

ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni Association

P.O. Box 152578 • Arlington, Texas 76015 www.ahscolts-alumni.org



Fall 2025

Volume 29 Issue 2



Alumni Association members along with AHS faculty and spouses showed up for the annual July 4th Parade in downtown Arlington. Seen here are (left to right) Nicky Austin, Shelby Humbles, Kathy Einhaus and Debbie Ericson. The two-mile parade gave bystanders the opportunity to cheer and support for the floats going by. Former Arlington mayor, Jeff Williams, bottom right, joined in cheering for the AHS Alumni float.



Five To Be Recognized As Distinquished Colts

John Wade, Sr., Class of 1977; Kathy Fuller Havins, Class of 1976 (posthumous); Keith Rogers, Class of 1982; Peggy Halpin Faber, Class of 1980; and Wallis Hilton Bryce, Class of 1975, have been nominated and chosen by the Alumni selection committee to receive this year's Distinguished Colts Award. They will be recognized during the Homecoming Pep Rally, Friday, Sept. 12, and presented with their award at the annual Alumni Open House on Saturday, Sept. 13.

To receive this honor, the nominee must have shown the *Spirit * Pride * Tradition* of AHS after leaving high school. This year's nominees have "given back" to our school or have brought honor to Arlington High School and Arlington through significant accomplishments in their lives after graduation.

Read more about this year's Distinguished Colts on *Page 3*. Previous recipients of the award can be found on the Alumni website: www.ahscolts-alumni.org.

Open House Schedule Set -

Alumni Preparing for Annual Weekend Rally

Attention AHS graduates! The annual Alumni Association Open House weekend - a time to get together and reflect on your time at AHS - will be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 12-13. The event will kick off at 1:45 p.m. Friday with the AHS Pep Rally in the school's gym.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, visit the recently created Alumni Room, reconnect with classmates and

enjoy light snacks in the school's cafeteria while listening to music by the Alumni Band, followed by a program honoring this year's Distinguished Colt alumni.

Later that evening, plan to attend the Homecoming football game at 7 p.m. - now back at UTA's Maverick Stadium.

A tour of the new campus is also scheduled following the program. Make plans now to attend!

The Need Is Great. The Time Is Now.

"North Texas Gives" Kicks Off Annual Donation Campaign

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

Joining in and partnering with the Communities Foundation of Texas, the AHS Alumni

Association will again be participating in the annual North Texas Giving Day campaign to raise donations for

scholarships given to AHS seniors in 2026.

North Texas Giving Day this year will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18; however, giving through the website will open on Aug. 28.

This year, the Alumni Association has set a goal to raise \$15,000. Donations of any size support AHS and all funds

raised will go towards student scholarships as well as additional AHS projects for faculty and staff.

There are also sponsorship donation recognition categories available including Colt Ropers - \$500 and

above; Arlie's Angels – \$301-\$499; Colt Stars – \$201-\$300; and Colt Kickers – \$150-\$200.

To become a sponsor, contact <u>AHScoltsforever@gmail.com</u>, or call 817-229-7408. More information can be also be found on our website: <u>www.ahscolts-alumni.org</u>. Join us - and together we can make a difference!





Scan the QR Code to get an early start by giving to the AHS Alumni Association for North Texas Giving Day.

Giving Back to AHS – It's What We Do!

Reunions

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	Mon	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 LABOR DAY	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	AHS HOM WEEKEND	
14	15	16	17 30LT	18 Cring day	19	20
21	22	23	24 SALUN	25	26	27
28	29	30				

CLASS OF 1970

The Class of '70 will be holding 55th Class Reunion during Homecoming weekend, Sept. 12-13 beginning with the Pep Rally at the school at 2 p.m. Following that, an informal gathering will be held starting at 6 p.m. at J. Gilligan's (individuals pay for their own food and drink).

On Saturday, there will be a picnic and games at Stovall Park in South Arlington from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and locals are asked to bring a dish to share.

A more formal gathering will be held that evening from 6 p.m. midnight at the Texas Rangers Golf



We received this photo clipping from Jim Reynolds, Life Member, Class of '71. He was going through memorabilia and found this 2001 Wall Street Journal response he wrote that was published. He thought several AHS graduates would enjoy seeing it. What memories of Miss Amos can you share?

Bad Grammar

Houston

Regarding your Jan. 10 editorial "English Lesson": It may be that criticism of one's grammar gives rise to hurt feelings, but bruised sensitivities are insignificant when it's a question of employing the proper tools for accomplishment in our world. My high school English teacher, Miss Amos, once told us about attending a "modern communication" seminar at a local college. Opening the session, the professor pointed to her and said, "If I told you I ain't got no money, you would know exactly what I meant, would you not?" Miss Amos immediately replied, "Yes, and I also would know why you don't have any money." J. REYNOLDS

Class of '70 continued -

Club. Dinner for the event is \$55 per person. To register or for more information, contact Penny Morris at 817-975-1287.

CLASS OF 1980

The Class of '80 will be holding its 45th Class Reunion from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 8 at Division Brewing, 506 E. Main Street in Arlington. There is no admission charge, but food and drinks are separate. Contact Lori Richman at lorisrichman@yahoo.com for additional information.

CLASS OF 1985

The AHS Pep Rally beginning at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, will be the first event for the Class of '85, as they gather Homecoming Weekend to celebrate their 40th Class Reunion.

The next day, the group will get together at 6:30 p.m. at J. Gilligan's for an evening of fun and celebration. For more information, contact Von McClure at vonemcclure@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 2005

Rekindle memories and renew friendships at the 20th high school reunion sponsored by the graduating class of 2005 on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10 and 11.

The festivities are scheduled to begin at 7pm., Oct. 10 at the Chicken N Pickle, 2965 State Hwy. 161, in Grand Prairie. A fajita bar, music and DJ, along with a Photo Booth to capture the memories will be provided.

following evening, informal event will be held at 7 p.m. at J. Gilligan's, 407 E. South St., in Arlington. The \$55 per person payment, can be made online through Zelle: ColtsReunion05@gmail.com or Venmo: ColtsReunion05.

For more information, link for the event is: https:// fb.me/1MBZLWd3vrDTYWn and more information can be found on the class Facebook page: https:// fb.me/g/JP9kXUiOIyLNUVbif or by contacting Lisa Voss at 817-480-2391.

New Merch Recognizing Association's 30 Years **Ready for Open House**

rab your ballcaps and T-shirts and let everyone know you're an AHS Alumni! New items have been uploaded to the website and if preordered by Aug. 29, will be ready for pick up during Open House weekend.



Coinciding with the 30th Anniversary of the AHS Alumni Association, a special commemorative T-shirt and ballcap will be available for a limited time only! Available in green or black, both T-shirts and caps will be available for \$20. A limited number of these 30th Anniversary Alumni Association items will be available with a discount during Open House.

In addition, this year there will be two personalized options: If you'd like your graduating class listed, simply type it in the order form and "Class of XX" will be noted. Also, if you're a "Colt By Choice" we have that option available for you as well!

And not just for yourself! Now is the perfect time to stock up on gifts for upcoming holidays!

All sales go towards funding scholarships for 10 seniors to be selected to receive a \$2,000 AHS Alumni Scholarship to further their education.

To pre-order items, visit the Alumni website at: www.ahscolts-alumni.org and navigate to the "Colt-Gear" tab, make your selection and fill out the information. Any questions, please email us at: AHScoltsforever@gmail.com.



WADE, SR.

JOHN WADE, SR., Class of 1977 and a third generation AHS alumni, excelled in athletics, named as Co-MVP for the 1976 Colts football team, before playing for TCU and UTA. A TCU scholarship recipient, he was named All American Freshman. At UTA, Wade received the Defense MVP award and took home the Bubba Garner (AHS '62) outstanding athlete award.

Wade remains very involved with the Arlington High School booster club and sponsors events for the baseball and football teams. He has also coached Optimist football for 10 years for the Highlanders.

In 1982, he started his own roofing company, existing today as John Wade Roofing.

Wade, part of a pioneer Arlington family, married his high school sweetheart, Teresa, 48 years ago. They have three children and eight grandchildren – the oldest will be a freshman at Arlington High this fall.

- Nominated by his son, John Wade, Jr.

During high school, KATHY FULLER HAVINS, Class of 1976, was an active and dedicated member of the AHS Arlettes. A fourth generation AHS graduate, Kathy was an AHS staff member for many years, and acted as liaison between the Alumni Association, the school, and for graduated classes - especially the Class of 1976.

Kathy served on the '76 Reunion Committee, researching classmates on findagrave.com and was

the keeper of the classes' Memorial List. She created a Memory Book to honor deceased 76'ers which has been displayed at every reunion. She also set up the class Facebook page and served on the AHS Alumni Board

It was such a shock to add her unexpectedly in December of 2022 as #61 on the class Memorial List, but this posthumous DCA honor is well deserved.

– Nominated by Susan Malone and Diane Tejeda



HAVINS



KEITH ROGERS, Class of 1982, was a member of "The Band that went to Washington." After high school, Keith graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in computer science and has been employed at Northrop Grumman for 38 years.

Keith is a founding member of the AHS Alumni Band and serves as the Parliamentarian. He has been instrumental in the design and construction of the lit panels displayed on the band trailer, the construction of the horseshoes, and other projects. Keith has helped with the Alumni Band T-shirt designs and has promoted the band not only at Open House, but other citywide events. In addition, he has given his time, talents and has generously donated to AHS.

Keith is active in the First United Methodist Church handbell choir and serves as Scout Troop 222's assistant scout master.

- Nominated by Tanya Terrell Weideman

PEGGY HALPIN FARBER, Class of 1980, completed her quest of 50 marathons in 50 states during the Fall of 2024. In 2018, Peggy was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, and her disease progressed where she went from running to just walking the marathons. Yet during this challenging time, she showed the drive and determination she had back in high school as a Colt Kickers drill team member.

The 50th state she participated in was New York.

Peggy had friends and family travel to NY to cheer her on - all proud of her for accomplishing her goal. The Colt Spirit was alive as signs were displayed and cowbells were ringing as the AHS alumna completed the final race in seven-hours.

Since then, Peggy has become a published author, collaborating on a book, "Sports, Exercise and Slowing the Progression of Parkinson's Disease."

- Nominated by Melanie Milone



FABER

BRYCE BRYCE

WALLIS HILTON BRYCE ("Wally"), Class of 1975, participated in sports in high school, including football, basketball and track. Following high school graduation, Wally became a commercial general building contractor, spending his entire career in Arlington.

He is responsible for building many projects for the city as well as the Arlington School District and area churches. His company, Coronado Builders, is

a local company and Wally's long and distinguished building career is well-documented in Arlington.

Wally is a member of the AGC builders organization, as well as other national trade groups, and has a long record of community relationships.

He is an active member of Grace Covenant Church in Arlington, and resides with his wife Kim, and two children.

- Nominated by Michael E. (Mickey) Bryce

JEREMIAH

TAYLOR

AHS Alumni Association

JEREMIAH TAYLOR is a proud baseball player who appreciates the structure the game gives him in all his life.

"The expectations for me as a student athlete are high (something my mother instilled in me)," Taylor said in his application. "My time management must be almost perfect. School work, practice, personal time, work; it's a hard path and you must manage all those." Taylor plans to attend Austin College this fall and work towards earning a bachelor's degree in health science. And if the major league baseball goal

doesn't work out, he'll be on track to be a physical therapist.

Taylor's scholarship was given by the Class of '63 in memory of four classmates who died in the

Alumni Association Presents \$2,000

Scholarships To 10 AHS Seniors

can point to a single experience his senior year that exemplified his dreams for the future. At his last homecoming football game, Luck was given the honor of presenting the Texas and U.S. flag for the national

NOAH

LUCK

anthem as part of his JROTC colors presentation team.

"Watching the game with my parents and friends made the experience unforgettable," he said in his application. During his sophomore year, Luck participated in an overnight program with the Texas A&M Corp of Cadets. It hooked him. He

plans to attend A&M with studies in electrical engineering and for comission into the United

States Air Force as a pilot.

Luck's scholarship was given in memory of Capt. William H. Nation, Class of '36, who served during WWII.

TANIA LOVO LUNA

thinks she'd like to see "Dr." added to her name. As in dentist.

While at AHS, she has been working toward her registered dental assistant certification to pave the way for her goal. But like many young people just choosing their path, she also is still considering other roads. "I am thinking of majoring in nursing with a minor in business," she said in her application.

MIKAYLA

schol-

arship

Cathcart

received was

in memory of

her brother.

Charles Iacobs.

Class of

CATHCART

"At first I was thinking about dentistry, but decided I still wanted to help people, just in a different way." She was also a soccer player at AHS. "As a little girl, I always dreamed of coming to Arlington High School," she said. "While driving and passing by, it made me more excited for the high school experience."

Luna has chosen Dallas Baptist University to continue her education.

The Joyce Heffington Preisser, Class of '63 scholarship, was funded by her husband, Al Preisser and her classmates and was presented

MIKAYLA CATHCART has had a front row seat to Arlington pride in her job as student council president. Even after the preparation as a Little Colt camp graduate, she needed a primer for the breadth and width of the pride. She tells the story of working at the Colonial golf tournament at a fundraiser for the volleyball team, wearing an AHS shirt for identification. A man went by singing the fight song.

"There's nothing I love more than the pride the alumni and evenstudents have in their school," she said in her application. Cathcart plans

to attend Texas Christian

University to study sports broadspending casting. much her

> tional years before high school moving around,

After

educa-

FABIOLA CUETO

says Arlington High School given by Marcia Jacobs, Class of '60, gave her much more than an education. "The campus life at Arlington High School has taught me the value of community, the power of perseverance and the importance of believing in oneself," Cueto said in her application. She was yearbook editor, a student council officer and a member of PALs. She plans to study nursing at Dallas Baptist University with a goal of becoming a neonatal intensive care unit nurse.

> Cueto received the Cathy Bontley Brown scholarship, the founder of the AHS Alumni Association







NOAH LUCK

TANIA LOVO LUNA

AHS Alumni Association

Alumni

Scholarship

Chairperson,

Peggy Martin

(above right),

to this year's

Al Preisser,

and David

Keel.

presented the awards

Assisting her on stage

were (left to right)

Debbie Ericson

10 scholarship recipients.



AHS was the school for me." He broadened his school family with his participation in the student council. He plans to attend Kilgore College to play football and study agribusiness or sports management. His end goal is to be a cattle rancher.

The "Spirit of Kindness Award" scholarship was presented to Story, by the Class of '78, in memory of their classmate, Kelly Davis.

MATTHEW

NGUYEN

The Univer-**ALEXANDRA** sity of Vera Cruz RODRIGUEZ will be the next educational stop for ALEXANDRA RODRIGUEZ. a first generation college attendee "AHS is a great place to go to high school because of the sense of community," she stated. "The teachers really care about their students." Rodriguez plans on majoring in Foreign Trade and Customs.

This scholarship was presented to Rodriguez, given by Ella Jo Colliflower McGovern, Class of '66, and her family.

KADE

STORY

MATTHEW NGUYEN chose friendly as a key word in describing Arlington High School. "Everywhere you go people are smiling and being kind to each other," he said in his application. "Teachers especially are always greeting kids and security officers are holding doors for students as they enter the building." Baseball player Nguyen says he grew especially close with his teammates, and will also recall the camaraderie of a lunch table full of freshmen finding their way each day. Nguyen plans to attend Austin College and gear his studies towards student kinesiology or sports management.

In honor of Coach Will Floyd, 2025 Teacher of the Year, Nguyen was presented with this scholarship.

DEYMISELA HERNANADEZ used both sides of her brain at Arlington High School to expand her entire world. She names her two high school focuses as art and debate. "Debate really helped me be a part of something other than myself and meet tons of new people," she said in her application. "Working together with others, navigating decisions and compromising really improved my communication skills. My art teachers . . . gave me a compassionate look to my fellow classmates, and the teachers who teach me every day." Hernanadez would like to work toward a bachelor's in criminology at the University of Texas at Arlington, and maybe open an art studio for her spare time.

Hernanadez was presented this scholarship by an anonymous grandfather who wanted to honor AHS for all this school has done for his children and grandchildren.

ALONDRA BERMEJO found her special niche at Arlington High School in the band, including full orchestra, percussion and spending her last two years as head drum major. "Tradition at AHS is a given no matter where an individual might find their sense of belonging," Bermejo said in her application.

"Tradition builds the culture and preserves the history of the school." Bermejo will be enrolled at John Hopkins University this fall and has medical school in her extended plans.

The Greater Arlington Lions Club presented this scholarship to Bermejo.

DEYMISELA HERNANADEZ



ALONDRA **BERMEJO**

"The Greatest Class Alive, the Senior Class of '75" Celebrates 50 Year Reunion; Rekindles Friendships

by Rickie Windle Association Alumni Reporter

embers of the Arlington High School Class of 1975 gathered in June to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

They joined in three events. The first was an informal event on a Friday evening at J. Gilligan's Bar and Grill with an estimated 125 in attendance. The following Saturday 150 traveled to Esperanza's in Fort Worth for a more formal dinner. A reported less than a dozen more who didn't want to make the trip to Fort Worth stayed in Arlington that night at Candlelight Inn.

Several AHS graduates said they pondered long about attending the events with people they may not have seen in half a century. But they made the big step anyway.

"I tried to talk myself out of going, thinking I would be a wallflower," said Glenda Bone. "But I did go and I am so glad. I got to hug people that I was afraid I may never see again.

"As we all squinted to read name tags, I was able to meet in person people that I

didn't know while at AHS but got to know on (Facebook) over the years through the AHS page and friending them. We laughed, we took pictures, we shared a brief description of our last 50 years. I only wish I could have said goodnight to some that I couldn't find before I left. My husband got to meet friends I talk about all the time. We are only here once. That night warms my heart. I think of it often now."

"I was anxious, and not in a good way, about our upcoming 50th reunion," said Vone Dempsey. "I'd been to all but one of the five and 10 year reunions, but this one would be different, the first without all three of my best high school guy buds who have passed on. It would be the first one where I feared looking my age."

Dempsey said just before the reunion, she saw a post discussing being connected and in the moment.

"That was exactly what my heart wanted too, so I made the choice to do just that, anxious or not," she said.

Dempsey said she brought along her '75 Homecoming mum and other memorabilia to share.

"Being in the moment opened up the whole big celebration to me both Friday and Saturday night," she said. "From my dearest high school friends, classmates I became friends with in recent years, to those I met for the first time, I genuinely enjoyed every conversation and hug."

"I have a strong feeling of continuity in my life and solidarity with my classmates," said Judy Plauche. "We've gone through so many rites of passage together. It only seems proper that we also celebrate 50 years since high school. For a class of people who celebrated doing their own thing, we sure managed to stick together."

"I thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone and I think the atmosphere both nights was electric," said Debbie White Ellis.

She also shared an unidentified paragraph

She also shared an unidentified paragraph that she said sums up why people come to reunions.

"No one really warns you about this part of adulthood. The part where you start to feel homesick, not for a house, but for a moment in time. A version of life that doesn't exist anymore. A place you can't return to and a feeling you didn't know you'd miss so much until it was gone."

(The author of this report was the organizer for one of the events.)



The Long and Winding Road

Random snapshots from the Senior Class of '75 show graduates renewing friendships and exchanging memories during their 50 Year Class Reunions this summer. While many alumni left the Arlington area to go their own way, several remained. Despite the road taken, their paths returned to the area this summer to celebrate the milestone together. Several events, both casual and formal, were held in both Fort Worth and Arlington where alumni gathered with friends to celebrate and share a precious moment in time.





New Members

Welcome to the following new members (through July, 2025):

CLASSES OF 1950-1959

Roger Smith, '59

CLASSES OF 1960-1969

*Johnnie Rodden Nelson, '64; Scott Bowden, '69

CLASSES OF 1970-1979

Garth Rudy, '71; Anita Chester Murtha, '74; *Bryan Bishop, '76; *Charles Rye, '76; *Bryan Kinder, '78

CLASSES OF 1980-1989

*Bonnie Smith Petsche, '81; *Diane Seymour, '84

MEMORIAL MEMBERSHIPS

Memorials support the Scholarship Fund. In addition, the names of the memorialized are placed on our roster with their classes. Go to our website to make a one-time gift of \$35 or more in memory of a deceased Colt.

Arthur Henry Parham, '47,

by David Keal

Paul Faulk and Royce Lawson, '54,

by AHS Class of 1954

James Mills, '58, from

Deborah Gardner, Floreen Henry, Josephine Keeney, Wanda Marshall, Jim & Faye Reeder, Robert & Nancy Tice, *Anonymous (*Trust check with no name given) Mills children, Bob Sherwood

Carol Butler, '59, by Judith Butler Tommy Waldrop, '65, by John &

Rhonda Heiser

DONATIONS – SCHOLARSHIP FUND

David & Marcie Agee, Scholarship

DONATIONS – OPERATING OR UNRESTRICTED

Barbara Bethurum, Unrestricted Bob & Paulette Greene,

Unrestricted Al Preisser, Unrestricted AHS/SHHS Class of 1965, Unrestricted

CLASSES OF 1990-1999

*Jay Hughes, '96; *Jenny Hughes Trotman, '99

CLASSES OF 2000-2009

*Gabriel Rivas, '06

CLASSES OF 2010-2019

*Leah Castillo Rivas, '16

*New Life Member



Milestones

We are no longer listing names of AHS grads who were not members of the Association. Several websites provide obituaries of folks with Arlington ties. The Facebook page: Arlington HS Colts Alumni Memories & Memorials is a great resource. When you know of the passing of a Colt, feel free to pass along to us. If a member of the Association, the name will appear in Milestones.

PASSINGS:

(SINCE 2025 SPRING ISSUE)

CLASSES OF 1940-1949

Jolene Mason Cash, '48, June Wanda Roberson Marshall, '49, May CLASSES OF 1950-1959 James Mills, '58, March

Tom McGrew, '59, March

CLASSES OF 1960-1969

Mack Bagby, '62, May Rocky Johnson, '62, May Wesley Huckabay, '63, April Tommy Waldrop, '65, June

CLASSES OF 1970-1979 Sondra Spracklen, '74, March

CLASSES OF 1980-1989 Carla Andrews, '80, March

2025 Alumni Association Board of Directors

OFFICERS:

President: Chris Hightower, '90 Vice-President: David Keal, '78 Secretary: Mary Poston Gunn, '67 Treasurer: Chris Wade, '79

CHAIRPERSONS:

Membership:

Judy Whitenight Northup, '69 **Assistant:** Kim Counts Cathro, '78

Corresponding Secretary:

Karen Giorgio Logos, '68 **Webmaster:** Mac Martin, '61

Reunions: Jo Colliflower McGovern, '66 **Co-Chair:** Beth Anne McGovern

Woodard, '88

Product Sales:

Kristina De La Rosa Randerson, '99 **NTGD:**

Advisor: Debbie Koehl Ericson, '68 **Assistants:** Mike and Nicky Austin,

Special Events: Erin Hawkes Chaney,

'64

Distinguished Colts: Jerrell Womble,

Assistant: Karen Cherry Cox, '76 **Publications:** Patti Schimpf, '74 **Reporter:** Rickie Windle, '75

Scholarship: Peggy Wood Martin, '66 July 4th Parade: Kathy Einhaus, '68

Alumni Band:

Tanya Terrell-Weidemann, '81

Colt Volunteer Corral:

Michelle Barlen, CBC

Members-at-large: Mike Enger, '74;

Campus Liaison:

Natasha Newsome, CBC



AHS Alumni Association









Alumni Associations Display Green and White in Annual Arlington July 4th Parade

vercast skies which kept temperatures lower and a chance of rain couldn't keep AHS



Alumni from participating in the annual downtown Arlington July 4th Parade.

The Arlington High Alumni Band led the contengency down the streets playing the Alma Mater, followed by the Fight Song, as many in the crowd participated by joining in singing and showing their "Kick 'Em" Colts sign.













