SUNRISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 5123 E. 14 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.
1954	—	SOUTH LAWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 4719 S. BOWIE STREET.
1954	—	WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 2004 N. MARRS STREET.
1954	—	PALO DURO HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1400 N. GRANT STREET .
1955	—	CORONADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3210 WIMBERLY ROAD.
1955	—	JAMES BOWIE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED 3001 E. 12 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.
1956	—	PARAMOUNT TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3906 W. 40 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.
1956	—	LAWNDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 2215 S. BIVINS STREET.
1956	—	OLSEN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 2409 ANNA STREET.
1957	—	TASCOSA HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3921 WESTLAWN CIRCLE.
1957	—	JAMES W. FANNIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 4627 S. RUSK STREET.
1958	—	WILLIAM B. TRAVIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 2815 MARTIN ROAD.
1958	—	A NEW GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1905 N.W. 12 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE.
1959	—	HAMLET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 705 SYCAMORE STREET.

(City of Amarillo Archives)

## **CLASSMATES COMMENTS.....**

### **GARLAND ZIEGENHORN, '58, MCKINNEY, TEXAS.**

**Hello from an erstwhile Sandie. When my family moved from Missouri to Amarillo in 1953, I attended Stephen F. Austin Jr. High School for two years – 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. I then took my Sophomore year in the old AHS on Polk Street. And though I only attended AHS for one year, I still look at Amarillo High School as my high school Alma Mater. I consider those 3 years in the Amarillo ISD the best years of my early school life. In AHS I worked as a trainer with the football team and greatly enjoyed my sophomore year there.**

**After finishing high school in Hobbs, NM, I attended Odessa Jr. College in Odessa, TX. I subsequently married and began to work for AT&T in 1961. We had five daughters in the intervening 30 years. After retiring from AT&T in 1991, I worked as a consultant for many years, working all over the US, Europe, and finally in Asia. I now live in McKinney, TX, with my second wife of 36 years.**

**I have received the Sandie Spirit for 5 or 6 years, and always read it cover to cover looking for stories and comments from those I once knew and still remember today. Thanks so much to all of you who have obviously worked so hard to keep the Sandie Spirit alive. Congratulations for a job well done! Once a Sandie, Always a Sandie!**

### **ROBERTO RUFFINO, '58, TUSCANY AREA, ITALY**

**It is a great joy to receive our AHS Newsletter and to keep up with the lives of so many schoolmates and of Amarillo itself, even if distance does not allow me to come to the meetings of our Association.**

**Since I graduated in 1958 as an AFS exchange student, I returned to my country, Italy, where I went to university and I got a degree in philosophy. I worked for several years at our national Museum of Cinema, until I got interested in international education and I founded an organization, called “Intercultura” that promotes international programs for secondary schools, including the AFS program I had been involved with in 1957-58.**

**In due time this has become the largest Italian organization in its field and it has established working relations with many intergovernmental institutions such as UNESCO, Council of Europe, European Union and others. My work was recognized with an honorary doctor degree in education by the University of Padua.**

**At 84 I am still at work as the head of the Intercultura Foundation, a side organization set up by Intercultura 17 years ago, and now my activity focuses mainly on research, publications, courses for teachers and principals and international conferences.**

**For a long time I lived in Rome, but I am now settled down in Tuscany, in a hilly area between Florence and Siena. My year in Amarillo and AHS has made a lasting impact on my life: I am still in close contact with the McKay family, who hosted me and who have visited me many times in Italy. I wish all the Sandies the best!**

**JOHN PRESTRIDGE, '57, MESA, ARIZONA**

**My favorite memory occurred at Margaret Wills Grade School during our 5th or 6th grade years. During our afternoon music class which was taught by Mrs. Rawlings Betty Cave and Barbara Jacobs performed their rendition of Manana. They both did a swell job of singing the song and doing their pantomimes. Even though this was done 70 some odd years ago, it was good enough to be etched in my mind for all of these years.**

- . "Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow internet service to see who they really are." — Will Ferrell**
- . "All the things I like to do are either immoral, illegal, or fattening." — Alexander Woolcott**
- . "Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity. And I'm not sure about the universe." — Albert Einstein**
- . "Everybody wants to save the earth. No one wants to help mom do the dishes." — P.J. O'Rourke**

## OBITUARIES.....

### CLASS OF 1946



**Elija Morris Nelson dies 8-7-2024 in Fort Worth, TX**

<https://www.greenwoodfuneralhomes.com/obituary/elijah-nelson>



**Horace Neal Lowe died 9-28-2024 in Amarillo**

<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/horace-low>



### **CLASS OF 1946 (Continued)**



**Penny Anderson Mann died 8-14-2024 in Amarillo**

**<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/penny-mann>**

### **CLASS OF 1947**



**Martha Ruth Green Moreland died 8-13-2024 in Amarillo**

**<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/martha-ruth-moreland>**

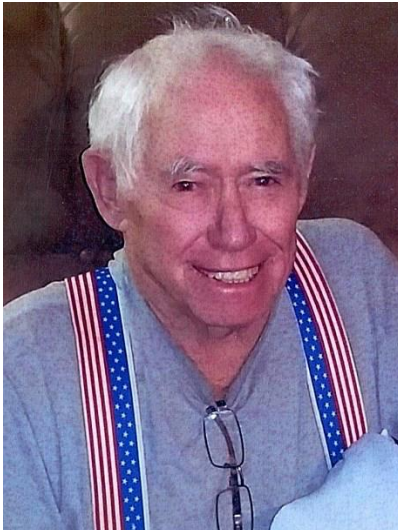
## **CLASS OF 1948**



**Shirley M Nichols Malone died 9-12-2024 in Amarillo**

**<https://lighthousefunerals.com/obituaries/shirley-m-nichols-malone/>**

## **CLASS OF 1954**



**Robert “Sonny” Junior Cochran died 8-13-2024 in Amarillo**

**<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/amarillo-tx/robert-cochran-11940380>**

### **CLASS OF 1954 (Continued)**



**Shirley Marie Ecker Baker died 8-22-2024 in Amarillo**

**<https://www.carmichael-whatleyofcanadian.com/obituaries/shirley-baker>**

### **CLASS OF 1955**



**Barbara Ann Ross Greenroyd died 9-24-2024 in Amarillo**

**<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries?query=Greenroyd>**

## **CLASS OF 1956**



**Belle Marguerite Taylor Gage die 8-113-2024 In Amarillo**

**<https://www.coxrowleyfuneralhome.com/obituary/BelleMarguerite-TaylorGage>**

## **CLASS OF 1958**



**Marilyn Dell Lambert Byrd died 2-123-2024 in Slidell, LA**

**<https://www.honakerforestlawn.com/obituary/marilyn-l-byrd>**



## **CLASS OF 1958 (Continued)**



**James Axley”Jimmy”Gilmer, Jr died 9-8-2024 in Amarillo**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpSZ4OCnuws> (Story of his life)

## **Class of 1959**



**James “Gerald Kennan died 9-22-2024 in Amarillo**

<https://www.rectorfuneralhome.com/obituaries/James-Gerald-Kennann?obId=33153410>

