



Issue 1

# AHS Alumni instaNEWS

Arlington High School Alumni Association  
www.ahscolts-alumni.org  
P.O. Box 152578 • Arlington, Texas 76015



June 2024

## Alumni Association To Participate In Annual Event

# July 4th Parade Celebrates Fun, Freedom

If you enjoy the annual Arlington Fourth of July parade and want the opportunity to participate, here's your chance. The Alumni Association will be decorating their float the week before the parade, and those wanting to help can contact Volunteer Coordinator Michelle Barlen at [mbarlen@yahoo.com](mailto:mbarlen@yahoo.com) for specific

information and schedule.

If you plan to line the downtown parade route on July 4th, be sure to flash your Colt horseshoe as the Alumni Association and Alumni Band entries pass by. We love to see those horseshoes lifted high saluting Arlington High School.

You might not hear the parade announcers read this script:

Since it began in 1996, the Arlington High School Alumni Association has given over \$230,000 dollars in support of Arlington High. That support comes as teacher appreciation events, gifts for organizations, groups and teams. Most dollars go to scholarships. The AHS Alumni Association through 2024 has awarded 142 scholarships totaling just under \$180,000.

Hey! Colts in the crowd! Add your Colt spirit to our amazing herd of AHS exes. Find us on the web, Facebook and Instagram. Join the Alumni Association and you will see **HOW SWEET IT IS TO BE BACK IN COLT COUNTRY!!!**



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## Alumni Association Awards Scholarships to Ten AHS Seniors

Ten AHS seniors were each presented with a \$2,000 scholarship, made possible through donations to the Alumni Association, during the Senior Awards program May 16. Presenting the awards were Peggy Martin,

Scholarship Chair, Bonnie Watkins, Association Past President, and Al Preisser, Colt by Choice.

The 2024 AHS Alumni Scholar recipients will be featured in the upcoming fall newsletter.



## President's Letter



### Help Spread the Word!

The AHS Alumni Association has been a stalwart for AHS students for over two decades. From the Class of 2003 through the Class of 2024, our scholarship program has supported 142 students totaling just under \$180,000 for college.

How? Because of the many members who have donated their time, energy and money. We've also helped departments and organizations with much needed support to enrich the lives of thousands of students. (See page 7 for pictures of such donations this year.)

Adding members every year increases our donor base and strengthens our alumni support for today's AHS.

Please let your classmates know about us. Help us grow this organization which does so much for our beloved alma mater.

*Chris Hightower*  
AHS '90

## DCA Selection Committee Reviewing Nominations

Thank you to those who nominated Alumni Colts for the Distinguished Colt Award honors. The committee is reviewing the nominations and will finalize this year's honorees within the next month.



Members of the AHS Colt Football team classes of '70 and '71 were recognized with the 2024 Heritage Award at the annual Tom Vandergriff Night of Champions' Induction Ceremony and Awards program, sponsored by the Arlington Athletics Hall of Honor Foundation.

## AHS Athletes Inducted Into Hall of Honor During Annual Sports Awards Ceremony

"The Tom Vandergriff Night of Champions," sponsored by the Arlington Athletics Hall of Honor Foundation, held its annual induction



Bob Tallon, 1971 Colt football player, signs the team's poster at the reception.

ceremony and awards banquet May 29. Four Arlington High School graduates were honored. This year's AHS Hall of Fame inductees included Charlie Key, Bill Ward, and Julie White-Vaccaro. Curt Culbertson was also inducted in the Arlington Athletic Hall of Honor, which recognizes coaches, teachers and others who have gone above and beyond supporting Arlington athletic programs.

The 1970 and 1971 members of the AHS Colts football teams were also presented with the 2024 Heritage Award. Both teams won their respective District and Bi-District

Championships. Prior to the banquet, a reception was held in their honor.

Quarterback **Charlie Key, '59**, was the team captain for the Colts his senior year and was awarded the Distinguished Colt Award posthumously in 2006.

**Bill Ward, '72**, was an offensive tackle for both the 1970 and 1971 District Championship football teams, and went on to teach at UTA.

Receiving honors in track, softball, and basketball, **Julie White-Vaccaro, '76**, was honored for her achievements during the 1970s.

Hall of Honor inductee, **Curt Culbertson, '78**, played on the AHS baseball team and was later drafted by the Cincinnati Reds, before becoming a baseball coach at both Bowie and Martin High Schools.



Julie White-Vaccaro being congratulated by an AHS classmate.

## Peach Receives Scholarship Athlete of the Year Honors

Our very own Cooper Peach won the 2024 National Football Foundation Gridiron Club of Dallas Scholar Athlete of the Year Award!

He is the first Arlington ISD athlete ever to win this award.

[#KickEm](#) [#FirstHere](#) [#BestHere](#)



Cooper Peach

## Medal of Honor Museum Names Theater for AHS Medal of Honor Recipient

The National Medal of Honor Museum, opening in Arlington in March 2025, announced the naming of the Museum's Theater in honor of Arlington's only Medal of Honor recipient, Colonel Neel E. Kearby, AHS, Class of 1925.

Mayor Jim Ross made the presentation last March, at the downtown location of the Colonel's

statue on the plaza between the Arlington Library and City Hall.

Located adjacent to Globe Life Field in Arlington, the Museum's Theater will showcase the Medal of Honor recipients and their stories of valor and inspiration in the face of impossible odds.

Neel Ernest Kearby was a United States Army Air Forces colonel and P-47 Thunderbolt pilot in World War

II who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in combat.

Kearby is the first United States Army Air Forces fighter pilot to have received the Medal of Honor. He scored 22 aerial victories and was the top-scoring P-47 pilot in the Pacific Theater. Col. Kearby lost his life when his plane named *Fiery Ginger IV*, was shot down March 5, 1944.



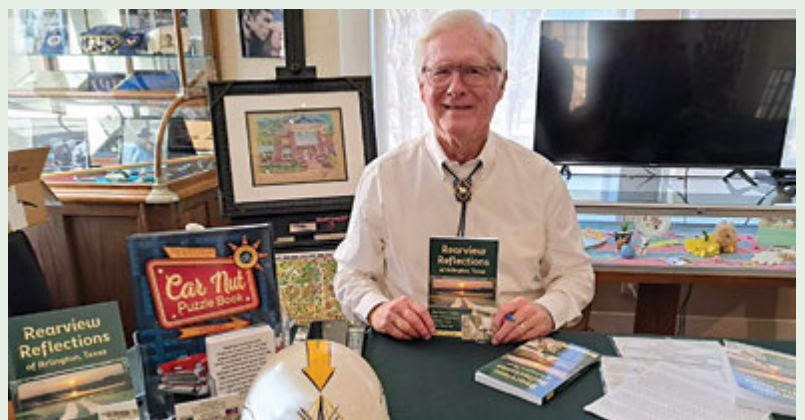
Pictured Above: Mayor Jim Ross announces the Medal of Honor Museum will name the museum's theater in honor of Colonel Kearby. Left: Attending the presentation are **Mac Martin, '61**, and **Paul Swartz, '59**.

### Rearview Reflections Recounts Early Childhood Memories

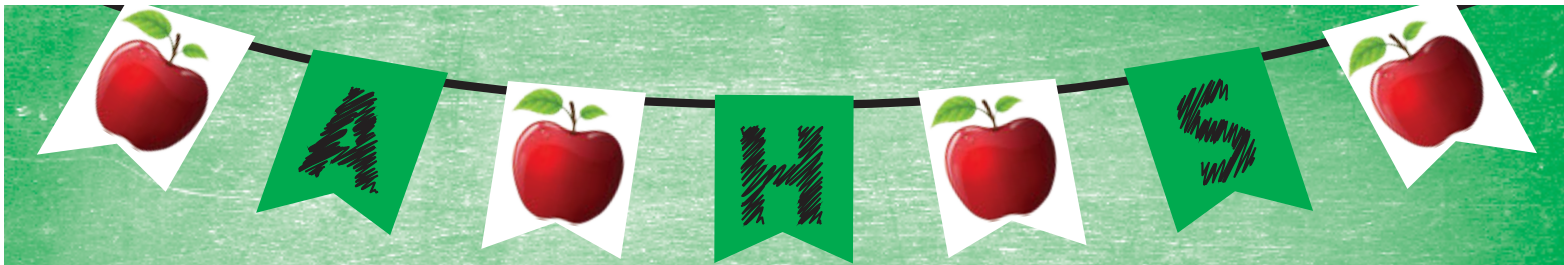
Danny Armstrong, '63, was back visiting his hometown this year with a book signing at the Fielder Museum. The room designed to hold 40 people was crammed with folks interested in hearing from Armstrong and his book about growing up in Arlington.

He already has a date for another signing at the Arlington Woman's Club in March 2025!

Congratulations, Danny!



Danny Armstrong, '63, Author of *Rearview Reflections*.



# TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Over 200 teachers, staff and faculty members were shown appreciation for their efforts at the annual Teacher Luncheon, sponsored by the Alumni Association, on May 9.

Alumni volunteers not only decorated the gym for the teachers, but also expressed their appreciation to them as they were served lunch, catered by J. Gilligan's.

Afterwards, the group was treated to Frios, frozen gourmet pops, and a drawing for gift cards was held.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to make this event a success!





## AHS Receives Back-to-Back “Teacher of the Year” Awards

Jordan Fletcher, Arlington High School 11th grade US history and AP US history teacher, was chosen by the Kiwanis Club to receive the Kiwanis Woodrow Counts Teacher of the Year Award. This is the second consecutive year an AHS teacher has received this honor. Congratulations Jordan!

Jordan’s students work hard to meet her high standards because they know she cares about them as individuals. Her principal and colleagues praise her boundless energy for leading initiatives which affect the entire school.

According to fellow teacher Alan Austin, the 2023 recipient, Jordan embodies the COLTS Family values of Commitment, Ownership, Loyalty, and Toughness.

Her students describe her as inspirational, not only for her innovative teaching techniques and what they learn about US history, but also for what they learn about life.

As student Alyson Robbins puts it, “Jordan Fletcher is more than an amazing teacher, she is an amazing person too.”

AISD Assistant Superintendent Woodrow Counts was President of the local Kiwanis Club in 1962 and was AISD Superintendent from 1979-1985. He suggested teachers in the district be recognized for their

outstanding work and the annual award was renamed in his honor.



Pictured from Left to Right: **Jannette Workman, '54**, Chairman of the teacher selection process, Jordan Fletcher, Arlington High School Award Winner, Karen Granger, Gunn Junior High Award Winner, Allie Sipes, Goodman Elementary Award Winner, and AISD Superintendent Dr. Matt Smith. Photo credit: AISD photographer Robert Spence.

### MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS PAY TRIBUTE TO AHS ALUMNI

Several scholarships given in 2024 memorialize Colts from earlier days. Several from her '63 classmates, family and friends have funded several

In 2021, the Class of 1963 funded scholarships to be given for 10 years in memory of their four classmates who died in Vietnam.

This year Marcia Jacobs funded a scholarship in memory of her brother, Charles Jacobs.

In 2024, donations



Joyce Heffington Preisser

scholarships memorializing Joyce Heffington Preisser.

When a group wants to honor a friend or relative, naming a scholarship for them carries a special significance not only for the honored one’s family, but also for the donors and for a brand new Colt graduate!

### 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 2024 SPRING ISSUE)

#### CLASSES OF 1940-1949

**George Mills, '46**, May

#### CLASSES OF 1950-1959

**Robert P. Martin, '57**, March

**Jerry Whitehead, '57**, December

#### CLASSES OF 1960-1969

**Dorothy Mann Redden, '62**, December

**Andy Chambers, '63**, May

#### CLASSES OF 1970-1979

**David Standish, '70**, January

**Gary Hahn, '74**, 2020

#### CLASSES OF 1990-1999

**Daniel Horner, '95**, March

#### DONATIONS – SCHOLARSHIP FUND

David & Marcie Agee

Barbara Littlepage

#### DONATIONS – GENERAL FUND

Gene & Maudie Lam

Ben George

SINCERE APOLOGIES TO  
JO MCGOVERN WHOSE NAME WAS  
LEFT OFF THE LIST OF NTGD  
DONORS IN THE SPRING 2024  
NEWSLETTER.

#### 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.

**Kelly Davis, '78**, by David Keal  
**Stewart DeVore, '63**, by Cindy Wilson

**Joyce Preisser, '63**, by Carol Haymans, John & Ann Hightower, Jan Miller, Jacque Roll  
**Bill Coble, Patricia Curry Hess, Bill Grenvell, Paul Harris, Preston Jordan – all Class of '54**, by Jannette Workman

*“We truly appreciate the support of the AHS Alumni Association”*

## Alumni Association Provides Donations

**D**uring the last Alumni Association Board of Director meeting, financial assistance was approved for two groups seeking help - the PTA and the Fine Arts Department. The donations were delivered by Peggy and Mac Martin to Stacie Farr, President of the PTA, and to Jamie Pringle, Theater Director, earlier this month.

The funds for the Fine Arts Department were not only used in the recent musical production of “Legally Blonde”, but will also be put

towards future productions, as needed.

The Alumni Association received a sponsorship ad in the musical program, including the Association’s information and logo.

The check for the PTA was used to purchase gifts for students who attended the PTA-sponsored Mardi Gras Madness event, an all-night alternative to provide a safe, healthy place for students to go when prom ends.

“Wow! Thank you so much,” PTA president Stacie Farr said. “This is why THE Arlington High School is the BEST! Thank you for continuously loving and supporting our Colts.”

It’s because of memberships and donations that the Alumni Association is financially able to support the groups when funding is requested.

To become a member of the Alumni Association, see article below, or go to [https://ahscolts-alumni.org/membership\\_form.htm](https://ahscolts-alumni.org/membership_form.htm).



*Pictured above: Peggy Martin, '66, left, along with Mac Martin, '61, right, presented checks to both Jamie Pringle, AHS Theater Director, (above), and to Stacie Farr, AHS PTA President, (below), to help with their respective projects.*



### New Members

**W**elcome to the following new members (March – April 2024):

#### CLASSES OF 1950-1959

\*Virginia Green Dearing, '59

#### CLASSES OF 1970-1979

\*Rebecca Way Threatt, '70; \*Rebecca Dodge, '71†; Doug Engle, '78; Laura Engle, '79

#### CLASSES OF 1980-1989

Steve Morris, '80; \*Kathy Cherry Atkinson, '81; Bonnie Smith Petsche, '81

#### CLASSES OF 1990-1999

Michelle Dearing, '90; \*Roy Hayhurst, '90†; Ricky Brown, '95; \*Kristina De La Rosa Randerson, '99†; Chris Randerson, CBC†

#### CLASSES OF 2000-2009

Hunter Pence, '01; Rachel Holly Kyle, '05

#### CLASSES OF 2010-2019

\*Ryan Warner, '19†

\*New Life Member †Upgraded to Life Member

## Join the Alumni Association Today To Become One of “100 More in '24”

At the start of 2024, the AHS Alumni Association Board Members set a goal of adding 100 new members this year with the slogan, “100 More in '24”. and *WE NEED YOU* to help reach this goal. Check the New Members list of names to the left to see who has already joined, and then invite others.

Follow the links below to see who in your class has joined and who hasn't, and invite your friends whose names are missing from the roster. Feel free to use whatever method to reach them works best for you - social media, email or phone/text.

100 new members this year would boost support for today's Arlington Colts and it's a great way to keep AHS First Here, Best Here!

It's as simple as 1-2-3:

1. Check the current alumni membership roster: <https://www.ahscolts-alumni.org/MEMBERSHIP-ROSTERS/2024/Online%20Roster%20May%2012.2024.pdf>
2. Send your friends a link to the Membership Application: [https://ahscolts-alumni.org/membership\\_form.htm](https://ahscolts-alumni.org/membership_form.htm)
3. Send your friends a link to the Spring Newsletter where they can catch up on the latest information: [https://ahscolts-alumni.org/NEWSLETTER/2024/Spring2024NL\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ahscolts-alumni.org/NEWSLETTER/2024/Spring2024NL_FINAL.pdf)