



ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni Association

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

** Celebrating 30 Years of Giving Back **



Volume 30 Issue 2

Fall 2026

Alumni Preparing for Open House/Pep Rally

What are some of your most vivid memories from your high school years – friends, teachers, sports?

Whatever stands out in your mind, come join other AHS Alumni and reflect on your high school days the weekend of Sept. 11-12. The festivities will begin at 2 p.m. Friday with the Homecoming Pep Rally, followed by a reception for all alumni. The Homecoming football game will be held later that night at 7 p.m. at UTA's Maverick Stadium, where the Colts will face off against the Red Oak Hawks.

The following morning, the AHS Alumni Association will host the annual Alumni Open House. This year's event will take place from

10 a.m. - noon, Saturday, Sept. 12 in the AHS cafeteria. Light snacks will be available before the program where this year's Distinguished Colt Alumni awards will be presented.

DCA Committee Names This Year's Honorees

Each year the Arlington High School Alumni Association honors graduates who have exemplified the traits of spirit, dedication and accomplishment with Distinguished Colt Alumni awards.

The 2026 DCA honorees are Dr. Philip John Mycoskie, Danny Armstrong and members of the Gunn family including Mary Poston Gunn, Bill Gunn, Susan Gunn and Diane Gunn Keoun.

Nominations are made through the Association's Web page by anyone who knows someone they believe is qualified. An Association committee then reviews those for fulfilling the criteria and recommends a

slate to the Board of Directors. That Board then votes on the winners.

The honored graduates are noted at the Homecoming Pep Rally and at Open House the Saturday morning following the game.

The list of past honorees includes community leaders from throughout the decades who have at one time called Arlington home. There are notations for deserving people who have passed or are who are still with us. They include politicians, business leaders and men and women who have just given their time and talents to reinforcing the standards instilled during their Colt years.

See bios on this year's DCA's on Page 3.



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!

See related information on Page 8

Sons (and Daughters) of the White and Green Practice to Prepare for Pre-Parade Performances



So, how does the AHS Colts Marching Band, along with the Cheerleaders, Drill Team and others prepare for the heat and endurance needed to participate in the Arlington 4th of July Parade? The answer is simple: by practicing and rehearsing.

But simply practicing and rehearsing can get boring, so with the help of the Band Boosters, an idea of a neighborhood parade was born, with the intention of getting the full, immersive experience of walking and playing in a parade.

"We started being more intentional about doing neighborhood parades in the summer of 2024 as a way to raise funds and generate excitement about the band," Heather Lowe, Parade Stop Coordinator, explained.

"The first year we did two – one in Woodland West and one in the neighborhood surrounding Hill Elementary. Last year, we added Shady Valley," she continued. This year, the band

Continued on Page 5

Veterans Park Paved Trail Named for AHS Alumnus

During a dedication ceremony held in June, the paved trail at Veterans Park was named for lifelong Arlington resident and AHS alumnus, Clete McAlister. McAlister, AHS Class of '65, is an United States Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, who graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington.

As president of the Arlington Veterans Park Foundation, he has been instrumental in shaping Veterans Park into a place of remembrance, education, and community pride. He has also strengthened the partnership between the City of Arlington and UTA through the Memorial to the Fallen and its online database powered by UTA student research.

McAlister also organized the annual Arlington Field of Honor where American flags are displayed to commemorate the September 11 attacks and in retirement continues to give back to various city and civic committees and groups.



FRIENDS OF CLETE AND SUSIE McALISTER gathered at Veterans Park in June for the unveiling of the plaque, named in Clete's honor, at the start of the 1.4 mile trail running through the park.

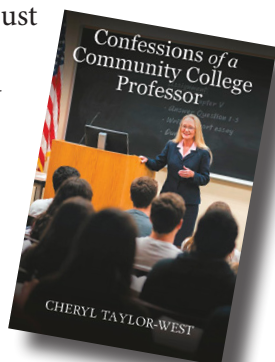
Letters to the Editor

Thank you for publishing before my presentation to the Christian Women's Job Corp in Arlington on March 24. It will be an incredible event.

Just so you know, my second book "Confessions of a Community College Professor" has just been published on Amazon. Yes, Arlington High School is mentioned in the book!

If you would like more information, please call 817-999-3737.

Many thanks,
Ms. Cheryl
(Cheryl Taylor-West)



Reunions

If your graduating year ends in 1 or 6, you may be having a reunion this year! Contact Ella Jo McGovern, at AHSColtsforever@gmail.com, with any information and we'll help spread the word.

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Mark Your Calendar and Make Plans Now to Attend!

Sept. 11
AHS Pep Rally/Alumni Parade/Reception
2 p.m. – Gym A

Sept. 12
Alumni Association Open House
10 a.m.-noon – Cafeteria

CLASS OF 1966

The class of '66 will hold its 60th reunion the weekend of Sept. 11-13, at J. Gilligans and Spring Creek, including Open House on Sept. 12.

CLASS OF 1976

Two organized events for the Class of '76 are being planned as they celebrate their 50th reunion.

On Friday, Sept 11, a casual meet and greet event will take place at The ACTIV Senior Center from 7-10 p.m. Appetizers and drinks are planned and the event will include picture displays from past class and reunion events throughout the 50 years since graduation.

The following day, Saturday, Sept. 12, a BBQ dinner will be held at the St. Jude Event Center, from 4-8 p.m., where dancing and a cash bar are planned, as well as a tribute to those classmates who have passed away, according to Susan Malone, event organizer.

Cost for both events is \$65, due by Aug. 15th. Reservations are recommended, as walk-ins may not be guaranteed due to security at each venue. For questions or more info, call Diane Tejeda at 817-648-9319.

In addition, everyone is welcome to attend the Pep Rally Friday afternoon, the Football game on Friday night and the Alumni Open House on Saturday morning, starting at 10 a.m.

CLASS OF 1981

The Class of '81 will be celebrating their 45th reunion from 7-10 pm, Saturday, Oct. 3 at J. Gilligans in Arlington.

For additional information, contact Andrew Underwood at andrew@ahscolts81reunion.com.

CLASS OF 1986

Saturday, Oct. 17 is the date for the 40th class reunion for the Class of '86. Location to be announced later this month. Stay updated on Facebook: Arlington High School Class of 1986.

CLASS OF 1996

The dates for the reunion for the Class of '96 have been changed. The 30th reunion will be held the weekend of Oct. 16-17. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Bowie Hogg at arlingtonhigh96@gmail.com.

Three 2026 Distinguished Colt Alumni Awards to be Presented during Fall's Annual Open House



Danny Armstrong

Arlington High School is Danny Armstrong's muse. One that has helped him earn a Distinguished Colt Alumni Award.

As a member of the Class of '63, Armstrong saw a different school and city than there is now. Although he's now moved to New Mexico, he has remained active with his class' reunion activities, but he maintains the memories in much more concrete ways – writing.

Armstrong used the young person car culture of that time and place for two books, "Rear View Reflections of Arlington, Tx." and "Car Nuts Puzzle Book."

"Reflections" in particular conjures up a time and place that has long since faded. But is valued by many.

"Such a fun book," said the Web site Goodreads. "Even if you didn't grow up in Arlington, Tx., you will be reminded of what it was like growing up in the '50s and '60s."

Jason Sullivan reviewed the book from the viewpoint of someone who grew up in the area two decades later.

"As Danny alludes, it was undoubtedly a simpler time and the last sliver of innocence before things in America began to get complicated in the 1960s," Sullivan said in a review. "Although it was before my time, perhaps Arlington really was as picture-perfect as Danny remembers it."

Armstrong also pointedly uses his memories for his song "Girls, Boys, Sports and Cars."

*"Arlington High School of our past,
How could we know, those times
wouldn't last?"*

*We were so busy trying to be older,
We took chances to prove we were bolder.*

*Our parents were stuffy and oh so glaring,
It took us time to know they were caring.
We were so young, dreams of a party;
None could consider life after forty.*

*Some went to war, some had kids,
Some went to school and some hit the skids.
Some moved away, others stayed in town,
Some became teachers, others stayed clowns.*

*Girls, boys, sports and cars,
Fads, fashion, songs and wars,
Those were topics long ago,
Before maturity said, "Hello".*

Genetics usually passes along things like eye color. If you've got the Gunn Gene, it might be service.

Arlington High School Distinguished Colt Awards are generally named to someone. But this year called for someones – all named Gunn.

Honored this year in a joint award are Diane Gunn Keoun, Class of '59, Bill Gunn, Class of '66, Mary Poston Gunn, Class of '67 and Susan Gunn, Class of '74.

Gunn is a well-known name in Arlington. It is even etched in concrete on Fielder Road in the name of Gunn Junior High. But that is in honor of Floyd Gunn, a long-time educator in the town.

The family didn't rest on its laurels. Gunns continued contributing to Arlington education for decades.

Diane Gunn Keoun was influenced by the tutelage of respected AHS Choir Director Jane Robin Ellis, including Keoun's



A FAMILY FIRST – The Gunn family is the first family to receive a DCA award. From left to right: Diane Gunn Keoun, Class of '66; Bill Gunn, Class of '66; Mary Poston Gunn, Class of '67; and Susan Gunn, Class of '74.

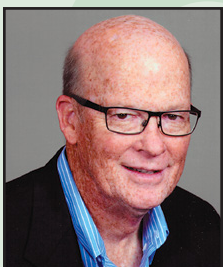
choice to teach in Dallas. She is active in the Philanthropic Education Organization which offers scholarships to young educators.

Bill and Mary Poston Gunn have been

married for 57 years and are described in their nomination as "inseparable." Together, they are both very active in AHS, including class reunions. They have received Lifetime Membership awards from the Gunn Junior High PTA. Bill created a reunion book for his class' 50th reunion and is a published author. Mary has been the secretary of the AHS Alumni Association and recently moved to being the parliamentarian.

Susan Gunn has published 48 books including "Matters of the Heart" on taking care of her parents. She is the founding member of the Arlington Cultural Tourism Council and has served as treasurer of the Arlington Convention and Visitors Bureau executive board.

"While each member of the Gunn family has followed a unique path, they all have a commitment to education and reflect on AHS," their nomination form states.



Dr. Philip John Mycoskie

The depth of Dr. Philip John Mycoskie's involvement in not just his alma mater of Arlington High School, but all of education in the area, left no doubt of his naming as a Distinguished Colt Alumni.

Mycoskie became an Arlingtonite at just 11 months old and spent his entire life in Arlington. His is the 2026 posthumous award as he passed away in 2020.

After graduating from AHS in 1969, he earned a M.A. from SMU in chemistry and went to work on his medical degree at Texas Tech.

He was a renown orthopedic surgeon. He also served as the team doctor for Martin and Lamar high schools. He completed his orthopedic residency at John Peter Smith and Fort Worth affiliated hospitals.

Mycoskie was a founding member of the Arlington Orthopedic Associates and practiced privately for 33 years. He also served as a teacher in the John Peter Smith residency program for 25 years, earning teacher of the year three times.

But service also called to Mycoskie. He had three children in the Arlington School District and felt he should serve on the school board. He spent seven years giving his skills to the board, including the final two as president. He also volunteered as physician for the Open Arms Health Clinic.

Mycoskie was nominated by his son, Chris, who made clear the breadth of his father's impact on everything Arlington.

"His legacy continues with thousands of patients he served and the students he mentored," Chris wrote in his nomination. "He represents the best of Arlington and AHS."

Alumni Celebrate the 4th

There's something about thank you's, for rebuilding, participating in a parade - repainting and decorating this particularly when it's the annual year's float. We couldn't have Arlington July 4th parade - made even more exciting this year as we celebrated the nation's 250th birthday, as well as the city's 150th birthday. The magic of participation in the parade takes planning and teamwork to construct, paint and decorate the finished product.

Several Alumni Association members began weeks ago, prior to the parade, to start this task. In conjunction with AHS woodshop instructor, Chris Grimoldo, the Alumni Association owes many



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ASSOCIATION**
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AHS BAND – Continued from Page 1

provided neighborhood parades on four separate nights, adding an additional stop in the areas surrounding Hill Elementary.

While not being required to wear the dress uniform of the parade, the parades “are fun for our students, and also give students at the feeder elementary schools, like Duff, to get excited about the AHS Band,” Lowe said.

“Our favorite part is the folks that turn the event into a party by inviting friends

and family to come and watch the show. People are so encouraging and make signs of encouragement, dance, and make the kids feel so special. It’s an awesome coming together of the community,” she added.

For the fundraiser aspect, a \$100 donation will book a stop at a particular address. For those donors, the band stops at the house, turns and faces them to play a song just for them - the choice being four songs to choose from including the Fight

Song and Stars and Stripes Forever.

“As someone who volunteers each night, I absolutely love being part of it!” Gara Hill said. “It is a great way for the kids to get the needed practice, but in such a sweet and supportive environment,” she stated. “I know they feel like rock stars when they see big gatherings and signs.”

