

**HOMECOMING 2019**  
September 27-28

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Did you know Victoria High School has its very own Wall of Fame? It can be found along the Gym Hall and was the brain child of Mr. Jerry Brungardt while a teacher/counselor/coach at Victoria High School.

The Wall of Fame honors those dedicated individuals who have served our school district for at least 20 years or those who served at least 15 years and met with an untimely death or disability. Each qualifying individual has a plaque with their picture and their years of service. We have grouped their years according to categories. Hopefully you will find our research interesting.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

- John Schulte '96 – President
- Marge Rome '58 – Vice-President
- Det Roth Younger '58 – Secretary
- LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80 – Treasurer
- Pat Sander Legleiter '65
- Rich Billinger '68
- Rick Rajewski '69
- Rose Dreiling Rifford '70
- Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76
- Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78
- Jane Baier Schumacher '79
- Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82
- Deb Leiker Dreiling '79

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:**

- John Schulte '96
- Tami Braun Haberkorn '90
- Det Roth Younger '58
- Marge Rome '58
- LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80
- Verda Goetz Werner '55
- Connie Windholz '74

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

- Marge Rome '58
- John Schulte '96
- Det Roth Younger '58
- Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:**

- Deb Leiker Dreiling '79
- Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76
- Gerard Wellbrock '86
- Loren VonLintel '90
- DeAnn Leiker Meyers '84
- Peggy VonFeldt Klaus '89
- Kori Braun – Advisor

**Maintenance:**

- Bob VonLintel, 28 years
- Eileen Windholz, 26 years
- Bob Hammerschmidt, 24 years
- Allen Windholz, 24 years
- John Dreiling, 24 years and counting

**Secretaries:**

- Gloria VonLintel, 33 years
- Michelle Geist, 28 years and counting
- Mary Brungardt, 25 years
- Wilma VonLintel, 23 years

**Food Service:**

- Marilyn Stoffel, 30 years
- Vera Braun, 27 years
- Arlene Wittman, 26 years
- Coleen Dickinson, 25 years and counting

**School Board:**

- Steve Sander, 20 years

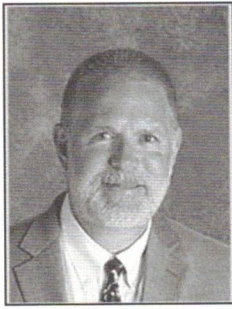
**Teacher/Principal:**

- Michael Kreller, 23 years

**Teacher/Principal/Superintendent:**

- David Ottley, 34 years
- Patrick O'Brien, 33 years





Victoria Alumni,

My name is Kent Michel and I am honored and excited to be the new Elementary School Principal and Superintendent of Schools. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about my family and myself.

First of all, I am a husband and father. My wife Charlotte and I have two adult children. Our son Zach is 26 and our daughter Haley is 22. Zach lives and works in Overland Park, Kansas. Haley is attending Washburn University. My wife lives in Effingham, Kansas, and is the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and District Library Media Specialist for Atchison County Community Schools.

I grew up in Russell, Kansas, and graduated from Russell High School. I attended Dodge City Community College on a football scholarship and received my Associates of Arts degree. I acquired my Bachelor of Education from Washburn University in 1990. My first teaching position was in the Santa Fe Trail School District where I taught 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science. In 1991, my wife and I moved to Bakersfield, California. I taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade for three years in a small town just outside of Bakersfield. We moved back to Russell in 1993. I taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Bickerdyke Elementary School, and 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics at Ruppenthal Middle School. After receiving my Masters' Degree in Building Leadership from FHSU, I became the principal at both elementary schools in Russell. In 2014, Charlotte and I moved to Effingham, Kansas. I took the intermediate principalship in Atchison, Kansas. During that time, I acquired my District Leadership degree from FHSU. In 2018, I was blessed to be offered the Superintendent of Schools and the elementary principalship in Victoria, Kansas.

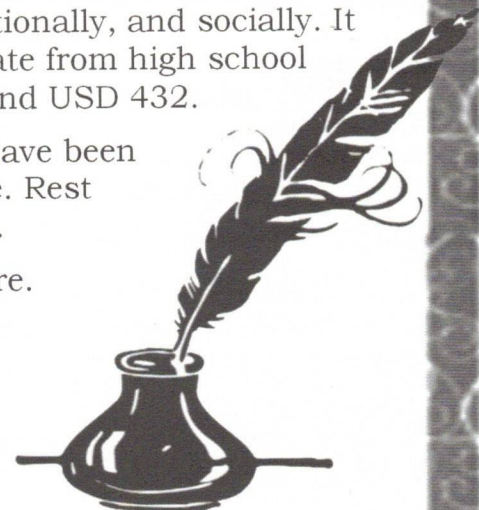
I bring a passion and mission to my role as a superintendent, to preserve and grow a rigorous and relevant teaching and learning environment that provides every student with the best education possible. This includes a sense of belonging, while growing intellectually, emotionally, and socially. It is critical to every student's success that they graduate from high school with the skills necessary to pursue and achieve beyond USD 432.

I have been so fortunate to be here in Victoria. I have been humbled in the way the community has accepted me. Rest assured I will do my best to propel USD 432 forward.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the future.

Sincerely,

*Kent Michel*





# Homecoming 2018 Wrap-up

by Rich Billinger '68

Many people said it was the best VHS Alumni Homecoming ever. Although that could be debated, it will surely rank as one of the best.

Once again, Homecoming 2018 started with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual VHS Golf classic. The tournament, which was greatly organized again by **Randy Leiker '70**, featured the first-place-winning foursome of **Glenn Dinkel '82, Darian Dinkel '89, Mark Robben '82, and Ray Bombardier '84**. Two teams tied for second place, consisting of 1) **Kevin Klein '89, John Ruder '89, John Weber '89, and Matt Berens '89**, and 2) **Jim Dinkel '63, Ralph Dinkel '60, Stephen Dinkel, and Jim McNiece**.

On Friday afternoon at 2 p.m., there was an open house at the VFW in Victoria. The lack of participation at this event the last few years had alumni board members skeptical of its worth, but this year's attendance by the ten, twenty-five, and fifty year reunion classes definitely justified its existence.

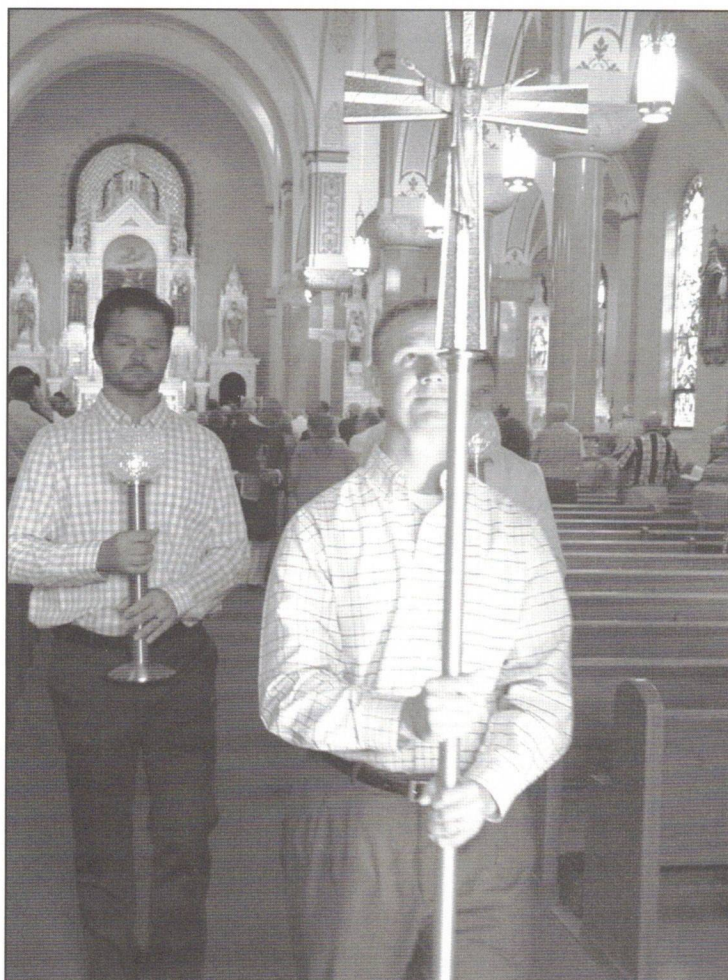
The parade, which included numerous entries, was at 4 p.m., highlighted by a Victoria Alumni Association (VAA) float to help celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary since it was first organized in 1993. The Parade Grand Marshal was **Rosalyn Pfeifer Schippers '48**.

After the Knights' football victory over Macksville on Friday night, alumni gathered once again for a social at the VFW hall. It was good to see an increase in attendance at this event.

Saturday morning and early afternoon, some of the five-year increment class reunion groups held independent events. For example, **Sam '67** and **Marilyn Brungardt Braun '68** graciously opened their home to host a brunch for the 50-year class of 1968.

One of the favorite events of VHS Homecoming was the Memorial Mass celebrated Saturday at 4 p.m. Many alumni gathered in the Basilica of St. Fidelis to worship and remember deceased classmates and teachers. One of the most beautiful portions was the singing performed by the choir under the direction of **Kathy Schulte Dreiling Amrein '76**.

An unexpected last-minute change took alumni from the Hays VFW as originally planned to the Rose Garden on Saturday night for the banquet and dance. After crowding into the somewhat cramped hall, guests were treated to a delicious dinner and enjoyed the "close" camaraderie. After dinner, the VAA inducted each member of Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations band, a local rock 'n' roll group made up of Victoria natives/alumni, into the VAA Hall of Fame. Things really got hopping after that and since the honored band played such great music, the people were not ready to quit dancing at the end of the evening.



Victoria High School alumni (from left) **Jeff Brungardt '98, David Younger '89, and Blaine Younger '98** volunteered as servers and cross bearer for the 2018 Alumni Memorial Mass at the Basilica of St. Fidelis.



## Rosalyn Schippers '48 Serves as 2018 Parade Grand Marshall

The 2018 homecoming parade was led by 1948 graduate, **Rosalyn Pfeifer Schippers**. She was pleased to accept the invitation for this prestigious honor. Rosalyn and her husband, **Gilbert '45**, were yearly attendees at every homecoming banquet and strong supporters of the Alumni Association. Gilbert died in 2013. He and Rosalyn were married in 1951 and were blessed with five children; Gerald, Mary Rose (deceased), Mike (deceased), Teresa Schippers Brown, and Tony.

Rosalyn shared her memories of attending Victoria High School. Her class of 1948 consisted of eleven girls and four boys. Some of the teachers she remembers were Sr. Annabelle, Sr. Petronella, Miss Ritter, Charles Bahl, and Hyacinth Roth. It was during this period in the school's history that the first lay principal was hired. Rosalyn's father was a member of the school board at the time, and she was approached by one of the nuns to

try to influence her father not to agree to this decision. Hyacinth Roth was named principal. Rosalyn played the flute in the band and continued her interest in piano. She especially remembers attending all the basketball games. All games were played at the opposing team's site as the upper floor in the high school was not adequate for game purposes. There were no activity buses so school board members transported the team in private cars and Rosalyn accompanied her father.

Rosalyn attended Marymount College in Salina, majoring in piano and voice. She taught grades 1 thru 8 at a country school for a few years. After marrying Gilbert, she taught private voice and piano lessons. Det Roth Younger was one of her vocal students at her studio located in John Quint's former ice cream parlor at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Main. She continued teaching from her home for 20 years.

She and Gilbert own Gib's Auto Supply where she retired as office manager. She continues to check in at the store on a regular basis. At age 88, she is still very busy keeping up the family home, touching base with her children, grandchildren (11), and great-grandchildren (20). She is a volunteer at Via Christi Village Care Center and is a long-time member of the choir at the Fort Hays Comeau Catholic Campus Center for weekly Mass.

Rosalyn's guests at the homecoming banquet were many of her family and her siblings. She was the oldest child born to Emanuel and Vera Pfeifer. Her brothers, **Al Robert Pfeifer '50**, and **Norman Dale Pfeifer '52** were present. A brother, **Larry Pfeifer '64**, was unable to attend. Her brother **Tom Pfeifer '57** is deceased. This was also her **70<sup>th</sup> Reunion** as a member of the **Class of 1948**.

Rosalyn's comments at the banquet were brief, but she thanked the Alumni Association for the honor and she was so pleased to have so many of her family and extended family present to share in this special occasion.

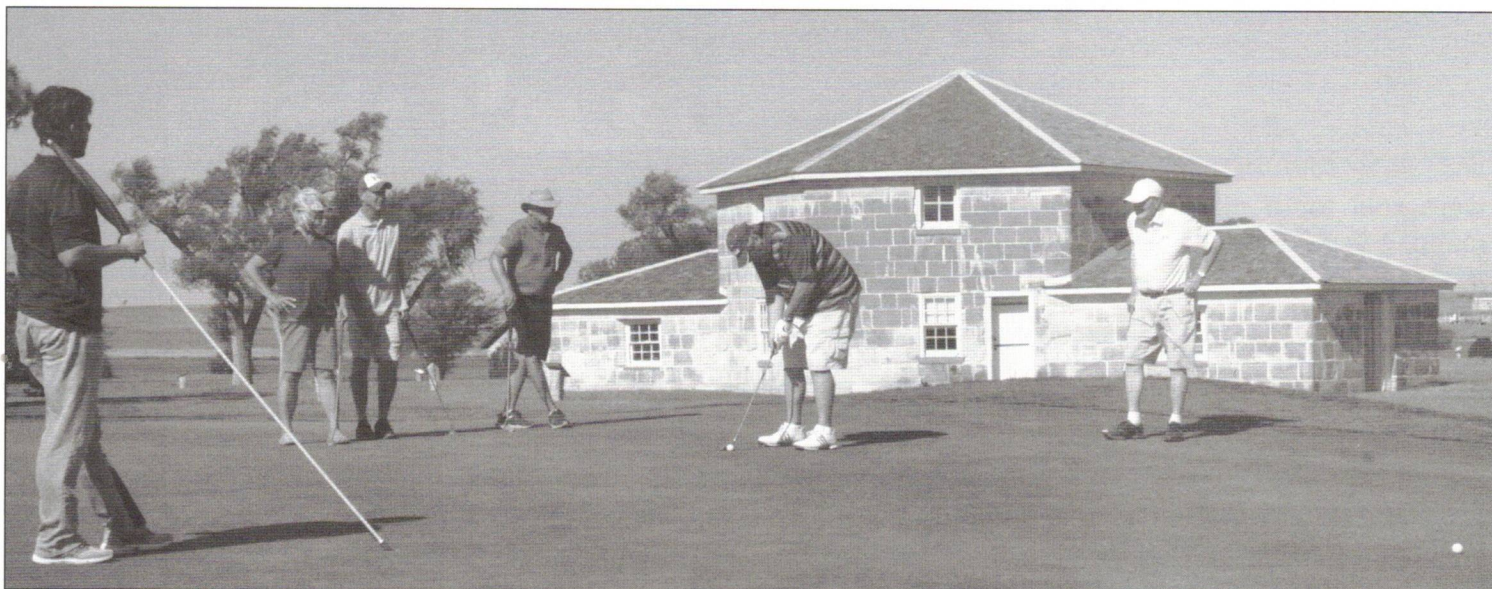




# Blizzard Warning??

*By Randy Leiker '70*

It's Feb. 21, 2019, and there is a blizzard warning for Saturday! How in the heck am I going to be able to write my spring golf article?! It is just hard to get into the spirit when my golf cart is snowed in, my clubs are shivering, and my golf balls are frozen. OK, I will try to do my best.



This year's 23rd Annual Alumni Golf Tournament will be held Friday, September 27, at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course. I am hoping for a nice fall day to kick off another great alumni weekend. There will be no snow drifts, no wind chill factors, and no chains on the golf carts!

There will be registration at 8:00 a.m. with coffee and rolls by **Jeanette Wagner Pfannenstiel '70** followed by a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m., or earlier if everyone shows up on time! The format is a 4-person scramble with a fee of \$50 a person, \$200 a team. Golf carts will be available to rent at the golf course for \$20.

Your entry fee includes our famous beverage cart that is never empty and a meal that this year, for a change of pace, will be prepared by **Jeff Goetz '79**.

Now that we have the details out of the way, it's time to get our teams together. Those of you who have played in the past know just how much fun it is to compete against friends and classmates. This is an opportunity that comes just once a year, so you don't want to miss out on a great time. Plus, you don't have to be a good golfer, just someone willing to have a great time with some close friends. Take my golf team, for example; we have a lot more fun than we have talent.

One other thing—I sure would like it if someone would step up to lend a hand in putting together this year's tournament and take over next year. Running a tournament is nerve racking, hair pulling, and stressful to say the least. However, it is the most rewarding experience I have ever had.

Now I have to gas up the snow blower, bring in some firewood, and wash my long johns. It could be a rough weekend. I just hope my golf balls thaw out before golf season!



# German Food Served Up to Raise Funds for New Gym Floor

With a strong backing from parents of basketball players, the push to replace the Victoria Junior/Senior High School gymnasium floor has had a resurgence. The focal point of this push was fundraising German meals that were held on Saturday and Sunday, March 23 and 24. A total of 1,015 tickets were sold for a meal featuring noodles and beans, creamed dumplings, and brats.



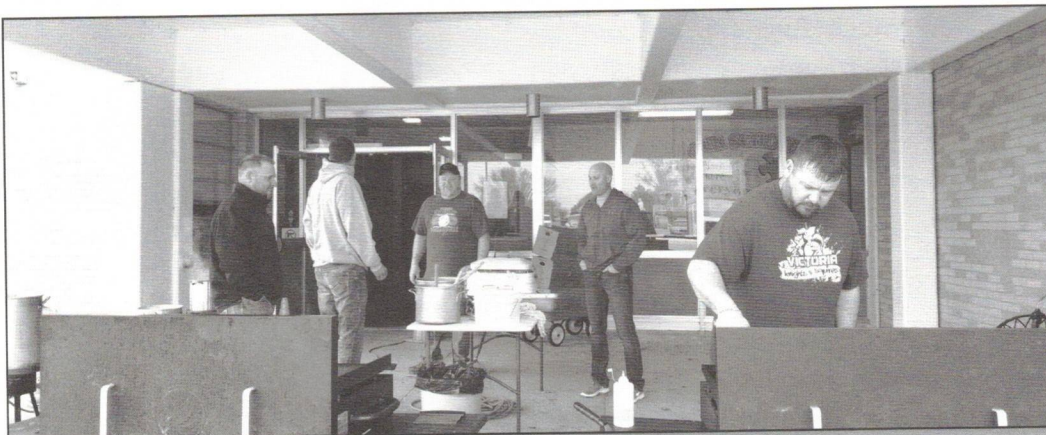
Students of Victoria Junior/Senior High School helped serve the meals in the Victoria Elementary School gymnasium and in the school cafeteria. Organizers of the event were well pleased with the support given to the event.

While many people in the nearby area were able to contribute to this fundraiser, this wasn't feasible for anyone who lives far away from Victoria. Towards that end, if you would like to assist in replacing the gym floor, head over to the Alumni Website ([www.victoriaalumni.com](http://www.victoriaalumni.com)) and click on the Gym Floor Letter for more information.

The response that came from that mailing was just over \$15,000. It was a good start, but the lowest bid that was received for the gym floor replacement was right around \$53,000, meaning that the alumni donations were well short of what was needed.

The need for a new floor was first recognized by former Superintendent David Ottley in September 2015. He approached the Alumni Board and requested that the Alumni Association spearhead the fundraising efforts. After many phone calls, emails, and text messages were exchanged by Alumni Board members, a letter was drafted and mailed to all alums of the Victoria school system.

By the end of 2016, another \$3,000 was sent in, pushing the total to \$18,000. In 2017, \$6,000 was donated and, in 2018, \$2,300 was added to the total. Since the gym floor replacement did not seem imminent, the Alumni Board recently decided to take \$26,000 of the money collected and invest it in a CD. There the money will remain until requested by the School District. Hopefully, that request occurs sometime soon.



Some of the parents volunteered to cook the brats for the German meal under the canopy of the Victoria Elementary School's entrance.



**Verlin Hammerschmidt '63** (pictured at right) served 43 years with the Victoria City Fire Department.

He recently retired in the position of City Fire Chief and was honored with two celebrations attended by current volunteer fire department members, family, friends, and Victoria citizens.



## Fire Chief Verlin Hammerschmidt Retires from Department

After 43 years of service, Victoria Fire Chief **Verlin Hammerschmidt '63** retired in February of 2019. Verlin began his tenure on the Fire Department in 1976 and has held "every position possible" in the department. Even before the rank of Captain became an official designation, Verlin was a Captain. He was elected Chief in 2000.

In 1976, the Victoria City Fire Department had one fire truck, which was housed in City Hall, right next to the City Clerk's desk. In the late 1980s, the City and Ellis County Fire Departments were consolidated into one unit, and the city fire truck was moved to the county's garage. At about that same time, the county's fire house was expanded from a two-stall garage into a four-stall, with the county taking up three of the spaces and the city the other spot. Now, the Victoria Fire Department has six stalls, with the city keeping two trucks and the county taking up the balance.

Over the years, Verlin said that one of the most memorable fires was when the Farmer's Grocery Store burned in 1989. That was an all-day fire, and it was so cold that the

school district sent a bus to the fire so the firemen would have a place to warm up. The Farmer's Store was adjacent to the current City Hall building on the west side. Today, the Victoria Post Office is just west of where the Farmer's Store used to be.

The hierarchy of the Victoria Fire Department is full of alums. Replacing Verlin as City Fire Chief will be **Tom Tholen '74**. The Assistant Fire Chief has been and will continue to be **Kevin Klein '89**. **Kami Wellbrock Weber '94** is the Secretary, and the three fire Captains are **Chris Brungardt '81**, **John Weber '89**, and **Scott Wellbrock '99**. Out of the 18 active fire fighters, 15 have graduated from VHS.

Verlin would like to thank all of his fellow fire fighters along with all those who have served the City of Victoria for making his time with the department enjoyable. He pointed out that without the City's support, the Fire Department could not function.







# CLASS NOTES



**1940's** Class of 1944 graduated from Victoria Rural High School 75 years ago. In checking our alumni data, we see there are four members of the class remaining; Marvin O. Dreiling, Robert Mermis, Valeria Toepfer Pelzel, and Henrietta Hoffman Windholz. We wish you well and would welcome you to Homecoming 2019.

**Fred Weigel Jr. '47** wanted everyone to know that at his age there is not much news happening.

**Class of 1949**, we would like to congratulate you on your upcoming 70<sup>th</sup> class reunion from Victoria Rural High School. Homecoming is set for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Remember to take advantage of the raffle tickets which are so vital to our scholarship fund.

**1950's** **Dan Schmidtberger '53** and Donna Engel were married June 9, 2018. Donna is a native of Lacrosse.

**Class of 1954**, hopefully, we will be seeing some of you at homecoming in the fall. We know many of you are still very active members of your communities and would enjoy getting together with your classmates for your 65<sup>th</sup> class reunion. Begin making plans for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Send us your family news and remember to purchase the raffle tickets for a chance to win the \$500 prize and support our scholarship fund.

**Patsy Crawford Dreiling '56** sends an update of her family. She had 29 great-grandchildren before Christmas 2018. They will witness three weddings in 2019 making her family total 81. She says they are a very close family and accomplishing much.

**Verma Rome Sommer '58** writes that in June of 2015 she was fortunate enough to participate in her first Native American archeology dig near Ellis, Kansas. She says she has always been interested in archeology so this was a dream come true for her. She found two small arrow heads in an area over 1,000 years old.

This experience was amazing and she hopes to do a repeat before she gets much older.

**Rosemary Sander McMahan '58** announces that she is now a great-grandmother to Tristan Wilson born September 11, 2017. Rosemary also shared that she is a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church Choir in Colleyville, Texas, and they will be performing at Carnegie Hall and singing a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York in June of 2019. Rosemary joined the alumni choir for the Memorial Mass at St. Fidelis for Homecoming 2018.

**Class of 1958** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion at Homecoming 2018. They met at the VFW Hall Friday afternoon to get caught up on news of family and fellow classmates. They boarded the class float at the VFW parking lot for the parade. Following the parade they met at Gutierrez Cocina Mexicana in Hays for dinner. Saturday found the class gathering at the Basilica of St. Fidelis for the Memorial Mass where they heard the names called of their 19 classmates who have passed through this world to their eternal home. Then it was on to the Rose Garden for the social, banquet, and dance. Those attending were Bernadette Sander Arnold and husband, Gary; Gladys Kippes Brungardt and husband, Jim; June Braun Donahue and husband, Tom; Tina Braun Geist Braun and husband, Pete; Jane Legleiter; Rosemary Sander McMahan and husband, Dan; Ruth Brungardt Polifka; Marge Rome; Clarita Dreiling Schumacher and husband, Arlyn; Verma Rome Sommer; Virgiline Dome Tanga and husband, Nick; Harriett VonLintel VonFeldt and husband, Jerry; Doris Hammerschmidt Werth; Ernie Windholz and wife, Judy; Francis Windholz and wife, Helen; and Det Roth Younger.

**Class of 1959**, so pleased to hear you have begun planning for your 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion. The homecoming dates have been set for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We are anxious to have you join us. Keep us updated and send in your news of happenings in your life. Remember to send in raffle tickets to support our scholarship fund.





# CLASS NOTES



**Bernadette (Butch) Dinkel Gottschalk '59** sent a note thanking the newsletter committee for the effort put forth to send out the newsletter.

**1960's** **Mary Terese Munk Jones '60** and her husband, Doug, celebrated 50 years of marriage in late August of 2018.

**Ann Schmidtberger Graber '63** retired five years ago from the Archdiocese of Kansas City Catholic school system working as their school consultation/counselor coordinator for 30 years. She is now living in Dallas, Texas, in the company of her six young, and fun, grandchildren.

**Class of 1964**, it is your turn to be honored on the occasion of your 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion. Homecoming 2019 will take place on the weekend of September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. You have a very close knit class and let's see if this can be a repeat performance of your 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Raffle tickets are available in this newsletter. This fund is crucial for our scholarship fund.

**Gene Keller '66** sent an update of his past and present status. He retired from the United States Navy as a Lieutenant Commander after 30 years. He joined the Navy after a year and a half at Fort Hays. He spent one year in Danang Vietnam after basic training. Throughout many assignments he was fortunate to see much of the world including Hawaii, Singapore, Australia, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Sri Lanka, The Seychelles, La Reunion, Karachi, Guam, Japan, Taiwan, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Mazatian, Korea, Hong Kong, The Philippines, Vancouver Canada, plus many cities in the United States. Des Moines, Iowa, is where he met his wife, Dianne. His final duty station was in San Diego as the Logistics Officer at a Navy Seal Command. They now live in Denton, Texas.

**Brenda Schmidtberger Yoder '67** thanks the alumni board for the great job they do for the homecoming weekend.

**Larry Karlin '67** is the grandfather of **Aryan Karlin**, a 2017 graduate of Victoria High School. Our newsletter staff failed to mention Larry as Aryan's grandfather in the August newsletter. Please accept our apologies. Thank you for making us aware of this omission.

**Melvin Robben '68** tells us he worked for the same company for 47 years and has been married for 46 years. He and his wife have two sons, one grandson, and two granddaughters. Melvin and his wife, Patty, live in Salina.

**Class of 1969!!** You are front and center as the **50-year honor class** for Homecoming 2019. Last years' honor class had a fantastic representation. Hopefully, you will be able to match their spirit and enthusiasm with a good number in attendance for all the homecoming events. Save the date for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. You should all have a class picture of your graduating class which will be posted in the newspaper and on the VHS website.

**Gary Wagner '69** retired from the oilfield industry after 47 years of service.

**1970's** **Frank Younger '70** and his wife, Jolene, announce the birth of their first great-grandchild, Lillian Nicole Sharp. Great-great-grandmother is **Jeanette Schumacher Younger '50**.

**Class of 1974**, it's time for class reunion number 45. Can you believe that? We would love to have you join in the fun on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for homecoming 2019.

**Class of 1979**, hopefully you will want to be part of Homecoming 2019 to celebrate your 40<sup>th</sup> class reunion. Your class is so good about getting back for your reunions. The dates have been set for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting to see you out in record numbers.





# CLASS NOTES



**1980's** **Debbie Bellendir Zachman '81** always sends a thank you to the alumni board with her annual membership form. She is always prompt in paying her \$5 membership dues.

**Kona Austin Errebo '81** announces the wedding of her son, Cale, to Reanna Weidner, in March 2018 in Kansas City, Missouri.

**James Pfeifer '83** and his wife, Sharla, announce that their daughter Natalie graduated from Kapaun Mt. Carmel in Wichita and is now attending Kansas State University in Manhattan. Natalie is the granddaughter of **Norman Dale '52** and **Gladys Wellbrock Pfeifer '53**.

**Jeanette Rohleder '83** has opened a business in her hometown of Alma, Kansas. Sweet Dreams Bed & Breakfast opened last fall. It is tied to the Alma Bakery & Sweet Shoppe which she has owned since 2001 and word has it the sweets are out of this world.

**Class of 1984**, it is class reunion time—number 35 to be exact. VHS Homecoming weekend is always a great time. Get your calendars marked for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. It's not too early to get your class excited for all the events.

**Class of 1989**, it is reunion time. Hope to see you back in the area to celebrate your 30<sup>th</sup> class reunion. September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> are the dates scheduled for this year's event. Send in your news to keep us in touch and take advantage of the raffle tickets to help support the scholarship fund.

**Chad Hammerschmidt '89** and Tiffany Sanford announce their approaching marriage on August 31, 2019, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Chad's parents are **Allen '68** and **Karen Sander Hammerschmidt '70**, and Tiffany's parents, **Van '70** and Darla **Froelich**.

**1990's** **Tonya Younger Cole '91** announces the birth of her first grandchild, Lilly Nicole Sharp, born August 30, 2018, to Brittany Roberts.

**Class of 1994**, we hope you realize that you will be honored as the **25-year honor class** for homecoming 2019. Your alumni board has been busy making plans for the weekend of September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and we hope you are doing the same. You will have a spot on the program to boast about your years at VHS.

**Jason Robben '96** and Julie Richmeier-Werth were married December 31, 2018, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Munjor. Jason is the son of **Norman '72** and Linda **Robben**.

**Clint Herl '98** and his wife **Ashley Dreiling Herl '03** announce the birth of a son, Mason Joseph, born February 20, 2019. He has a sister, Scarlett, 4, and a brother, Emmett, 2. His grandparents are **Danny '72** and Pat **Herl**, **Randy '79** and Stephani **Dreiling**, and Don and **Cathy Younger Boss '82**. His great-grandmother is **Det Roth Younger '58**.

**Class of 1999**, it is time to be thinking about coming home for your 20<sup>th</sup> class reunion. We always have a great turnout for the 20-year class and your close knit class should be no exception. Let us know if we can get you a class list. Be sure to check [www.victoriaalumni.com](http://www.victoriaalumni.com) for the names and addresses of many of your classmates. Mark your calendar for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Kory Pfeifer '99** and his wife, Jessica, announce the birth of a son, Kip Anthony, born February 16, 2019, at Hays Medical Center. Kip has two brothers, Walker, 6 years old, and Bo, 3 years old. Kip's grandparents are **Ken '70** and **Diane Younger Pfeifer '73**. His great-grandmother is **Jeanette Schumacher Younger '50**.