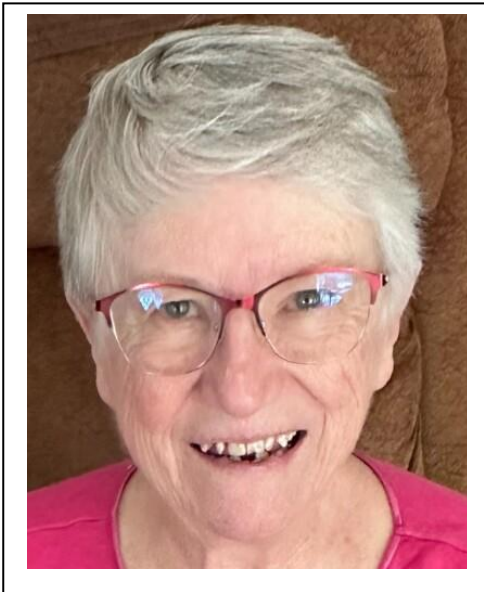
## **CLASS OF 1960**



**Nancy Peebles McMeans Cooh-Halton died 6-19-2024 in Anacortes, WA**

<https://www.evanschapel.com/obituary/nancy-halton>

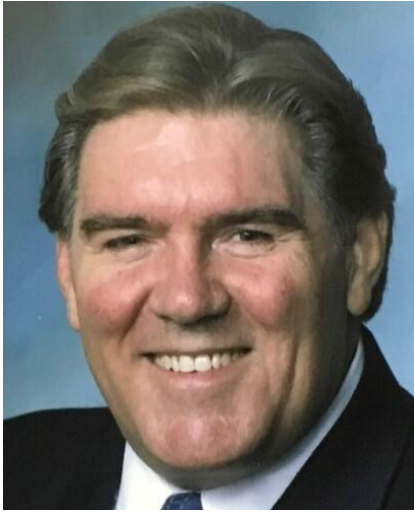
## **CLASS OF 1963**



**Bobbie "Gail" Lowrance Brewer died 9-24-2024 in Amarillo**

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/bobbie-brewer>

## **CLASS OF 1964**



**Robert “Winston” Curtis II died 9-13-2024 in Amarillo**

**<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/robert-curtis-ii>**

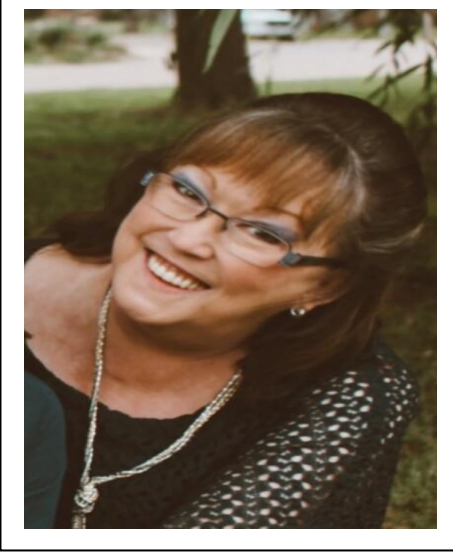
## **CLASS OF 1967**



**Stephen Bradley Smith died 8-26-2024 in Amarill**

**<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/stephen-smith-obituary?id=56130030>**

## **CLASS OF 1974**



**Cathy Ballard Holland died 5-31-2024 in Amarillo**

**<https://www.coxrowleyfuneralhome.com/obituary/Cathy-Holland>**

## **MEMORIALS**

### **DONOR**

**Robert Smith**

**Lynda Peek Flowers**

**Janine Watkins Burrow**

**Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas**

### **MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM**

**Doris Chesser Epps-Smith**

**David Wayne Peek**

**The Reunion Committees**

**Jimmy Gilmer**





# Membership/Renewal Form

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

P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114

[ahs50th alumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:ahs50th alumniassociation@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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

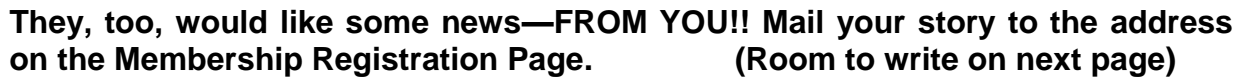
HALL OF HONOR SCHOLARSHIP & MAINTENANCE FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Honoring Sandies who served and/or died in the U.S. military)

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOW, WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A NOTE TO THE EDITOR telling classmates where you have been and what you have been doing? You know how you enjoy hearing from your friends.



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**Class**\_\_\_\_\_ **City**\_\_\_\_\_ **State**\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to :**

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

# **AHS 50<sup>th</sup> Alumni Associaton**

**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**



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

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!  
DON'T MISS THE FUN  
OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
AHS 50<sup>TH</sup> ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION**