



Viking Alert

The Newsletter of
The North Canton
Alumni Association

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2015 Hall of Distinction Inductees

Dr. John Andrea was the first pediatrician in North Canton. He was a graduate of Canton Lincoln High School, he attended Kenyon College, Western Reserve and Northwestern University. He practiced medicine from 1955–1985. He spent three years in the U.S. Army Infantry. He was involved at Aultman Hospital and was very active in many Civic Organizations. He passed away in 2010.

Robert G. McCaman is a 1943 graduate of NOCA High School. He then served in the Army Air Corps until 1946. He attended Ohio State and earned a B.A. in Education. He attended graduate school at UCLA and became employed by Hughes Aircraft Company. He next moved to TRW and worked on the Titan II Missile program. After 21 years in Aerospace, Bob became involved in the court system in Los Angeles County.

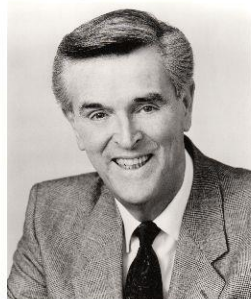
Robert K. McCleaster graduated from Hoover High School in 1958. He received his Bachelor degree in 1962 and his Master's degree in 1963 both from DePauw University. He was a teacher and band director at Scio for 6 years prior to being hired as the band director in North Canton in 1963. He was there for 31 years. His bands received numerous awards over the years. He's also performed in several concert bands.

Mary McManaway is being recognized for her involvement with the North Canton Playhouse. Mary has played a leading role in bringing theatre and education together in North Canton. She was also an ardent advocate for animal rights. She touched many lives helping students gain confidence and pride in acting. She passed away in 2014.

Thomas Shoup was the superintendent of Schools in North Canton from 1995–2004. He came to North Canton just as construction was beginning for the new high school. At the school's dedication, he stated "North Canton is a Triple A school district because they emphasize– Academics, Art and Athletics". He has been very active in the community serving on the Library Board, YMCA Board, TAP (Talk About Potential), Rotary and Boy Scouts to name a few.



Dr. John Andrea



BOB McCAMAN



Robert McCleaster



Mary McManaway



Thomas Shoup

In this issue we would like to feature two brothers who both graduated from Hoover High School and who have both remained in the area. The brothers are Larry and Gary Elsass. Believe it or not, they were both born on the same day, six years apart.

Larry was member of the Class of 1958. He was very active in High School. He was in Booster Club 4 years, football 4 years, basketball 1 year, track 3 years, wrestling 2 years and Tri-Hi-Y 3 years. Larry worked at the Timken Company for 40 years and now runs his own lawn care service. Larry and his wife Linda raised 7 children of their own and were foster parents to more than 250. They have been recognized many times for the fine parenting they provided to those children. Larry and Linda were very active in country line dancing.

Larry also found time to play softball for Walther's Cafe for 5-6 years and likewise 5-6 years for Hummels in fumbleball. Larry also played for the Bier Haus in Alliance and he and Linda (nee Myers- Hoover High 1959)) were actually married at home plate at Silver Park.

Larry's son Mike was a Hoover wrestler who was an undefeated state champ at 36-0.

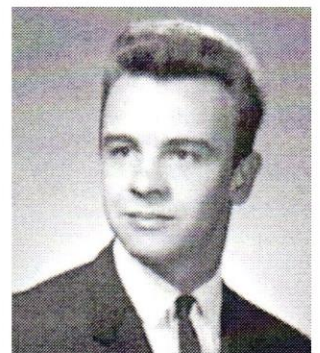
Gary Elsass was a member of the Class of 1965. Gary was also active in high school. He played football 3 years, baseball 1 year, wrestling 1 year and was in printing club 2 years. Following high school, Gary joined the U.S. Navy and served two tours in Viet Nam and on the Kitty Hawk. He returned from the service and worked at Seiple's for 10 years. Then he was a cook at Four Winds Restaurant and now works for Gordon Food Service.

Gary has been very active in Bowling and has been named as a Hall of Fame youth coach. Gary is in the Greater Canton Bowling Association Hall of Fame. He also played fumbleball for Hummel's IGA for approximately 10 years and was a member of their state championship team as a pitcher. He has been inducted into the fumbleball Hall of Fame and he is the President of the McKinley Eagles.

