

A great 55th reunion of the Glenclyff Class of 1967 was held June 3-5, 2022, at Montgomery Bell State Park.

Friday, June 3, 2022

The Glenclyff High School Class of 1967 Reunion opened with many leaving the lobby to gather in the infamous Hospitality Room on Friday afternoon where we were better able to talk, share memories, complain about ills and operations, and brag on grandkids. Because there wasn't a group using the Ballroom Friday night, we were able to load our gear in the Ballroom in anticipation for the big day.

25-30 of us headed to Catfish Kitchen for dinner. As typical, the wait was long for food, but we didn't really notice as the fellowship continued. Afterwards, we headed back to the Inn with Wayne Peyton's phone, which had been left at the restaurant. Because Wayne and Mary returned home after dinner, Wayne and phone were not reunited until Saturday afternoon.

Back in the Hospitality Room, Terry Davenport returned to provide his infamous Bloody Mary's. Everyone remembered them from the 50th and Terry didn't fail one bit.

The talk and merriment continued late into the night. Maybe the highlight and best indication of the state of 70+ year old classmates and friends was Gayle Graham Neff's long story about her best friend in high school and all they had done. IF only she could remember her name. Not telling who it was.

Many enjoyed the slideshow loop running on the television showing pictures of our Glenclyff experiences, class pictures from 7th through 12 grade and memorials to the 55 classmates that have passed since we left in 1967. The Memorial Board and book were especially popular as we shared memories of lost classmates.

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Up to watch Frank and Robert (Sylvia's husband) head out for some fishing. A relaxing day as we enjoyed the brunch, mingled, and got the Ballroom prepared for the evening.

Sylvia Lee Wolverton did a remarkable job on the Memorabilia Tables. Debbie Haggard Oakley and her team outdid themselves with the themed table decorations. We must recognize the great job they did.

To give credit:

- **Sandra Watson Luther decorated the Boomerang band table and made the GHS picture frame prop.**
- **Gayle Graham Neff did a table of travel/retirement items, and also a nature/bird house table.**
- **Pam Hartman Shepherd did two tables of coastal/seashells.**
- **Jane Hartley Champion did a table related to Home Economics/sewing (it included her actual dress made in Mrs. Rucker's class) and recipes that were tested in our classes. She also provided a large brass colt on her second table, complete with a red and blue horseshoe shaped floral arrangement around its neck.**
- **Debbie Haggard Oakley did a table with a glass lantern, with red garland and mini lights inside with pipe cleaners 67 scattered on table. She also did a homecoming table with a replica of football field, a nerf football/goalposts/and homecoming corsage of a spider mum with G in red pipe cleaner in center of it, with the scores of the Brownsville/Glenclyff game. Debbie also made the spider mum corsages for each GHS girl to wear when receiving her name tag.**
- **Debbie and Wendell Oakley got the column of red/white/blue balloons along with the lighted marquee numbers 67 used for photos, as well as props from our 50th Reunion. The balloons were tied to various colored horseshoes and placed on each table.**
- **Jack Smith helped get balloons filled with helium, Sharon Ellis Follis, Jane Hartley Champion, Cindy Epps Farringer, Sandra Watson Luther all helped set up.**
- **Wendell Oakley did all Debbie's heavy lifting for loading, etc.**

Once the Ballroom was fully decorated and ready, we retreated to the Hospitality Room to rest up while Elaine Hill Melby and her husband went hiking through the park. However, the day was interrupted several times as classmates had to run to the liquor store in White Bluff to keep Terry supplied with Vodka.

Dan Haynes made his entrance on his Harley having ridden in with his son from California. Just like a postman, neither rain or sleet, or hail, or snow or dark of night prevented Dan from arriving in 3 (yes 3) days on that reliable Harley from Orange County.

Finally, it was time for the evening festivities. There a few that registered for the reunion but were not able to make it at the last moment. Still, we had a large and fun crowd including Cindy Epps Farringer; Rick & Linda Hart Bernhardt; Terry Davenport; Dan Haynes; David & Elaine Hill Melby; Wendell & Debbie Haggard Oakley; Gary & Sandra Watson Luther; Mike & Helen Kelley; Gary & Shirley Mingle Tucker; Mike & Kathy Lee Vaughn; Ken & Sandy Marshall; Mike & Kathy Spaulding Conatser; Steve & Pam Hartman Shepherd; Jane Hartley Champion; Sharon Ellis Follis; Suzanne Lane Burtchaell; Martha Hoskins & John Parker; Robert & Sylvia Lee Wolverton; Frank & Dorothy Gee; Warren & Lois Johnstone; Fred & Gayle Graham Neff; Jody Bailey; Charles Smith; Johnny Poole; Donna Brown Buttrey; Tim & Claudia Carter Hargrove; Wayne & Mary Carpenter Peyton; Dianne Mangrum McDerman; Randy & Sandy Ventress; Brenda Hadden Evans; Jackie Hadden; Amanda Maner (Brenda Hadden's daughter); Jack Smith; Tom & Dell Francescon; Linda Borgman York; Wayne & June Hester; Al Merritt; and Ron Batts.

A fun and enjoyable evening was had enjoying dinner (even if they forgot the salad and rolls), talking, joking, taking pictures, looking at the decorations and memorabilia and remembering those that are now on the class Memorial Board. As Boomerang kicked in for 2 hours, the problems of the time melted away and we enjoyed dancing and just listening to that great Rock 'n Roll music of the 60's.

Once we had the Ballroom broken down, we returned to the Hospitality Room and talked until after midnight many wishing we had even more time and also wishing that other classmates and friends had chosen or been able to attend.

It hurt to later discover that Roger Harwell decided at the last minute to try and attend and after driving >6 hours in total, he couldn't find the Inn.

Sunday, June 6, 2022

Things wrapped up quickly Sunday morning with Breakfast brunch, loading up cars and hugs and goodbyes. Not really goodbyes but more of 'until next time'.

Why attend a reunion?

There is something unique about a reunion. Personally, I spent the most important 12 years of my formative life with many of those at our 55th Reunion. In my case we were together for 6 years at Glenview Elementary and 6 years at Glencliff High School. After Glencliff, some of those people drifted away, some I have kept in touch with, and some remain close. Whenever I see someone from Glenview or Glencliff when I attended, I rediscover that each and every one is a friend that has shaped my life and made me the person that I am today. While there have been good days and bad days, good people and bad people, ups and downs, we are a group that has been shaped at least as much by each other as the influence provided by our families. I have discovered that one is typically defined by the context you're in. You are defined by your education, your job or profession, your religious beliefs, your family, and even other parameters. At a reunion, you are simply remembered as that snotty nosed kid in Mrs. Whittemore's 1st Grade class at Glenview Elementary by those that were struggling on the same path as you. Nothing more and nothing less and that is fine. That is me and I own it. I hope that I never lose that feeling of the importance of life-long friends and the desire to remember and stay in touch with my roots.

Rickey Bernhardt
Glencliff High School
Class of 1967