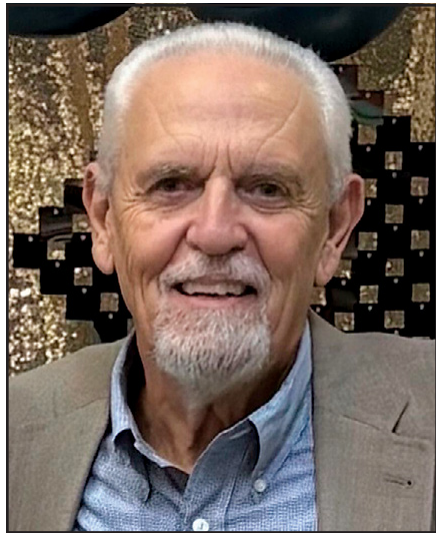
AHS Band Director Nathan Burum agreed, adding “We have so much fun and enjoy playing for the neighborhoods.”



Coach Austin Leaves Legacy at AHS by Being Involved and Leading by Example

By Rickie Windle
Alumni Reporter

There's all kinds of effort to quantify "quality" educators. One of the best indicators may be when a teacher gets tagged with a nickname that has nothing to do with class subject, and everything to do with actions.



Alan "Pops" Austin

That's one reason Arlington High School will be a much different place this year without Alan "Pops" Austin.

Austin passed away last June after almost 35 years as an AHS teacher. He was a history teacher and a football, baseball and track coach. But his impact is most exemplified in the scores of Colts he touched in all those years.

And will keep on touching as his passing has spurred those who knew him to give to his valued Arlington Alumni Association to create scholarships for students.

"Our campus is devastated to lose him," said AHS Principal Stacie Humbles. "The start to this year, while still exciting and full of energy, was left with a hole as we held our first days back with his absence."

Anyone who knew Austin understood his blood ran green and white. He spent seven years teaching at Gunn Junior High, but AHS was his destiny.

He was about as Arlington as you can get. A graduate of South Davis Elementary, Ousley Junior High and AHS, he was the cornerstone of what became three generations of Colts. So far.

Austin's obituary noted the almost indescribable skill he had with students. "His superpower was his ability to see something in others that they cannot see in themselves. He had the unique ability to hold you to the highest standard while showing you he believed in you. Known for picking up 'strays,' he invested in those who were 'missing something' in their lives."

Nicky Austin was his daughter in law. But she first knew Pops as a coach at Gunn. She says in the tributes her family saw after his passing, was one from a former student who apologized for intruding, but said she had to give credit to the man. She said she was just an ordinary student who Pops decided would not fail.

"I don't think I would have graduated high school without him," Austin said the former student told her.

He transitioned from Coach to Pops when his grandchildren and their peers became his students at AHS. Over their childhoods, they'd always known the man as Pops. Despite parental notations they needed to respect him as a teacher now, the affectionate nickname just wouldn't fade.

"I wanted to be sure to honor him in a way that truly shows his legacy at Arlington High School, and saw that Alan's family had asked for donations to the Alumni Association in his honor," Principal Stacey Humbles said.

It soon spread throughout the high school.

"We never intended that to spill over into the halls," Nicky Austin said. But it fit as Pops continued teaching into his 70s. "As long as he felt relevant and could connect with the kids, he got so much more out of them."

His obituary said it also let him spread his Colt Love.

"As third generation Arlington Colts, he taught them the love of his school, how to lead by example, the significance of being involved and encouraged them to rally their classmates with contagious energy for the betterment of the entire school."

Plaques and awards to Pops were numerous. He holds an AHS Distinguished Alumni award, and has been recognized as Teacher of the Year at AHS, Kiwanis Teacher of the Year for AISD, PTA Life Member Award and 40 Years of Service for AISD.

He may not be physically in the AHS halls this year, but a campaign is underway to keep him noted for years to come.

"I wanted to be sure to honor him in a way that truly shows his legacy at Arlington High School, and saw that Alan's family had asked for donations to the Alumni Association in his honor," Humbles said.

Her answer was the Legacy Wall at the school that premieres this semester.

"We would like to make a plate for our newly installed Legacy Wall for anyone who donates in his name to the Alumni Association. Plates on the wall are sold at \$200 so we ask donors to consider that when sending in a donation. We'll make a plate with their name and a line that says 'In honor of Alan Austin.'"

To date, there have been 11 donations made in honor of Alan Austin on the AHS Alumni Association's page on the North Texas Giving Day's website.



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 2026 SPRING ISSUE)

CLASSES OF 1960-1969

Sharon Stultts Coleman, '67, May
Vern Hargrave, '68, June
Alan Austin, '69, June

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.

W.O. Workman, Jr, '46,
by Jannette Workman
JoAnn Jobe Hester, '54, by
Class of '54
Willie Boyd Randall, '54, by
Class of '54
Walter Osborne, '65, by
Cathy Bontley Brown

CORRECTION - In a previous Newsletter we incorrectly stated the Class year for the Memorial given by David Keal in honor of Arthur Henry Parham. Parham graduated in the Class of '62. We apologize for this error.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members (through July, 2026):

CLASSES OF 1960-1969

Janice McLellan Osborne, '65

CLASSES OF 1970-1979

*Joe Rudd, '78

CLASSES OF 1980-1989

*Anita Lyon Querry, '81; KimberlyMae Bottenfield Stewart, '87

CLASSES OF 2020-2029

Coleman Cravens, '26

*New Life Member

2026 Alumni Association Board of Directors

OFFICERS:

President: Chris Hightower, '90
Vice-President: David Keal, '78
Secretary: Meghan Woodard Filiatrault, '15
Treasurer: Chris Wade, '79

CHAIRPERSONS:

Membership: Judy Whitenight Northup, '69
Membership Assistant: Kim Counts Cathro, '78
Parliamentarian: Mary Poston Gunn, '67
Scholarship: Peggy Wood Martin, '66
NTGD: Position Open
NTGD Advisor: Debbie Koehl Ericson, '68
Distinguished Colts: Karen Cherry Cox, '76
Reunions: Jo Colliflower McGovern, '66
Reunions Co-Chair: Beth Anne McGovern Woodard, '88
Publications: Patti Schimpf, '74
Reporter: Rickie Windle, '75
Webmaster: Mac Martin, '61
Product Sales: Kristina De La Rosa Randerson, '99
Special Events: Erin Hawkes Chaney, '64
July 4th Parade: Position Open
Alumni Band: Tanya Terrell-Weidemann, '81
Colt Volunteer Corral: Michelle Barlen, CBC
Corresponding Sec.: Bonnie Beebe Watkins, '62
Members-at-Large: Mike Enger, '74
Campus Liaison: Natasha Newsome, CBC

GIVING BACK IS WHAT WE DO!

SAVE THE DATE – SUPPORT AHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY – SEPTEMBER 17

Join the **Arlington High School Alumni Association** in making a difference on North Texas Giving Day! Your donation helps by providing scholarships, support for student groups and faculty recognition.

COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS
NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY
EARLY DONATING BEGINS AUG. 27th



SCHOLARSHIPS



STUDENT SUPPORT



TEACHER LUNCHEONS



FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS, GIVING BACK TO AHS... IT'S WHAT WE DO!
Join the Alumni Association and get involved today!
For more info, visit www.ahscolts-alumni.org



Your Donation Helps Funds Scholarships and More –

AHS Alumni Association To Participate in Annual North Texas Giving Day, Sept. 17

Beginning Aug. 27 and running through September, the AHS Alumni Association will be partnering with the Communities Foundation of Texas and participating in North Texas Giving Day.

While early giving begins the last week of August and runs through the month of September, Thursday, Sept. 17 is the official



day of giving - an online event for all non-profits in the greater DFW region. This year, the Alumni Association's goal is to raise \$15,000, to be used towards scholarships and AHS faculty and staff projects. This is the seventh consecutive year that the AHS Alumni Association has participated in this event - and more than

ever, we need your help!

Last year, the Alumni Association awarded 11 graduating seniors with a \$2,000 scholarship for their future education. Donations also support student and faculty needs as well as keeps the alumni connected through newsletters and our annual Open House reunion event.

Sponsorship donation categories are also available including Colt Ropers - donations \$500 and above; Arlie's Angels - \$301-\$499; Colt Stars - \$201-\$300; and Colt Kickers - \$150-\$200.

To become a sponsor, contact AHScoltsforever@gmail.com, or call 817-229-7408. More information can be also be found on our website: www.ahscolts-alumni.org.

Other ways to give include mailing a check to AHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 152578, Arlington, TX 76016, or by scanning the QR code below and filling in the online information.

The AHS Alumni Association is a non-profit organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No goods or services are given in exchange for contributions.

Thank you in advance for your support, where even a small donation makes a huge difference! Join us - and let's make a difference together.

JOIN US AT OPEN HOUSE!

AND SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING! SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 - 10 a.m. - noon - AHS CAFETERIA

**Meet This Year's
Distinguished Colt Alumni
Award Winners!**



**Create
New Memories!**



**Reunite
With
Classmates!**



To find out more about the AHS Alumni Association, scan the QR Code and join us in making a difference!



**Celebrating 30 Years of
Making a Difference Together!**
ahscolts-alumni.org