



Autumn Occurs in Life, Too

Based on the attendance at our reunion luncheon in July, we are starting to venture out more and more. The problem remains of these pesky variants that seem to ignore the vaccinations and broaden the COVID reach. Public health protocols to deal with the persistent COVID vary from city to city and state to state. This puts us non-immunologists in the dark about just what to believe. Here in Florida, there are centers for people to go to who have early symptoms and obtain prevention therapy. This has proven to be useful in limiting the infection severity. Hopefully, the waves of COVID infections will begin to lessen as more people become immunized.

July at PJ's



Ed Parrott surprised us with a visit from his home in Bonita Springs, FL. He brought his two lovely daughters to enhance our gathering.



Bob Walton and wife Mary Fricke Walton (SPHS '56) were back with the group after our 18-month hiatus.



Viewed clockwise from the left are June Ward Fleisher, Sandra Collins Stevens (who lives in Texas) and beloved class secretary/treasurer Lil Olsen Classen.



Shirley Beaupre Michaud and Gloria Slater Carnegie shared a booth and updates.



Pat Reeves Acklin and Boyd were pleased to be back at our quarterly reunion lunches.



Nancy Cramer Litten was brought by her son for the occasion.



Gloria Fernald Flad and Harriett Bey Urbahn were happy to be back at a reunion lunch.



Maggie and Karl Maier seem to be pleased that our class is back having our quarterly luncheons.

Graduations

Shirley Rakes Ussery's husband, William (Bill) Ussery, 84, passed away March 2020 in Lakeland, FL surrounded by his loving family. Born in Detroit, Mich., Bill and his family moved to Coral Gables, Fla. in 1939 where he grew up and graduated from Coral Gables High School and then went on to the University of Florida where he said destiny led him to meet the love of his life, Shirley Rakes from Saint Petersburg. (Bill was a fraternity brother to the editor of this newsletter at UF). Bill and Shirley started their 64-year journey of married life in Coral Gables where the young couple raised three children while Bill opened his first franchise automobile dealership at 21 years old. He would go on to open multiple new and used car dealerships in Florida and Georgia. In mid-1970 Bill moved his family to Savannah, Ga., where for 30 years had Bill Ussery Volkswagen, Porsche, Audi, Subaru dealership. He was president of the Savannah New Car Dealer Association and served on the dealer advisory boards for Volkswagen and Porsche. He served on the Board of Directors for the American Automobile Association South and the Georgia Automobile Dealer Association. Bill was an elder at the Independent Presbyterian Church and was a founding member of the Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church.

Subsequently, Bill and Shirley moved to Lake Wales, FL.



James Lyn Provo, 85, passed to Heaven July 12, 2021. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, but lived most of his life in St. Petersburg, Florida. He graduated from SPHS, received a B.S. in Chemistry and a M.S. in Nuclear Science from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a degree in Electronics from SPJC (now St. Petersburg College). He worked for General Electric/Department of Energy in Largo, Florida for 33 years and retired from Sandia National Lab in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He also worked some at Los Alamos National Lab. He is a fellow of the American Vacuum Society (AVS) and was editor of their newsletter for several years as well as editor of the newsletter of the International Union of Vacuum Science, Technique, & Applications (IUVSTA). He was also AVS photographer for 45 years. At one time, Lyn was President of the Tampa Bay Running Council, and had joined local running clubs. He finished many marathons, including New York, seven times; and Boston, two times. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Susanne Gould Provo, and brother Wade A. Provo's family in Idaho,

Joanne Bolton Knight, 85, of Nashville, TN died peacefully on Sunday, July 18, 2021. Joanne was born February 26, 1936, in St. Petersburg. Joanne graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1954 and Stetson University in 1958 where she earned her BA degree and was a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority and a traveling member of the Stetson Choir.

She married Alfred Sidney Knight in 1958 and spent the next five years with Sid at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut where she taught history at Milford High School. A move to Ft. Collins, CO and Colorado State University encouraged more volunteer work and she was influential in establishing the Commission on Aging in Ft Collins.

Her family moved to Nashville in 1969 where her three children, Shannon, Kyle and Courtney, were raised and where she continued her volunteer work with the schools.

In 1975, Joanne founded and was president and CEO of two home care companies which provided medical assistance to the elderly, administration as Vice President and served Baptist Hospital for fourteen years.

A confirmed Episcopalian, she was a communicant of Christ Church Cathedral where she has served in many positions and was heavily involved in missions. She also completed a four-year program of Education for Ministry sponsored by the University of the South at Sewanee. Joanne is survived by a daughter, two sons and their families, along with a brother Bob Bolton and Sister Sue Brasington. Services were held at her church on July 25, 2021.

After a dedicated life of serving God, **Ed Parsley, Sr.**, went home to be with the Lord on August 11, 2021. He passed peacefully at home surrounded by his loving wife, children, and grandchildren. Ed was born July 4, 1936, on Madeira Beach and grew up on North Shore Drive in St. Petersburg.

Nothing in Ed's life surpassed his love for his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He was extremely dedicated to serving God and spent his life ministering to others. Ed served on the Elder Board at Suncoast Cathedral and was a Royal Rangers commander. He had a passion for the homeless as well as an evangelistic gift which he used in the downtown outreach ministry. He delivered food through Meals on Wheels and also supported a long list of missionaries and ministry organizations. Ed's love for God's Word and studying His Creation became a longstanding passion of his.

As a young child, he developed a lifelong hobby of flying model airplanes. Playing golf was an equal passion of his, and he spent many days at Sunset Country Club where he became an accomplished player. Ed graduated from the University of Florida and had a successful career in real estate. He also enjoyed playing the piano and often entertained family with all his favorite songs. Ed is survived by Joan Bragg Parsley, his loving wife of 58 years; his sons Eddie (Jen), Tommy (Niki), and Andrew; and eight grandchildren. Jr. Ed's memorial service was held at Feather Sound Church in Clearwater, FL.

Class Contacts:

Class of 1954 web site, where you can find email, phone numbers and mail addresses about our classmates: <http://sphs1954.org/>.

Help us keep your data current!

Continuing Reunion Chairman: Boyd Acklin, 1110 42nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33703, (727) 527-0361 or eacklin1@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Lillian Olsen Classen, at jclassen4@tampabay.rr.com or 8037 Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. (727) 743-1462. **No donations are needed until further notice.**

Classmate updates, news-to-share, etc., should be sent to Ron Rasmussen, Editor, 10212 58th Street, Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, (727) 544-2374 or r.rasmussen@ieee.org

Next reunion luncheon is Saturday, October 9, 2021

Location is PJ's Oyster Bar. Gathering time is **12:15 p.m.** If you plan to attend, please let Lil Olsen Classen know by **Thur., Oct. 7.** Lil's phone is (727) 743-1462. or jclassen4@tampabay.rr.com



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