Gary is the father of Adam and Amber both Hoover High graduates.



Larry Elsass



Gary Elsass

Some time ago your Alumni Association initiated a program to help build our endowment so that we can offer more scholarships and potentially increase the amount of some of our awards. The program encourages Alumni to make donations in memory of friends, relatives, classmates etc. We received around \$ 2500 right off the bat. Thank You to all who donated to this cause. Donations have tapered off recently. Our top 6 classes since we initiated this program are listed below;

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|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| -# 1 Class of 1975 - \$ 5,700 | - | -# 4 Class of 1963 - \$ 1,500 |
| -# 2 Class of 1964 - \$ 5,000 | - | -# 5 Class of 1951 - \$ 770 |
| -# 3 Class of 1959 - \$ 3,000 | - | -# 6 Class of 1966 - \$ 725 |

This is the 16th in a series of articles by local sports historian Jim Holl.

Earl William Ridge Jr. (Bill), Born: Jan. 24, 1940, Steubenville, Ohio.

Resides: North Canton, Ohio.

If all Bill Ridge could do was beat Louisville, that achievement alone was enough to endear himself in the hearts of Viking Sports fans. As a two year starter in football and basketball in 1956-57, he never played in a losing game in either sport against the arch-rival Leopards. Ridge had a knack of rising to the occasion when Louisville was the opponent.

On the football field, his running and passing set up the game winning score in a 14-7 win in 1956. It marked the first North Canton win over Louisville in a decade. The following year, he was the whole show running for the game's only touchdown and kicking a rare 25 yard field goal in a 9-0 win. It was the first ever that the Vikings savored back-to-back wins over Louisville. On the basketball court, Ridge was just as lethal. His two free throws gave the Vikings a thrilling 71-70 overtime victory in 1956. It was de-ja vu all over again the next year when he scored 22 points including two game clinching free throws to give Hoover a 49-46 comeback win.

Ridge was the team's leading scorer in both football and basketball in his junior and senior years. He was named 2nd team all-county as a running back in his senior year. But a 165 lb. running back attracted little attention from Division I college football powers and Ridge entered Baldwin-Wallace College in the fall of 1958. He played four years, primarily as a defensive back and punt return specialist. In his senior year he was a major contributor to B-W's first ever undefeated season under coach Lee Tressel. Ridge went on to play five seasons of professional football with the Cleveland Bulldogs (1963-64) and the Canton Bulldogs (1965) in the United Football League and the Philadelphia Bulldogs (1966-67) in the Continental League, only a step below the National Football League.

He called it quits as a player and returned to North Canton in 1968 where he quickly became involved in coaching youth sports. Today he still remains active in officiating high school football and basketball and girls' softball.

Your Alumni Association continues to seek thoughts and ideas to make our newsletter better and more informative. If you have suggestions or if you are willing to help us with the newsletter, please let us know.

The 2nd Class of the North Canton Hoover Athletic Hall of Fame was inducted on Sat., Sept. 19. Inductees included Heidi Albrecht, Bob Berrodin, Byron Draper, Myron Draper, Jerry Goodpasture, John Grasinger, Gordon Knisely, Rick Morrison, Bill Owens, Nancy (Shafer) Boudreau, and Gordy Woolbert.

The North Canton Alumni Association

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Recent Deaths– Wayne "Bake" Baker (48), James A. Brown (58), Donald Burgoon (73), Greg Castle (68), Jack Crawford (61), Greg Dozer (74), James Ellsworth Sr. (48), Terry "T.G." Green (84), Paul Halter (45), Randy Ingold (65), Santa (Evey) Morris (52), Judy Mulheim (64), Donald "Vic" Palmer (55), Thomas Riley (67), Kathleen Rohrbaugh (65)), Michael Scott Russell (70), Jeff Smith (83). Former employees – Millie Honold, Mario Mattachione, Tony Pellegrine, Grace Wilkof, Ginny Kintz.

Recent Donors– There have been anonymous donations to the Kenny Oberlin Scouting Scholarship, Bob Roden in memory of Mike Sumser and Mario Mattachione. Bob Roden also in recognition of the Hoover Athletic HOF 2015 Class. Jack Sponseller in memory of Wayne Baker.

Additional Life Memberships– John Kellamis (82), Deborah Lea (68), Amy "Logan" Walther (72), Todd Morris (58), