GFSA WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Gladewater Former Students' Association

A TEXAS NOT-FOR-PROFIT DEDICATED TO GHS ALUMNI
P.O. Box 1425, Gladewater, TX 75647
Phone/Fax: 903-845-2631 Email: ghsalums@suddenlinkmail.com
www.gladewaterformerstudents.com

Letter from GFSA President

December 20, 2020

Dear Alums,

This holiday season will be a lot different for most of us. That being said, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you and your family in 2021.

It would be safe to say that almost everyone is ready to say, "Goodbye to 2020 and Hello to 2021". Our lives have changed in so many ways during this year, more than we could ever have imagined. Still, we are blessed beyond measure.

It is with regret to tell you that the Class of 1970 will not be hosting the annual All School Reunion on February 27, 2021. I have the upmost respect for their decision and know that they agonized over this decision. There are too many uncertainties at this time. On a positive note, the Class of 1971 is starting to plan their reunion that will be held in September 2021.

The next time you come to the building, most of you will be in for a surprise. The building was due for a face lift and during the past couple of months, we have been making some much needed improvements. We were able to do this because of a very generous gift from a couple of our members. You will have to read the entire newsletter to find out who made the donation. The Board thanks this couple for their gift and dedication to our organization. We now have a beautiful, stained concrete floor in the ballroom instead of the carpeting. We also have improved our AV system by simply getting someone to show us how to operate it and connecting the two speakers in the front of the room that flank the stage. We also updated the projector and have a larger screen. The entire AV system is operated via Bluetooth. The big black box that was in the ballroom is now in the office. No one will have to adjust any dials; it is all preset and ready to use.

The Board is still meeting via Zoom. Anyone is welcomed to join us; just let a board member know and we will make sure you get an invitation to join the next meeting.

Although we had a lot of interruptions because of Covid-19, we were able to get many things done in 2020. Hopefully with the building improvements, our rentals will increase in 2021. Let's hope for normalcy in the upcoming year.

Look forward to seeing you next year. Stay safe.

Larry Clemens
GFSA President

ORANGE AND BLACK FOREVER

2020 All-School Reunion Cancelled/Postponed

The 2020 All-School Reunion has been cancelled due to the continued COVID predicament. The GFSA Board agrees with the Class of 1970, that we do not want to promote an environment which may bring harm or illness to any of our alumni. The Class of 1971 plans to host the 2021 All-School Reunion at the usual time, the last weekend of September 2021. More information will come out in the Spring and Summer GFSA newsletters.

CLASS REUNIONS of 2020

25th Reunion: Class of 1995

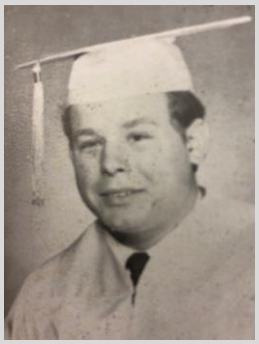
The GHS Class of 1995 held their 25th Reunion on June 20, 2020. It was well attended, and the class enjoyed dinner catered by classmate Kenyon Clark's barbeque restaurant (Just Oowee'z BBQ, Daquiri's & More). Jennifer Jester headed up the event and made sure everything was perfect. Classmates are already planning their next reunion which will combine classes 1990-1995. This reunion is planned for June 19, 2021. The Class of 1995 has also been up to some good work this year. They helped with medical expenses and hurricane damage repair for classmates through volunteer donations.

40th Reunion: Class of 1980

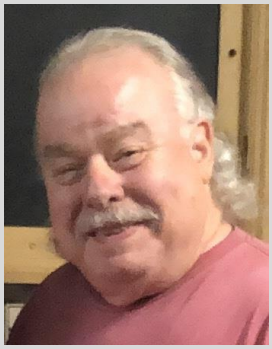
The Class of 1980 had planned to go on a cruise for their 40th Reunion. They had cabins booked for April 2020 when the Corona Virus changed their plans. After much debate back and forth, the cruise was cancelled, and a small group decided to get together anyway. They enjoyed a meal at the local Tejas in Gladewater

GFSA welcomes Valerie Files Manley and Jason Waller as new members! Come on 1980, follow suit and join your fellow alumni!

MEET YOUR BOARD…. Barry Cook



CLASS of 1968



Barry is a GHS graduate, Class of 1968. In 1972, he graduated from Sam Houston State University with a BS degree in Police Science and Administration. Barry has two sons, ages 39 and 38. One is a personal trainer in Longview and the other is an artist in New York. Barry is enormously proud of the fact that his mother, Betty Cook Chronister, and his sister, Dr. Bonny Cook Cain, have both been Outstanding Former Students of GFSA. Barry has served on the GFSA Board as a director and past president for twelve years. He is proud of the work that the organization has done for the community and looks forward to GFSA's bright future in 2021.

