



Mavis Fodness photo/1012 HOF 2023

Hall of Fame inductee Jerilyn Britz talks about her time walking the halls of Luverne High School and how she began playing golf around the time she graduated in 1961. Behind her are (from left) Greg Thone, John Beyer, Richard Iverson, Curt Laudon, Julie Herrmann, Kathy Hamann, Christy Reisch, Jane McKay, Janet Jessen (hidden), Jerry Aanenson, Dave Smith, Jeannine Rivet, Warren Herreid II, Betty Mann and Monti Ossenfort.

LHS inducts first class of Alumni Hall of Fame and dedicates Luverne Alumni Garden

By Mavis Fodness

Cold and blustery conditions prompted the dedication of the Luverne Alumni Garden and induction of the inaugural Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame class to be moved indoors Friday afternoon, Oct 6.

Sixteen inductees were honored in the school's performing arts center. They included the 1964 basketball

team, Quentin Aanenson, Jim Brandenburg, Jerilyn Britz, Warren G. Herreid Sr., Betty Mann and Monti Ossenfort.

Mike DeBates, current school board member and Hall of Fame Committee representative, opened the ceremony.

"The committee had many deserving nominees and had a hard time coming up with these

candidates," he said. "But I think we came up with an excellent class for the inaugural Hall of Fame class."

Other Hall of Fame Committee members were Jason Berghorst, Jeanne Bowron, Emily Crabtree, Elmer Menage, Gary Papik, Jane Lanphere and Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

Oftedahl, also the

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Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Sept. 30, 2023, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$52,428.25. In the memorial section below, the individual being memorialized is printed in bold print, followed by the individual or individuals who made the gift. Contributions given by graduates and friends follow the list of memorials. THANK YOU, READERS!

NOTE:

If you have recently made a contribution to the Alumni News and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know. Chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled. Please watch for the next issue, January 2024, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:
Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Financial summary

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Donations: \$52,428.25

Expenses:

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9/30/23: \$48,844.03

Memorials

Howard Fitzer '39

Kendal Fitzer '71

Joycelyn (Lemke) Abraham '50

Tammy Krogmann '76

James Hoiland '53

Delores (Madison) Walters '58

Gary '69 &

Janine (Jordahl) '69 Papik

Virgil Madison '54

Audrey (DeYong) Watzek '54

Carol (Halverson) Schaal '54

Dorothy (Woolsey) Goeske '54

Carol (Halverson) Schaal '54

Henry Wulf '54

Carol (Halverson) Schaal '54

Dale Stoterau '56

Merlyn Groth '58

Eugene Ruddy '56

Class of 1956

Judy (Barrett) Hughes '56

Class of 1956

Russell Pederson '56

Larry Engel '56

Victoria (Oltmans) Groenewold '56

Class of 1956

Ken Bjerk '58

Merlyn Groth '58

Anita (Wiese) Boyenga '60

Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

Wayne Aukes '61

Marvin Dreessen '60

Robert Anderson '64

Bruce 'Buzz' Anderson '66

Gordon '65 &

Joycelyn (Aanenson) '65 Hansen

Janice (Anderson) Thies '57

Judith (Anderson) Johnson '53

Orrin Anderson '58

Sue (Toms) LeSage '73

Dawn Maxwell '73

Scott Ehde '87

Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

Whitey Russman - Teacher

Valerie (Russman) Pap '79

Contributions

Alice (Ossenfort) Hansen '65

Class of 1958

Class of 1968

Jim Sanden - Teacher

Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Karen (Anderson) Aamot '61

Ronda (Gacke) Gacke-Bonar '79

Sandy (Haakenson) Parpart '68

Thank you for your support

There are expenses incurred with printing, mailing and database support, and these costs are paid for with generous contributions from our alumni and readers.



Luverne Class of 1958 gathers for reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1958 gathered for a 65th reunion Sept. 30 at Big Top Tents in Luverne. Pictured are (front, from left) Dennis Jorgensen, Lavonne (Padilla) Reiner, Marlys (Top) Baxter, Mary (Smit) Donth, Ardyth (Hansen) Bowen, Lora Lee (Schmidt) Ruthenbeck, Orrin Anderson, Wes Pierson, (back) Merlyn Groth, Judy (Schmuck) Hagen, Wanda (LaFrenz) Kafka, Donna (Kallsen) Connell, Rosalind (Beelmann) Kerns, Pat (DeBates) Ahrendt, Delores (Madison) Walters, Judy (Goembel) Larson and Roy Moeller.

LHS Class of 1988 gathers for reunion

Luverne High School Class of 1988 gathered for a 35th class reunion Sept. 29, in the Take 16 event room. Pictured are, front from left, Chad McClure, Scott Mensen, Greg Hoogeveen, Kim (Hoff) VanderLugt, Wendy (Willson) Jayaraman, Brian Hamann, (back) Mandel Zwaan, Amy (Dispanet) VerSteege, Gina (Jarchow) Newman, David Beimers, Jody Reisch, Sharla (Van Meeteren) Reisch, Scott Bowman, Brian Hoime, Eric Berg, Tanya Wenzel, Missy (Wynia) Verbrugge and Julie (Pick) Becker.



Remembering our classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1940 – 1949

Esther B. (Carstens)

Evans '44 died May 26, 2023, in New London, MN. Esther was united in marriage to Raymond Stein, and they made their home in Southwest Minnesota until Raymond's death. In 1972, Esther married Basel Evans. They lived in Elkton, SD, and Pipestone before moving to New London in 2000.

Esther is survived by her children: Lowell (Rebecca) Stein, Glen (Cindy) Stein, Bonnie (Lavern) Wendroth, Connie Parsley, Glenda Redenius, and Luann Stein; stepchildren, Richard (Wila) Evans, Susan (Dale) Gimbel and Basel (Deb) Evans; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and one great-great-great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Raymond Stein and Basel Evans and her son, Kenny.

Gertrude (Bosch) Hup

'47 died August 25, 2023, in Hills, MN. "Gert" married Dick Hup on August 24, 1948, in Steen. The couple farmed in the Beaver Creek and Steen area, later retiring to Hills, where Gert continued her career at the Tuff Memorial Home. She worked as a nursing assistant until her retirement in September 2004. After Dick died, Gert became a resident of the Tuff Home in March of 2023.

Gert is survived by five sons: Darrell (Jean) of Pleasantville, IA, Richard (Bernita) of Litchfield, Stanley

(Sharon) of Nisswa, Ronald (Cheryl) of Hills, and Jerry (Joann) of Pipestone; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; brother-in-law John Hup of Luverne; and many other family members.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dick; three infant brothers and one infant sister; brother Dries Bosch and his wife, **Laura Mae '46**; brother Cornie Bosch and his wife, **Darlene '49**; sister Betty and her husband, Edward Boeve; sister-in-law Alvina Hup; and a granddaughter, Michelle Hup.

1950 – 1959

John Fritz '50

passed away in Cannon Falls on November 2, 2019. John enlisted in the US Navy where he became an aerial photographer.

He was united in marriage to **Viola '50** Van Voorst on July 11, 1954. They resided in Cannon Falls after John received his B.A. from Mankato State Teacher's College. He taught science, math and started the photography department at Cannon Falls where he remained for 29 years. John was also a Track and Cross-Country coach.

John is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Viola**; sons Kevin (Julie) of Garrison, and James (Sheri) of Cannon Falls; 4 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; brothers Roger (Bonnie) Sarver and Russell

(Sue) Sarver; sisters Phyllis (Kurt) Peters, Lori (Bob) Meyers, and Myra Vaughn.

Audrey (DeYong)

Watzek '54 died July 31, 2023, in Sioux Falls, SD. Audrey was united in marriage to Leo Watzek on June 20, 1959. She stayed home to raise her family before becoming the manager at Hickory Farms for 3 years. Leo and Audrey then purchased the Cookie Jar and ran it for 11 years before retiring in 1996.

Audrey is survived by her children Lori (Kerwin Burton) Donahue of Gillette, WY, Kurt (Lynda Mae) Watzek of Phoenix, AZ, Lisa (Mark) Levenson of Shakopee, and Lynn (Gary) Robinson of Sioux Falls; brother **Verle '62** DeYong of Rapid City, SD; sister-in-law Jan DeYong of Anchorage, AK; 8 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and a host of family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband Leo, brother **Arlen '67** DeYong, 3 infant siblings and grandson Jeremy Vrooman.

Charles (Charlie)

Kadinger '57 of Goldendale, WA, died at his home on November 21, 2021. Charlie was a Navy Veteran and a retired painting contractor.

Charlie is survived by his children: Jeff, Jesse (Yvonne), Jackie (Scott) Stout, Cathie (Pete) Hobson, Casey (John) Conserriere; 11 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren.

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 5

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He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce; brothers **Jim '53, Frank '50, Bob;** and sisters, Ruth, Helen, and Betty.

Leland J. VanTol '69 of Ripon, CA, passed away on November 5, 2020. Lee moved to Ripon in 1960 with his family. He worked for various farm equipment companies and retired from Art Weststeyn Farms.

Lee is survived by his sister, Fonda and her husband Karel, his brother, Jon and his wife, Linda, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Gary.

1960 – 1969

Kathleen Kay (Anderson) Johnson '60 of Roseville, died October 29, 2022. Kay attended St. Olaf College where she majored in music education and met her future husband.

Jim Johnson and Kay were married in April 1965, and they began their teaching careers in Madelia and then St. James. In 1976, they moved to Roseville.

Kay had a long career as a music teacher in the public school, in her private studio, and as a Church Music Coordinator/Director. In retirement, Kay and Jim enjoyed their cabin in northern Minnesota.

She also continued to volunteer and was active on boards and committees in the American Parkinson's Disease Association. A diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in May of 2002 fueled her determination to live a full life.

Kay is survived by her husband, James; children, Stacy (Brian) Tri, of Woodbury, Siri (Tyler) Peterson of Roseville, Trevor (Taelor) Johnson of Little Canada; 5 grandchildren; sisters, **Karen '61** (Mark) Aamot and Carol Ellerbusch; brother-in-law Dave Asleson, and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by an infant son; her sister Donna Asleson; brother Paul Anderson and brother-in-law Steve Ellerbusch.

Carla (Quanbeck) Walgren '60 of Plymouth, MN, died on April 11, 2023, ending her battle with Alzheimer's.

Carla is survived by son, Marc (Kathy); two grandsons; and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael, and brother, Russell Quanbeck Jr.

Wayne Aukes '61 died September 12, 2023. He joined the Air Guard for 6 years and worked on the family farm. Later, he moved to an acreage near Luverne where he farmed and trucked for many years.

Wayne is survived by siblings **Paul '59, Gary '65,** Eileen, 3 nieces and 1 nephew.

Edward Kraayenhof '63 died July 15, 2023. (No obituary provided)

Darrell Lane Ruddy '63 of Luverne, died September 27, 2023. Darrell served his country as a lifetime member of the United States Air Force, marrying Virginia Ruddy on November 26, 1971. The couple lived in various cities in Texas, Georgia, New York, and England. Lane retired from the military and moved to Luverne in 1985. He later became a truck driver.

Lane is survived by his children, Don (Roelita) Ruddy, Sioux Falls, and Lori Horsfall, Ellsworth; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two brothers, **Bob '67** (Gloria) and **Dave '68** (Rose) Ruddy, Luverne.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia; son, Brent Ross; sisters **Mavis '46** Wahlert, **Corrine '47** Nath, Delores Kasemodel, **Patricia '55** Miller, **Marilyn '62** Palmer, **Judy '52** Craig, and Theresa Ruddy; brothers **Bud '58, Michael '52, Gene '56, Donald '60, John '65, Jim '59** and Dale Ruddy.

Ellen (Aanenson) Smit '64 died on September 25, 2023, in Roseville, MN. At the age of 18 Ellen began her career at Plymouth Christian Youth Center in Minneapolis, from where she ultimately retired.

Ellen is survived by two sons, Paul (Heather) and David (Carla); seven granddaughters; brothers Gregory (Laura) and Mark (Gloria), and ex-husband **Virgil '62**. She was preceded in death by her brother, Gary.

Robert Anderson '64 of Tracy, MN, died August 24, 2023, at his home. Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army on December 7, 1965. On September 9, 1967, he married Rose Mary Bauman in Jasper. After being honorably

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 6

Luverne Dollars for Scholars ... Did you know?

How do students apply for, qualify for scholarships?

Scholarship application season is upon us once again! The Luverne High School Class of 2024 is busy working on their scholarship applications. They will be evaluated on the following criteria: academic performance, scholastic aptitude, work experience, school activity and community involvement.

Students are also required to write an essay describing their future aspirations as well as seek a recommendation from someone, whether a teacher or an adult who has worked with the student.

These applications are due each year around February 15. All applications are submitted through an online student profile application located on the Luverne Dollars for Scholars website.

Once all of the information is compiled, the selection process begins. Each application is assigned a number. The Luverne High School counselor verifies each student's class rank, GPA and ACT scores. Only the application number, not the applicant name, is seen throughout the

rest of the scoring. Each essay is read and scored by a group of DFS board members. References, work experience, school activity and community involvement are cross checked against the computerized score assigned each applicant. Not all applicants receive a scholarship. Applications who do not reach the minimum score do not qualify for a scholarship award. None of the scholarships are based on financial need.

Good luck to the Class of 2024! We look forward to awarding your hard work over the past four years.

If you would like to contribute to Luverne Dollars for Scholars, or receive more information, please write:

Luverne Dollars for Scholars
PO Box 822
Luverne, MN 56156

Email: luvernedfs@gmail.com
Call: 507-227-4030 (Johnna Ahrendt)
Or visit: www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org

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discharged, he was a patrolman on the Luverne Police Department and then became a Deputy Sheriff at McCook County, SD. Bob later began a full-time position with the Minnesota Army National Guard in Tracy, eventually completing 32 years of service to his country and receiving many commendations. After retirement, he delivered fire trucks coast to coast.

Bob is survived by his wife Rose Mary; children: Michael (Mindy) of Hutchinson, Angela (Stephen) Budd of Roseville; 5 grandchildren; siblings: **Judy '53** Johnson of Eugene, OR, Jan (Al) Theis of Red Wing, **Orrin '58** (Karen) Anderson of Sioux Falls, and **Bruce '66** (Linda) Anderson of Eagan; and brother-in-law Dennis Lorenz of Coeur d'Alene, ID.

He was preceded in death by his sister **Joan '55** Lorenz and brother-in-law Lyan Johnson.

1970 – 1979

Larry Reverts '74 died at his Luverne home on September 24, 2023. Larry worked on the family farm after graduation. He spent the next 38 years trucking, raising his family, and hobby farming. He never retired from trucking.

Larry is survived by his children, **Traci '94** (Tim Hieronimus) Gyberg of Adrian, **Terri '95** Baker of Luverne, Ben (**Misty '98**) Reverts of Elk Horn, NE, and Cody (Karissa) Reverts of Adrian; 17 grandchildren; son-in-law **Mike '92** Stroh; and siblings, **Kenneth '76** (Jodi) Reverts of Luverne, **Dale '78** (**Cindy '79**) Reverts of Luverne, and **Kathy '84** (Dave) Schoen of Prescott, WI.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Tanya Stroh and brother, Verlyn Reverts.



Warren Herreid and his wife, Jeannine Rivet funded the Luverne Alumni Garden as a gift to the school and to the community through the school's Luverne Education Legacy Foundation.

LHS Alumni celebration/continued from page 1

committee's chairman, formally accepted the gift of the school's Alumni Garden.

Under the school entrance canopy is the Hall of Fame wall, where the first seven inductees' names are engraved. Oftedahl then dedicated the garden to the people of Luverne.

Warren Herreid II and his wife, Jeannine Rivet, donated the \$2.1 million garden and digital sign along Highway 75 to the district. Both items were projects suggested by the Luverne Education Legacy Foundation.

"Warren and Jeannine had a vision of what this space could look like, and if you haven't seen it, what a vision it is," Oftedahl said.

Rivet and Herreid were presented a crystal vase with the engraved words, "In recognition of Warren Herreid II and Jeannine Rivet for the donation of the Alumni Garden and digital sign. Oct. 6, 2023"



Mavis Fodness photo/1012 HOF 2023

Jeannine Rivet (left) reveals the names of the inaugural Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame class with her husband, Warren Herreid.

Oftedahl, as master of ceremonies for the event, announced each Hall of Fame inductee and introduced the nominee and/or the person's representative.

ALUMNI CELEBRATION/SEE PAGE 8



Photo, Courtesy of St. Paul Dispatch-Pioneer Press

Luverne.

In front, left to right, are Bill Toms, Tom Kozney, John Beyer. Middle row, same order: Milo Herrmann, Scott Creeger, Gregg Thone, Bryan Wells, Curt Laudon and Chuck Lippi. In back, left to right, are Bob Lorenzen, assistant coach, Richard Iverson, Rodger McKay, Del Jessen, Coach Ray Merry and Larry Stoterau, manager.

The Luverne High School 1964 state championship basketball team brought statewide fame to Luverne during an era when there was only one class of competition in the state.

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The **1964 state champion basketball team** consisted of players Bill Toms, Greg Thone, Del Jessen, John Beyer, Tom Kozney, Richard Iverson, Brian Wells, Roger McKay, Curt Laudon, Scott Creeger, Milo Herrmann, Chuck Lippi and manager Larry Stoterau.

A two-minute video of the team's victory at Williams Arena in 1964 and subsequent homecoming in the Luverne High School gym was shown.

Attending Friday's event in person were players Greg Thone, John Beyer, Richard Iverson and Curt Laudon. Julie Herrmann represented her late brother while Jane McKay and Janet Jessen represented their late husbands, and Kathy Hamann and Christy Reisch represented their uncle, Bill Toms.

Hamann read a statement from Toms, who

couldn't attend the ceremony.

"I feel unbelievably fortunate to have been a member of the '64 team and so proud of our coaches, my teammates, our cheerleaders and the student bodies that cheered us on, also the band," Hamann read.

"And a special acknowledgement to all the Luverne fans who supported us through both winning and losing, the celebrations we encountered on our way home that gave us a new realization of what this championship really meant to our community. I forever will be grateful and proud to be a Luverne Cardinal."

Six individuals were inducted into the Hall of Fame. These included the late **Quentin Aanenson** (represented by son, Jerry Aanenson),

ALUMNI CELEBRATION/SEE PAGE 9

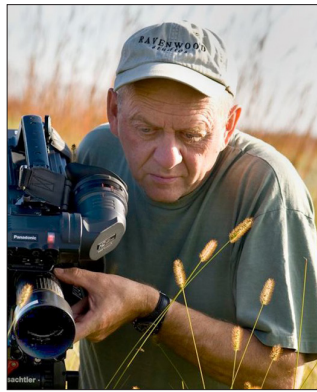


Warren Herreid, Sr., (above) had a distinguished 41-year career with the Minnesota National Guard.

Jerilyn Britz (at right) won the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour in 1979



Betty (Soutar) Mann (above) is the force and inspiration behind the celebration, preservation and education of the history of Rock County for generations.



Quentin Aanenson (left) Aanenson was a celebrated World War II fighter pilot and Jim Brandenburg is an internationally known nature photographer.

Monti Ossenfort (right) was a stand-out quarterback for LHS and for the University of Minnesota, Morris. He was hired in 2023 as general manager of the NFL Arizona Cardinals



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Jim Brandenburg (who is currently working in Europe and represented by former Luverne Area Chamber director Dave Smith), **Jerilyn Britz**, the late **Warren G. Herreid Sr.** (represented by his son, Warren Herreid II and daughter-in-law Jeannine Rivet), **Betty Mann** and **Monti Ossenfort**.

Britz, who graduated from LHS in 1961 and later became a professional golfer, credits Luverne schools for her success.

“The education I received at Luverne High School was pretty amazing,” she said.

“It became very apparent I had something special, because when I got to (the University of) Mankato and started to mingle with some of the other students from other schools, I knew instinctively my education from Luverne was far superior to other schools in the state. I am very thankful I came from the Luverne educational system.”

Other inductees shared similar sentiments.

Ossenfort also credits teachers and coaches (Dave Svingen, Joel Swanson and Bob Churchill) for what he brings to his career as an NFL general manager.

“When a team knows their role and knows what they have to do to fit together, to come together as a group, it is amazing what that team can accomplish when they work and fight for each other,” he said.

“I am incredibly proud to be from this town. I am incredibly proud to have gone through this school.”

At Sunday’s football game in Glendale, Arizona, Ossenfort, who is the general manager for the Arizona Cardinals, was congratulated on the stadium’s giant screens for his induction into the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame. A picture was shown of Ossenfort posing with classmates wearing T-shirts with “HOF 16” embossed on the back. No. 16 was Ossenfort’s football jersey number at LHS.

A closer look at the inductees

Hall of Fame members epitomize school district's vision of Learn, Live, Lead.

By Mavis (Olson) Fodness

The first inductees to the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame are not only outstanding individuals, they epitomize the school district's vision of "Learn, Live, Lead."

Each, as they walked the halls of Luverne Public Schools, learned the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. But they also honed the leadership skills that propelled them to become leaders both at home and across the state and/or the nation.

Nomination letters answered the questions as to why the individuals should be considered for the Hall of Fame.

The Star Herald received copies of the nomination forms and the support letters to offer background on the inductees that include the 1964 boys' basketball team, Betty (Soutar) Mann, Warren Herreid Sr. and Monti Ossenfort, Jerilyn Britz, Jim Brandenburg and Quentin Aanenson.

The following story appeared in a special "Alumni Celebration" of the Star Herald on Oct. 5.

The 1964 boys' basketball state championship team

The team's 72 to 66 win over Rochester in the final game of the state high school basketball tournament propelled the 12 members of the 1964 Luverne High School boys' basketball team into the record books for their statewide one class championship win.

Judy (Fredrikson) Brandenburg (LHS Class of '64) was a cheerleader for the team and had a front row seat to the team's feat that earns them a place in the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame.

"We were honored to live through a nail-biting year when coach Ray Merry and assistant coach Bob Lorentzen led the team to Williams Arena to compete for the state title," Brandenburg reflected. "All of southwest Minnesota talked, wrote and heard basketball. Friday nights were standing room only in any gym the team played in."

Team members included Del Jensen, Bill Toms, John Beyer, Greg Thone, Jerry Kozney, Rodger McKay, Rich Iverson, Curt Laudon, Brian

Wells, Scott Creeger, Milo Herrmann and Dave Moher.

"To say that they were southwest Minnesota heroes is an understatement," wrote LHS graduate Verlyn Van Batavia, who followed the team's progress. "They put Luverne on the state map in 1964 and Luverne's connection to our first and only state title (when everyone competed in the same class) is still something amazing."

Almost 60 years later, memories of the 1964 state championship are still shared, as recalled by LHS alum Kathy Heeren.

"Even this year, when I joined the other members of my class for a tour of the newly remodeled school, one of the highlights was to see that state trophy shining brightly in the display case," she wrote. "These boys made all of us so proud and set a record for Luverne that will never be duplicated since the high school league's decision to go multi-class tournaments."

Their win had a lasting impact for Jill Wildung Schmidt. She was 6 years old when she attended the 1964 congratulations dinner at the Luverne Armory for the team.

"After we ate, they let us go up and congratulate the team," Schmidt wrote. "I had saved a piece of my paper placemat and my dad gave me a pen. I stood patiently and waited so that each member of the team signed my little piece of paper. I cherish that piece of paper yet today."

Schmidt, a 1976 LHS graduate, was a member of the 1975 girls' basketball state tournament team.

Betty (Soutar) Mann

Preserving Rock County history became Betty Mann's mission more than 25 years ago and is forever enshrined in the Rock County History Center, a facility she helped build.

At age 93, she continues to assist in preserving and sharing local history.

Luverne Area Chamber Executive Director Jane Wildung Lanphere witnessed Mann's

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dedication firsthand over the past 15 years.

“Through dogged determination and commitment, the opportunity came for the RCHS to purchase and renovate the former Ford Motor building on Main Street in Luverne,” Lanphere wrote.

“The project, with a total cost of over \$1 million, was funded through donations and pledges. The RCHS moved into the building in the summer of 2016, gifting back the Masonic Temple (the former home of the RCHS) to the Masons for \$1. Today, the society is debt free.”

Mann’s dedication to history began as a student at Luverne Public Schools, where she graduated in 1948.

She taught in the Hills-Beaver Creek School District in the school year 1950-51 before starting a family with her husband, Veryln.

In 1967 she returned to the classroom as an elementary/special education teacher for Luverne, retiring in 1993. “She was an advocate for her students,” wrote elementary principal Edward Salzer. “Parents appreciated her commitment to the education of their children.”

In retirement, Mann turned her attention to the historical society.

“Her knowledge of history and willingness to share the stories has been the foundation of the growth of the Rock County Historical Society,” wrote RCHS board president Al Stoakes.

Mann donated her personal nutcracker collection and has helped it grow to almost 5,000 unique pieces. The nutcrackers draw visitors to Luverne from throughout the U.S. and the world.

“I can think of no one who has volunteered more to support her community and has been a tireless cheerleader for Luverne her entire life,” wrote Shirley Klosterbuer.

Luverne Initiatives for Tomorrow chairman Pat Baustian added, “We have seen a positive impact and growth in tourism in Luverne and Rock County. This has happened because of Betty Mann’s generosity, unwavering energy and hard work.”

Monti Ossenfort

One of Betty Mann’s elementary students was LHS Class of ’96 graduate Monti Ossenfort.

He took his love of football and parlayed that into three Super Bowl rings during his 25-year

involvement with the National Football League. Today, Ossenfort is general manager of the Arizona Cardinals.

But first, Ossenfort started with the Luverne Cardinals. Bob Osterday was Luverne’s head football coach (1983-1989) when Ossenfort became the team’s student manager/waterboy.

“He did everything from making sure the equipment was loaded for away games to handling everything on the sidelines all by himself,” Osterday recalled.

“I had such complete trust in him that I gave him a set of keys to the equipment room. His work ethic and commitment to our program were incredible.”

From team manager, Ossenfort became Luverne’s quarterback, advancing to college as the starting quarterback with the University of Minnesota-Morris.

However, Ossenfort’s lifelong dream was to be a part of a National Football League team, according to classmate Matt Lais.

“His hard work through the years has paid off as he developed his craft from an unpaid assistant (2001) to now being the general manager of the Phoenix Cardinals.”

In between college and becoming an NFL general manager, Ossenfort was part of four Super Bowl wins with the New England Patriots, with whom he spent 15 years.

He shared football experiences in his college alma mater’s communications department in 2017, including what drove him to achieve his NFL dream.

“It’s a big world out there; find something that you love to do and go for it,” he said. “There are opportunities out there. If you have determination and willingness and you’re able to sacrifice to go the extra mile, anything is achievable.”

Through the years, Ossenfort hasn’t forgotten his LHS roots.

Todd Oye, LHS 1990 graduate and current dean of students/activities director, asked Ossenfort to complete a special task for the LHS Class of 2021.

“Luverne High School had a ‘remote’ graduation ceremony because of Covid,” Oye recalled. “Monti was gracious enough to be

the keynote speaker and reflect on his time in Luverne.”

Warren Herreid Sr.

The late Warren Herreid Sr. was passionate about his community and service to the military.

“Warren lived his life as Luverne’s biggest cheerleader,” recalled Larry Lanphere. “Friend or foe, it wouldn’t be long until Warren began to convince you that America is the greatest place to live in the world and Luverne/Rock County is that little piece of heaven in America.”

Herreid’s military service spanned 41 years with the Army National Guard with active duty in World War II and the Korean War.

After retiring, he also served an additional 20 years as a volunteer with Employer Support of Guard and Reserve.

“I believe his greatest contribution goes beyond his active service and into the training that he developed, which became the foundation for every future non-commissioned officer in the state of Minnesota,” Kyle Oldre wrote.

“The training and expertise Warren provided greatly enhanced the professionalism and readiness of the Minnesota National Guard.”

Herreid retired with the rank of sergeant major (the highest non-commissioned rank in the National Guard).

Herreid’s ability to lead didn’t end with his military service, but followed as he turned into an avid volunteer in Luverne and advocate for his fellow servicemen locally.

Herreid organized the Southwest Minnesota Honor Flight to bring military veterans to view the war memorials in Washington, D.C. He is responsible for 440 World War II veterans completing the flight.

He was also instrumental in preserving military history by helping in the research for Ken Burns’ military documentary, “The War,” and developing the Herreid Military Museum in the former Rock County Jail with the assistance of fellow Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Betty Mann.

“I came to know him and witnessed his impact on others as he supported them and they shared stories of war they had never told before,” Mann recalled.

Herreid convinced his son, Warren II, and his daughter-in-law, Jeannine Rivet, to fund

the museum’s remodel and create the Veterans Memorial on the Rock County Courthouse lawn.

Socially, he brought a close group of 26 World War II veterans together in 2010 that became the “Last Man’s Club.”

“These men supported each other until their deaths,” wrote Terrie Gulden. “I had many opportunities to sit and have coffee with them and listen to their stories and what was important to them.”

Gulden also served with Herreid as a member of the VFW and Rock County Honor Guard, recalling, “He was an effective recruiter of younger veterans to serve on the Honor Guard.”

Guard members were present at Herreid’s burial in 2017.

Jerilyn Britz

As Title IX expanded the athletic opportunities for women across the U.S. in 1972, Jerilyn Britz, an LHS Class of 1961 graduate, was already blazing the trail.

At age 17, she began playing golf at Luverne Country Club. However, her chance to perform on the national stage didn’t happen until 1974, when at age 30, Britz joined the Ladies Professional Golf Association, qualifying for the tour at her first attempt.

Her college roommate, Katie Hemme (a Luverne teacher from 1963-1999), met Britz as a college freshman at Mankato State University.

“Jerilyn took advantage of opportunities available and created new ones where none existed,” Hemme recalled.

“Wherever Jerilyn went and whatever she was doing, she excelled and gave credit to Luverne for preparing her for success.”

After college graduation, Britz spent eight years as a teacher at the secondary and college levels before she pursued a professional athletic career.

Mary Jo Graphenteen met Britz at LCC, and the two developed a friendship on the golf course in the late ’80s.

“As a product of Title IX in my own sport life, it is amazing how she blazed her trail to golf’s pinnacle,” Graphenteen shared. “She has been a true role model for me with her unrelenting desire

to improve her game.”

Within five years of joining the LPGA tour, Britz won the 1979 U.S. Women’s Open, the pinnacle tournament of women’s golf, according to Tim Connell, a 1967 LHS graduate.

She followed with a second professional tour win in 1980, claiming victory at the Mary Kay Classic.

Britz competed successfully on the LPGA tour for 26 years.

“Through all the fame that ensued, she remained committed to and proud of her hometown roots,” Connell wrote. “She continues to play golf in Luverne and gives selflessly of her time and talent, providing advice and coaching to many Luverne golfers.”

Her LHS classmates appreciate what Britz has done to shine a spotlight on Luverne and Luverne Public Schools.

Bill Miller is one of Britz’ admirers

“Jerilyn has always been proud of Luverne Public Schools and the opportunity she had to grow up in a great Midwestern town,” he wrote. “She still considers Luverne her home as she continues to travel throughout the United States, representing our community with dignity, humility and honor.”

Jim Brandenburg

As a youth, Jim Brandenburg put down his hunting rifle and started seeing wildlife through the lens of a camera.

The 1963 Luverne High School graduate’s love of nature led him to travel throughout the world, capturing rare images and film footage of wildlife that’s led him to be considered one of the most accomplished and prolific wildlife photographers in the world.

His photographs first appeared in National Geographic magazine in 1978, and his documentaries have aired on PBS.

Brandenburg’s images have earned dozens of accolades over a 20-year period.

He’s also never forgotten his childhood roots.

“He has an incredibly artistic ability to capture nature in a way few people could ever hope to, and his images and film work are considered some of the best in the world,” wrote Chris Nowatzki.

“Jim’s passion for nature and its preservation led him to create the Touch the Sky Northern

Tallgrass Prairie Refuge.”

The 1,000-acre refuge north of Luverne brings thousands of visitors to view and learn more about the virgin prairie. They also stop at the local Brandenburg Gallery, located on the courthouse square in Luverne.

Dave Smith was the director of the Luverne Area Chamber when efforts began in the 1990s to open the gallery.

“From the time the gallery opened (in 2000), I could see the impact on our community by the number of people stopping in to see the photographs,” Smith wrote. “Jim’s impact on nature photography and in this community is exceptional.”

However, Brandenburg’s love of nature doesn’t stop with his award-winning work.

His spotlight on nature and endangered species has led to the preservation of natural habitats involving plant life as well as wildlife for all to enjoy.

Brandenburg’s pictures are still being noticed 60 years after his graduation from LHS.

Gallery proceeds and fundraising efforts through the Brandenburg Foundation keep the Touch the Sky a viable local asset, according to current Luverne Area Chamber Director Jane Lanphere.

“Jim’s impact on the environment through the purchase and management of this land has preserved and expanded native plants, once thought to be gone,” she wrote. “His lifework has made a difference to people around the world and continues to do so through today.”

Quentin Aanenson

LHS Class of 1939 graduate Quentin Aanenson personally experienced much during World War II in the Army Air Corps that catapulted him into the national spotlight.

His military stories helped others to have a better understanding of “loyalty, duty, respect, selfless honor, integrity and personal courage,” words Dave Haugom used to describe Aanenson, who died in 2008.

“In a time where very few World War II veterans are still living, it is important that we honor those that served in uniform before us,” he

What we've heard from classmates

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

From Benjamin Allen "Al" Padilla LHS 1972: Greetings LHS Grads:

I have just finished reading this week's edition of the Star-Herald and the Alumni Garden Section. What a brilliant idea and generational testament to our Alma Mater. I was particularly interested in the Historic Bell news. I feel like I may shed some light on the subject, and it may be of interest to someone.