**2000's** **Brent Hansen '01** and his wife, Steph, announce the birth of a son, Jett Nixon, born March 2, 2019, at North Kansas City Hospital. Jett has a brother, Dax, 4 years old, and a sister, Graye, 3. **Betty Rome Hansen '76** is his grandmother.





# CLASS NOTES



**Meagan Schmidtberger Wellbrock '02** has been named a new equity partner at Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball. After an internship, she joined the firm full-time in 2007. Meagan graduated summa cum laude from Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration. She is affiliated with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants where she serves on the Audit and Assurance Tax Force. Meagan was one of the Victoria Alumni Scholarship recipients in 2002. Her husband is **Scott Wellbrock '99** and her parents are **Leroy '74** and **LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80**. She is the granddaughter of **Leroy '52** and **JoAnn Braun**.

**Nolan Schmeidler '03** and his wife, Miranda, announce the birth of a son, Peyton Cyril, born July 6, 2018, at Hays Medical Center. He has an older brother, Dalton, age 3.

**Sara Rohleder '03** and Preston Fox were married October 13, 2018. Sara is the daughter of **Gerald '80** and **Karla Dinkel Rohleder '81**.

**Class of 2004**, be sure to mark the calendar for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. It was 15 years ago that you graduated from VHS. Come and join in the fun-filled weekend and get caught up on families and careers.

**Brandon Befort '04** and his wife, Anna, announce the birth of a son, Kaesyn Jakob, born January 28, 2019, at Salina Regional Hospital. His grandparents are Dale and Mary Befort. Dale was a former school board member and Mary was a para-professional in Victoria Elementary.

**Austin Gagnon '08** and his wife, **Sheena Herl Gagnon '07** announce the birth of a son, Grey James, born at Salina Regional Hospital. He has a big sister, Collins, 2. Grey's grandparents are **Danny '72** and **Pat Herl**.

**Taylor Lang '08** and his wife, Danielle, announce the birth of a son, Hudson Joseph, born October 27, 2018, at Hays Medical Center. Hudson is welcomed home by a sister, Jentrie, 3. His grandparents are **Daren '83** and

**Dana Dreiling Lang '84**, and **Danny '78** and **Cindy Meder Robben '77**. His great-grandparents are **Jeanette Kippes Dreiling '60**, Larry and **Marlene Kisner Lang Sarver '60**, and **Lena Scheck Meder '56**.

**Cade Scott '08** and his wife, Tiffany, announce the birth of twins, born at Hays Medical Center. Son, William Kenneth, and daughter, Layla Grace, were born March 4, 2019. They will be welcomed home by two brothers, Graham, 5, and Lakin, 3. Grandparents are Patrick Scott and his wife, Gia. Mr. Scott was a former school teacher at Victoria Middle School.

**Class of 2009**, begin making plans for your 10-year reunion from Victoria High School. You are our youngest honor class and the future of Victoria Alumni Association. You need to be thinking of a spokesperson to tell us about the mighty Class of 2009. You have bragging rights as the 10-year reunion class. We hope to see many of you for homecoming festivities on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Jordan Robben '09** and Kaylee Pittenger were married January 25, 2019, at a destination wedding in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Friends and family will enjoy a reception and dance at the VFW in Victoria Memorial Day weekend. Jordan is the son of **Rick '76** and **Marla Brungardt Robben '78**.

**2010's** **Aaron Crawford '10** has been promoted to Staff Sergeant in recognition of his commitment and hard work as a member of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Force Support Squadron and the United States Air Force. Aaron and his wife, Taylor, also announce the birth of a son, Elias Anthony, born September 6, 2018. Elias' great-grandparents are **Ted '54** and **Cecelia Crawford**.

**Kyle Schmidt '11** and Katelyn Greene were married November 17, 2018. Kyle is the son of **Robert '83** and **Melissa Weber Schmidt '86**. Kyle and his wife are both teachers in the LaCrosse school district.





# CLASS NOTES



**Falynn Wasinger '11** and Dan Rogers were married December 8, 2018, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis.

**Andy Schmidtberger '11** and his wife, **Ashley Wellbrock Schmidtberger '13**, announce the birth of a son, Solomon Jackson, born March 4, 2019. He has a brother, Elijah Michael, 2 years old. His grandparents are **Tim '79** and Pam **Schmidtberger** and **Leon '83** and Joan **Wellbrock**. Solomon's great-grandparents are **Regis '62** and **Wilma Pfeifer VonLintel '51**.

**Audrey Crawford '13** received her degree in nursing from Fort Hays State University. She is employed at the hospital in Great Bend. Audrey is the granddaughter of **Ted '54** and **Cecelia Crawford**.

**Anna Kuhn '13** and Cody Thiede were married August 11, 2018, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis, Victoria. Anna's parents are **Joe '73** and **Diane Sanders Kuhn '83**.

**Colten Leiker '13** and **Audra Nowak '14** were married November 24, 2018. Colten is the son of **Keith '84** and

**Karen Leiker** and the grandson of **Sheila Roth Leiker-Page '60**.

**Lane Braun '13** and Arrica Overmiller were married March 9, 2019, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Lane is the son of **Rick '82** and Janice **Braun**.

**Class of 2014**, you have made it to the first milestone as members of the Victoria Alumni Association, that being the 5-year-reunion class. Your classmates would love to hear what you've been up to. It is time to think about returning for Homecoming 2019 on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Editor's Note:** Please help your newsletter committee. If you wish to see your family information, a death, birth, marriage, anniversary, or other news appear in the newsletter, please submit it to VHS Alumni Association, PO Box 382, Victoria, Kansas 67671 or email to [info@victoriaalumni.com](mailto:info@victoriaalumni.com)

## Board of Directors News

**Deb Leiker Dreiling '79** joined the Alumni Board of Directors just prior to Homecoming 2018. Even though she started her time on the board during the busiest time of the year, Deb has already made significant contributions that will help the Alumni Association remain prosperous for the foreseeable future.

The Board of Directors also has had a slight reorganization since Homecoming. **Marge Rome '58**, Alumni President since 1997, and **John Schulte '96**, Vice-President since 2014, have essentially switched offices, with John accepting the role of president and Marge taking over the vice-president position.

**Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76** has been elected as Secretary, with one caveat: she doesn't want to accept her new role until after the 2018-2019 school year is completed. With the approval of the Board, Kathy is currently referred to as "Secretary-in-waiting" and **Det Roth Younger '58** will continue as Secretary until Kathy is ready to take over.

**LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80** has agreed to serve as Treasurer for the Alumni Association, a position she has held since 2005.

## Hall of Fame Nominations Being Accepted for 2019

The Alumni Hall of Fame will be inducting new members during Homecoming 2019. There is only one problem: nobody knows who it will be at this point. The Alumni Board will be meeting in early June to make the new selections; therefore, the deadline to make nominations is June 1.

To assist you in making a nomination, a form has been placed on the alumni website at [www.victoriaalumni.com](http://www.victoriaalumni.com). Click on the "Hall of Fame Nomination" link to get started.





## *In Loving Memory*



Wayne Jacobs passed away July 19, 2018, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Clairella; three daughters, Karla Jacobs Neil, **Kristy Jacobs Schlaefli '92**, and **Kaylene Jacobs Gabel '95**; five sisters; and two grandchildren.

Donald "Pappy" Leiker passed away July 24, 2018, at Ellis Good Samaritan Society. He is survived by a son, **Joe Leiker '94**; a daughter, **Melissa Leiker Miller '91**; two brothers; two sisters; and two grandchildren.

Charlie Amber Gasper, infant daughter of **Curtis '10** and Shelly **Gasper**, passed away July 30, 2018. Grandparents are **Terry '86** and Jody **Gasper**.

Marian Dreiling passed away August 3, 2018, at Mount St. Francis Nursing Home in Colorado. She is survived by one son, **Todd Dreiling '79**; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Michael Lewis '81** passed away August 5, 2018, at his home. He is survived by his mother and step-father; one son, **Jesse Lewis '02**; and four grandchildren.

**Olmer Wittman '45** passed away August 12, 2018, at Good Samaritan Society, Hays. He is survived by his wife, Mildred; two sons; three daughters; nine grandchildren; 11 step-grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and 12 step-great-grandchildren.

Otilia Kuhn passed away August 17, 2018, at The Regent, Wichita. She is survived by two sons, **Marvin '64** and **Joseph '73**; six daughters, **Elaine Kuhn Roberts '60**, **Delores Kuhn Bohm '66**, **Carol Kuhn Wiggett '67**, **Stella Kuhn Wise '69**, **Tillie Kuhn Brin '71**, and **Mary Jane Kuhn Dreiling '76**; 18 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Darrell Boggs passed away September 5, 2018, at his daughter's home in Hays. Mr. Boggs was a science and math teacher at Victoria High School from 1969 thru 1974. He also coached freshman football, and drove the activity bus. He is survived by one son, one

daughter, and three grandchildren.

Ricky Gonzales passed away September 5, 2018, at St. Joseph, Missouri. Survivors include his mother, **Vicky Werth Gonzales '81**; two brothers; one sister; and his grandmother, **Doris Hammerschmidt Werth '58**.

**Mary Hart Detrixhe '79** passed away September 12, 2018, in Hays. She is survived by her husband, Stan; one son; one daughter; two brothers, **Jim Hart '75** and **Don Hart '76**; one sister, **Trece Hart '77**; and two grandchildren.

Robert A Schmidtberger passed away September 26, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Patty; three sons, **Robert '70**, **Bill '74**, and **Brad '80**; two daughters, **Bonnie Schmidtberger Sander '71** and **Becky Schmidtberger Scheck '73**; a brother, **Marvin Schmidtberger '52**; three sisters, Albertina Schmidtberger Foos, **Edna Schmidtberger Ptacek '50**, and **Rosie Schmidtberger Leiker '54**; 28 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren.

**Clara Rohleder '45** passed away September 29, 2018, in Wichita. Survivors include many nieces and nephews. **LaVonne Rohleder Davidson '53** is a surviving niece. Clara honored the Alumni Association by being one of the first Grand Marshalls for the homecoming parades.

**Gene Wellbrock '56** passed away October 2, 2018, at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, Joan; one son, **Gerard '86**; two daughters, **Ann Wellbrock Hugunin '91** and **Christine Wellbrock Weber '95**; four sisters, **Arlene Wellbrock Pfeifer '50**, **Gladys Wellbrock Pfeifer '53**, **Mary Lou Wellbrock Mirkovich '59**, and **Rosann Wellbrock Welser '63**; and seven grandchildren. Gene helped to organize the Victoria Alumni Association and was elected Vice President of the newly formed association on October 5, 1993. He was inducted into the Victoria Alumni Association Hall of Fame in 2016.





## *In Loving Memory* continued



Leona Vsetecka passed away November 6, 2018, at Via Christi Village of Hays. She is survived by her husband, Charles E. Vsetecka; two sons, **Dominic '73** and **Samuel '76**; two daughters, **Theresa Schuckman Wasinger '74** and **Martha Schuckman Boardman '78**; a step-son, **Charles Vsetecka '77**; two step-daughters, **Michelle Vsetecka Schuckman '73** and Cheryl Vsetecka McNamara; 15 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Barbara Schumacher passed away November 16, 2018. She is survived by two daughters, **Becky Schumacher Mickelson '77** and **Brenda Schumacher Dechant '78**; four sons, **Chuck '82**, **Pat '85**, **Jeff '87**, and **Mike '91**; three brothers; 15 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Charlotte Schumacher Veatch '64** passed away November 21, 2018, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by two brothers, **Marion Schumacher '57** and **Ron Schumacher '60**; one sister, **Mary Lou Schumacher Pfannenstiel '68**; and two grandchildren.

Ed Froelich died November 24, 2018, at Via Christi Village, Hays. He is survived by a son, **Van '70**; a daughter, **Margie Froelich Hawk '66**; one brother; one sister; two step-granddaughters; and five step-great-grandchildren.

Viola Robben died December 3, 2018, at Brookdale Assisted Living, Hays. She is survived by three sons, **Leroy '66**, **Melvin '68**, and **Norman '72**; one brother; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Glenda Hammerschmidt passed away December 6, 2018, at Good Samaritan Society, Ellis. She is survived by her husband, **Verlin Hammerschmidt '63**; a son, **Michael '89**; a daughter, **Lisa Hammerschmidt Norris '84**; four grandchildren; her mother; and two brothers.

**Don Billinger '68** passed away December 12, 2018. He is survived by his wife; two sons; one daughter; three sisters, **Linda Billinger Stochi '75**, **Joyce Billinger Dinkel**

**'71**, and **Jeanette Billinger Schmidt '71**; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

**Kathleen Mae Rajewski Sander '49** died December 13, 2018, at Kansas Medical Center, Andover. Survivors include her husband, **Gilbert Sander '49**; three sons; one daughter; two brothers, **Howard Rajewski '46** and **Delando "Del" Rajewski '51**; eight grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

**Rosemary "Rosie" Brungardt Schulte '45** passed away December 14, 2018, at Homestead Assisted Living in Hays. Survivors include three sons, **John Gross '68**, **Paul Gross '70**, and **Tom Gross '72**; two daughters, **Lee Ann Schulte Hartwick '83** and **Rosanne "Rose" Schulte Kreller '84**; and six grandchildren.

Charles "Chuck" Vsetecka passed away December 14, 2018, at Via Christi Village, Hays. Survivors include one son, **Charles '77**; two daughters, Cheryl Vsetecka McNamera and **Michelle Vstecka Schuckman '73**; two step-sons, **Dominic Schuckman '73** and **Samuel Schuckman '76**; two step-daughters, **Theresa Schuckman Wasinger '74** and **Martha Schuckman Boardman '78**; 15 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Charles Williamson passed away December 16, 2018, at his home. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Ellen Dreiling Williamson '57**; one son; two daughters; two step-sons; one step-daughter; one brother; two sisters; and six grandchildren.

**Jeanette Braun Leiker '59** passed away December 31, 2018, in Lubbock, Texas. She is survived by her husband, Tony; two sons; four brothers, **Leroy Braun '52**, Clarence Braun, **Wayne Braun '64**, and **Allen Braun '72**; two sisters, **Mary Jane Braun Unrein '53** and **Lorita Braun Berens '61**; and four grandchildren.

**Hedwig Dreiling Matthew '41** passed away January 23, 2019, at Brookdale Senior Living in San Antonio, Texas. She is survived by a daughter; two sisters, **Blanche**



*In Loving Memory* continued

**Dreiling King '50** and **Mary Dreiling Baachus '55**; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**Rita Toepfer Brungardt '43** passed away January 30, 2019, in Wichita. She is survived by one son; one daughter; one brother, Victor Toepfer; three sisters, **Valeria Toepfer Pelzel '44**, **Helen Toepfer McCourt '51**, and **Joan Toepfer Collins '56**; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Doris Riedel passed away February 5, 2019, at Via Christi Village Care Center, Hays. She is survived by two sons, **Gilbert Riedel Jr. '77** and Robert Riedel; four daughters, Judy Brunhoeber, Darlinea Dinkel, **Tina Riedel Thomas '80** and **Robin Riedel Sheldon '80**; one brother; 15 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

**Chetty Brown Peckham '61** passed away February 11, 2019, at her home in Derby, Kansas. She is survived by her husband, Ray; one daughter; one granddaughter; and many cousins.

Eileen Straub passed away March 6, 2019. She is survived by four sons; **Rick '78**, **DeLos '83**, Clint, and **Evan '90**; 10 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren.

**Gilbert Urban '50** passed away March 9, 2019. He is survived by his wife; one son; four daughters; a sister, **Jane Urban Schumacher '57**; 20 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

**Richard Dinkel '77** passed away March 11, 2019. He is survived by his wife, **Kerri Austin Dinkel '77**; two sons; six brothers, **Darrell '64**, **Allen '68**, **Ronald '66**, **Reuben '75**, **Jeff '79**, and **Patrick '81**; one sister, **Dorothy Dinkel Bates '70**; and two granddaughters.

**Catherine "Katie" VonLintel Pfannenstiel '47** passed away March 15, 2019, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by one son; three daughters; a sister, **Joan VonLintel Murta '51**; nine grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

## WALL OF FAME (continued from page 1)

### High School/MiddleSchool/ Elementary School:

Eugene Dreiling, 42 years  
Marge Rome, 39 years  
Norma Berens, 37 years  
Evelyn Zellmer, 37 years  
Vernon Berens, 36 years  
Bill Kuhn, 35 years  
Jerry Brungardt, 35 years  
Vernon Giebler, 35 years  
Kathalie Hoffman, 33 years  
Patrick Scott, 32 years  
Tony "Red" Pfeifer, 32 years  
Chris Jansen, 32 years

Bob Leikam, 31 years  
Carla Pruitt, 31 years  
David Gottwald, 30 years  
Jerry Cronister, 28 years  
Eric Austin, 27 years  
Verda Werner, 27 years  
Bruce Engel, 27 years and  
counting  
Ivan Werner, 26 years  
Nancy Piatt, 25 years  
Deb Bottorf, 25 years and  
counting  
Corrine Dinkel, 24 years  
Rhoda Urban, 24 years

Arlene Pfeifer, 23 years  
Det Younger, 23 years  
Ray Schulte, 23 years  
Randy Stanley, 23 years  
Connie Braun, 22 years and  
counting  
Charles Bahl, 22 years  
Annie Dinkel, 22 years and  
counting  
Ignatius Schumacher, 21 years  
Lawrence Marcotte, 19 years  
Frank Windholz, 19 years

**The Victoria Alumni Association would like to salute these individuals for their dedicated years of service. Know that you have touched and influenced many lives and led your students on to become productive citizens of this great country.**



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## Difficult Decisions Made in Scholarship Selections

The annual raffle that coincides with Homecoming each year was once again a successful fundraiser for the scholarship fund in 2018. Thanks to the generosity of the alumni members, the Alumni Association will offer four \$1,000 scholarships to this year's graduating seniors. The scholarship committee spends a great deal of time going over the applications that are received each year, and the alumni board thanks them for making the difficult decision as to whom these scholarships are awarded.

The scholarship committee does not see the names of the applicants as they are making their selections. VHS counselor Kori Braun assigns each form a numeric key to identify who filled out each application. Only after the committee has made their selections does the master key appear to attach a name to each scholarship winner. This system has been working for many years, with a few minor tweaks along the way.

### 2018 Raffle Winners

\$500 . . . Rick Sander '79  
\$400 . . . Dotty Windholz Legleiter '78  
\$300 . . . Charlotte Braun Weber '65  
\$200 . . . Travis Hammerschmidt '98  
\$100 . . . Lee Ann Schulte Hartwick '83

## 2019 Upcoming Events

- ~ FIDELISFEST ~  
Sunday, April 28
- ~ HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS NIGHT ~  
Wednesday, May 8
- ~ ALUMNI-SPONSORED  
SENIOR BARBEQUE ~  
Friday, May 10
- ~ HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION ~  
Sunday, May 12
- ~ HALL OF FAME  
NOMINATIONS DUE ~  
Saturday, June 1
- ~ HERZOGFEST ~  
Friday-Saturday, August 9-10
- ~ VHS HOMECOMING 2018 ~  
Friday-Saturday, September 27-28