Thank you for all the work and leadership you have provided for GFSA, Barry!

PAST PRESIDENT LIFE MEMBERS

'38 Nauty Byrd Pelphrey Mayer, 1989-1990
'38 Hulon Broyles, 1991-1992, 1996
'61 Sherry Waggoner Beall, 1993-94, 2011-2012
'40 Truman Wilson, 1995-1996
'62 John Paul Tallent, 1997-2001, 2013-2015
'59 Leon Watson, 2002-2003, 2008-2009
'56 Dr. Syntha Traughber West, 2004-2006
'68 Barry Cook, 2007
'60 Roy T. Van Houton, 2010
'68 Shirley Elliott Willett, 2016-2018

Better Late than Never

A few months ago, GFSA received a $15 check from Rita Watson for the Gladewater War Memorial. She sent a letter explaining that she had absently put the check in her drawer 12 years ago after her nephew donated it when her father-in-law, Jack B. Watson, Sr., had passed away. The donation was given in memory of Rita's husband's grandfather, Mack Watson who is honored on the War Memorial. We cashed the check! After 12 years, it was still good. ☺ Thanks, Rita!!

Connecting the Past to the Present … Who's at GHS Now?

Kevin & Diane Clark

*****GHS Senior Teachers*****

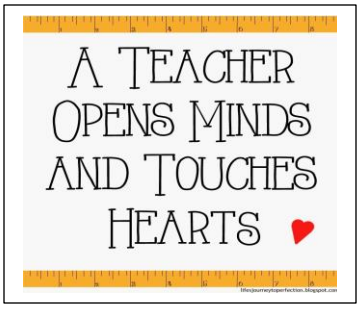
Kevin Clark

Kevin is a 1981 graduate of Gladewater High School. After graduation, he joined the Marine Corps, retiring in the Spring of 2003. Immediately, Kevin was offered a part-time position of Woodshop teacher at GHS while completing his degree at UT Tyler. His certifications are in secondary English and Speech. Kevin has been teaching in the English department since 2010 and accepted the department chair in 2017. He met his wife, Diane, at GHS and they married in 2005. All three of his girls, Lauren, Samantha, and Morgan graduated from Gladewater High School. Entering his 17th year of teaching at Gladewater, Kevin has come to deeply appreciate our small town and the opportunities it affords our young people. Each year he is privileged to introduce a new group of teens to the rich and powerfully diverse history of the English language. He loves seeing the awareness and sparked interest in our language and its nuances. This year has been marked by the COVID virus and has proven to be a lesson in humility and perseverance. The teachers struggle daily to make and keep connections with their remote kids, while balancing the "in class" learning of a regular school year. Time is our most valuable commodity.

Diane Clark

Diane is a graduate of Kilgore High School but has devoted her career to Gladewater High School for 31 years and going. She has taught in the Social Studies department, mainly Government/Economics and has directed the HoneyBear Drill Team. Diane was a Kilgore College Rangerette for two years (37th line) and completed her Bachelor of Science degree at Baylor and the University of Texas at Tyler. She holds a Social Studies composite certificate. All three of her children, Hunter, Melissa, and Sam Cloud are GHS graduates. Melissa was Miss GHS and Sam was Mr. GHS their senior years. Hunter and Sam were members of the 3rd place State Golf team. Diane loves that she is now teaching children of former students! She believes that some of the absolute best students are at GHS and they are a true inspiration to her. She says, "My HoneyBears are my family and I love to see them grow into young ladies."

This year has definitely been different, and Diane hates that she has not met some of her students face to face yet due to remote learning and the masks. But she does get excited when she gets to catch a glimpse of their entire face in class. Diane emphasizes, "I truly love my BEARS!!!"



2021 Dues are "DUE" by January 31, 2021

We are asking that all GFSA members pay their annual dues sometime in January 2021. Since we do not mail the newsletter anymore, we know that people forget when their dues need to be paid. It is just easier for everyone, if we say that your $25 annual dues need to be paid at the first of every year.

Please continue to support GFSA with your $25 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES and influence your fellow GHS peers to do the same. Encourage your classmates to become a member, buy a brick or become a **KODIAK**! *GFSA gives us a home for our class reunions, gives $1000 scholarships to GHS seniors, honors our veterans, and encourages all of us to be connected through friendship and kinship of being a **BEAR** for life.*

F O R E V E R O R A N G E A N D B L A C K!