My part of the story goes as follows. Sometime in the Fall of 1971, after basketball practice, I was waiting for a ride on a particularly nasty day. I was waiting by the door in the gymnasium directly adjacent to the front of the school. There was a storage room under the bleachers next to this door. Being curious, I stepped in to check it out. In the far back corner, I saw this bell. Curious, the next day I asked one of the janitors what the story on the bell. He informed me it was the bell which used to ring at the old High School which once stood on the Fledgling Field property. I checked out the story, and it was verified by several people in the Administration office and two faculty members. Thus, the Class of 1972 removed it from storage and made the Bell a gift from us to LHS. It was proudly displayed for years across the street from the front entrance,

*Let us know what you are doing and we'll pass it on to other alumni.
Include your name, year of graduation, address, phone number and email (also let us know if you would like your email in our directory of alumni).*

Send your news to:
Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156
Or email luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

with a placard monumentalizing the gift. It is a bell I had heard ring, way back in the late 50's when my sister Audre went to Elementary School in the oldest High School building, prior to moving down the hill to the then old High School building...where we all went to Elementary School. Whew!

When I first heard about the Alumni Garden plans, we were planning for our 50th. I mentioned to Paula Wendt and Dianne Jauert, the bell should probably be an integral part of it. They checked into it. Apparently, at some time in the recent past the road was widened in front of the school and the bell had been removed from in front and was found, again, stuck in the corner of a storage unit. It was found and now.... "you know the rest of the story," in case anyone would ever like to know some of the traveling history, of what is an even more historic piece of Rock County history.

Hall of Fame inductees/continued from page 13

wrote. "The military has a proud heritage, but not proud service men and women."

Aanenson's self-produced-and-written documentary, "A Fighter Pilot's Story," was aired on PBS in 1993, describing the harrowing combat missions and military duties, details that very few survivors of World War II would discuss openly.

John and Jeanne Bowron indicated that if Aanenson hadn't opened up about his military service, the world would not understand the horrors of war and how these experiences silenced those who fought in the war.

"Quentin was a farm boy with big dreams," the Bowrons wrote. "His war-time experiences found him excelling as a fighter pilot and with skills in radio communication. He was a war hero."

"A Fighter Pilot's Story" also brought the spotlight to Luverne when Ken Burns chose Aanenson and the writings of Star Herald editor Al McIntosh as features in his documentary, "The War," released in 2007.

Since then, more than 75 million viewers have seen Aanenson's military story.

"This video, plus the articles penned by Al McIntosh, were the reasons that Luverne was selected as one of four cities in the United States that were featured in Burns' epic tale," wrote Terrie Gulden, exhibit curator at the Herreid Military Museum.

"The impact of the story of World War II in relation to Luverne will continue decades into the future. Quentin's story made this happen."

REUNIONS IN THE MAKING



CLASS OF 1969 – 55TH CLASS REUNION

THURSDAY | JULY 11, 2024 | HOT DOG NITE

Meet at Palace Theatre at 5:00 p.m. for informal gathering
Enjoy hot dogs and all the activities
going on with Hot Dog Nite
Another "Social Hour" at Take 16 at 8:00 pm.

FRIDAY | JULY 12, 2024

Golf Cart Tour of Luverne: 9:00 am and 12 noon
9 hole Golf Scrambler: 9:00 am
High School Tour: 3:00 pm
Social Hour at The Bullpen
(former Bluestem Restaurant): 5:00 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm

Check out our Facebook Page "LHS Class of '69"!

For questions contact:

Lorna Siebenahler Bryan – lornabryan@alliancecom.net

Janine Jordahl Papik – janinepapik@hotmail.com

Becky Aanenson Anderson – beckya@alliancecom.net

Packets with more info will be sent out late January!

LHS Class of 1978, 1979 & 1980

46th, 45th & 44th Reunion

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024

Get together at Take 16
Mix and mingle downtown with Buffalo Days activities

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024

Buffalo Day Activities
School tour
Golfing & Pickleball

Catered Saturday night dinner at Generations
and Class Photos

**For more information/updates see our
Class Facebook Groups or contact:**

1978 - Mike Merrill
at desert38@yahoo.com or 602-361-4984

1979 - Colleen Obermoller Deutsch
at colleendeutsch79@gmail.com or 507-227-6163

1980 - Terri DeBates Siebenahler
at hockey2742@hotmail.com or 507-920-5085

Hope to see you there!

LHS CLASS OF 62 TO CELEBRATE 62 YEARS!

June 1, 2024 | Saturday

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Casual get-together

**Blue Mound Room
GrandStay Hotel**

**If questions, contact:
Darlene Woolsey**

**763-443-5836 cell/text
DARGW@aol.com**



To list reunion plans or
for help with
CLASS REUNION PLANS
Contact:
LUVERNE CHAMBER

The Chamber/CVB will do a
FREE MAILING with your
reunion information to
your members!

Email:
luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

Call:
507-283-4061

Luverne
Area Chamber & CVB

Alumni News Staff: Cindy Arends, Jane Wildung Lanphere, Carol Schumacher Serie, Lori Sorenson
Johnna Bowron Ahrendt, Patti Kirby Pierson and Rock County Opportunities

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