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Our Alma Mater lost the following sons and daughters from October – December 2020:

James "Jim" Farmer, 1965
Kathy Timmons, 1976
William Jerry Williams, 1949
William Max Hart, 1979
Bobbie Milliorn Modisette, 1946
Sheila Cox Bell, 1977
Danna Towns Massey, 1977
Nathaniel Bynum, 1974
Bob Honeycutt, 1949
Dr. James "Jim" McDowell, 1970
Mike Formby, 1964
Alton Martin, 1949
James Crouch, 1958
Billy Byrd, 1952
Hershal Gage, 1972
Lon Cox, 1968
Linda Sorrells Belcher, 1968
Wayne "Snuffy" Smith, 1973

All will be sorely missed by their families, friends, and classmates to whom we extend our deepest sympathies.

Please notify the GFSA Office if you know of anyone that needs to be added to the "Gone, But Not Forgotten" list. Phone number and email address on front page of this newsletter.

GFSA Officers & Board 2020-21

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: *Larry Clemens '68*
VICE PRESIDENT: *Shirley Elliott Willett '68*
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: *Leslie Blount Willeford '77*
RECORDING SECRETARY: *Cheryl Moore Copeland '69*
TREASURER: *Jon Keller '92*
PARLIMENTARIAN: *Barry Cook '68*

BOARD MEMBERS

Dale Lange '69
Margaret Liddell Pevehouse '66
Steve Scurlock '68
Debra Shipp '75
Danny Sorrells '75
Mandy Williamson Wood '95

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Cathy Phillips Shipp '65
Leon Watson '59
Patricia Martin Watson '60

GFSA, P.O. Box 1425, Gladewater, TX 75647
ghsalums@suddenlinkmail.com

The GLADEWATER FORMER STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

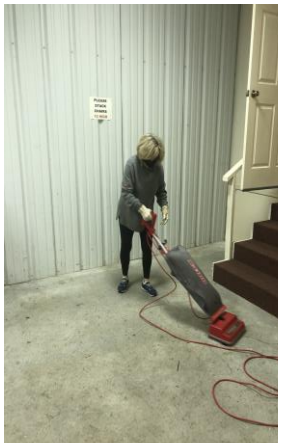
would like to RECOGNIZE and THANK the following alumni who have supported this organization through the years with "KODIAK" contributions of $1,000.00 or more:

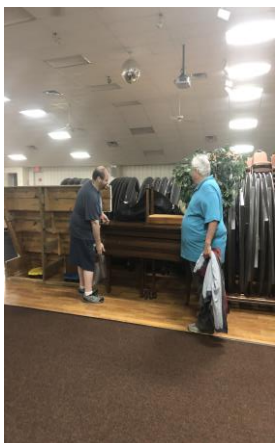
Dorothy Dake Anderson, Class of 1943 and John Paul Tallent, Class of 1962

'30 George Wilkins
'38 C.W. Williams, Jr.
'38 Gladys Browning Best
'39 Dr. John Heit
'39 Helen Adams Thomas
'40 June Strawn Gelvin
'41 Dr. John Artie & Arra Browning
'41 Gladys Williams Dreeson
'41 Margie Brewer Morrison
'42 Jack Phillips
'42 Ralph Weiser
'43 Juanita Bagley Dusse`
'50 Janet Burnett Hill
'56 Leland Stracener
'63 Alla Burago

'33 Gwendolyn Hamilton Hogue
'38 Lee Fisher
'39 Glenn (Squeaky) Lange
'39 Jane Neal Sellers
'40 Ernestine Wilson Sawyer
'40 Truman Wilson
'41 Johnnie Pace Brown
'41 Dr. Robert Brutsche
'41 Emma Dean Hinton Fetzer
'41 Jean Clark Hughes
'41 Dr. Helen Chapman Williamson
'41 Charles Gilpin
'41 Dr. Harold McDowell
'41 Patricia Nichols Summer
'42 Ann Ruth Stone Gentry
'44 Lafon Dorrough
'44 Georgia Waters Dorrough
'44 Jo Nell Adams Lucky
'44 Robert H. Schmidt
'44 Roy A. Tallent
'45 Lawanna Lee Ballard
'46 Billy C. Dale
'46 Gladys Ronita Dillard
'46 Bobbie Milliorn Modisette
'46 Dr. Jack "Spot" Collins
'46 B.M. "Mack" Rankin
'46 Virginia Henley Mankins
'48 William "Billy Bob" Green
'48 Nelda Jean Barr Young
'49 Jack Foshee
'49 Robert Honeycutt
'49 Bill Looney
'49 T. E. "Ed" Maxwell
'49 Richard D. Tallent
'51 Colleen Tallent Coffman
'52 Frances Ann Brown Shanks
'52 Beverly Hutson Lancaster
'53 Alice Ruth Wallace Cater
'53 Jerry Don Lancaster
'53 Sherman Kennedy
'54 Barbara Smith Mackey
'54 Dr. Calvin N. McKaig
'54 Martha Williams Squibb
'54 Jimmy A. Tallent
'54 Lula Mae Walker Waters
'55 Mary Lou Wilcox Palmer
'56 Travis Stanley
'56 Donald Williams
'56 Ronald Williams
'57 Homer Beck
'59 Mary Barr Price
'59 Grace Ann Rose Shore
'60 Tom & Nita Zajicek *in memory of Paul & Agnes Zajicek*
'62 Jack Butler
'62 Barbara Brooking Henderson
'62 Ellender "Cookie" Owens Holcomb
'62 Glenna Rush Ishmael
'62 Loretta Blear Mitchell
'62 Ronny Moore
'62 John Shepperd
'62 Paula Jones Smith
'62 Betty Jean Thomas Stegall
'62 Kay Pothoff Wallace
'63 Melvin A. Tallent
'65 Danny Strickland
'67 Jerry D. Tallent
'68 Mark Abernathy
'68 Larry Clemens
'68 Shirley Elliott Willett
'71 Sue Clifton Moore
'75 Debra Shipp
'76 James Hugman
'76 Sharon Scurlock Berryman
'76 Tommy Willingham
'77 Leslie Blount Willeford
'77 Jayson Wynn
'85 Cindy Tallent Rowe
'85 Jon Rowe
'89 Johnny Tallent
'90 Andrea Slover Tallent
2011 Alyssa Rowe
2013 Leslie Rowe
2015 Rebecca Rowe
Class of 1943
Class of 1945
Class of 1958
Class of 1961
Class of 1962
Class of 1965
Class of 1966
Class of 1968
Beverly Brunson Tallent

GFSA Gets a Facelift





Left to right: John Paul Tallent hands Larry Clemens a $10,000 check to help with floor and audio upgrades. Debra Shipp vacuuming after old carpet was pulled up. Danny Sorrells moving 300+ chairs to dancefloor. Dale Lange and Gary Cox moving the piano.

Many of you will remember that GFSA has been accepting donations for the last year to try to upgrade the sound system. As well, it was a constant fight with the humidity and liquid spills from different events that the carpet had a continual "mildewy" smell that just was not going anywhere. However, with the lack of renting the building due to COVID in 2020, it did not look like anything was going to change until things returned to "normal" and funds could be raised.

Well, here comes Santa Claus in October!! Avid GFSA Supporters, John Paul and Beverly Tallent, gifted $10,000 to our organization for whatever upgrades we needed. The Board decided to match Tallent's gift of $10,000 and get everything done that had been put on pause. The carpet was pulled up and the concrete has been stained a beautiful golden brown. A grit was added to avoid slipping. The sound system was evaluated and found to be in good shape, but speakers have been fixed and tweaked to where it is simple to operate. The sound quality is spectacular! A new large screen was added for videos, so it is easy to see from every angle. All the walls, trim and doors have been painted with a fresh coat of paint. Everything is clean and beautiful. GFSA Board members hope you will enjoy your new alumni building in 2021!

BEFORE

AFTER

GFSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Tax-Deductible Annual Membership ONLY $25.00 per Member

In order that we may properly give you credit for your dues payment, please fully complete this form and mail with your check to:
GFSA, P.O. Box 1425, Gladewater, TX 75647.

YOUR GRADUATION OR CLASS YEAR_____NEW MEMBER_____RENEWAL_____

LAST NAME_____FIRST NAME_____

MAIDEN NAME_____SPOUSE NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

*PHONE ( )_____EMAIL*_____

GFSA CONTRIBUTION FORM

The GFSA is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

AMOUNT $_____SELECT A FUND: Building_____Scholarship_____Veterans Memorial_____

NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____STATE_____ZIP_____

*PHONE ( )_____EMAIL*_____

Mail to: GFSA, P.O. BOX 1425, GLADEWATER, TX 75647

BRICK ORDER FORM

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $_____ **PRICE PER BRICK - $65.00**

Engraving limited to only 3 lines, 14 characters each line (including spaces).

SUGGESTED ENGRAVING:

IN HONOR OF_____

IN MEMORY OF_____

CLASS YEAR_____

Mail to: GFSA, P.O. BOX 1425, GLADEWATER, TX 75647

SCHEDULED 2021 BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 12 @ 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 13 @ 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 13 @ 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 12@ 5:30 p.m.

Our meetings are held in the board room of the GFSA Building unless via ZOOM during COVID-19.

Upcoming Events

TBA

All School Reunion – Saturday, September 25, 2021

Gladewater Former Students' Association
P. O. Box 1425
Gladewater, TX 75647

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED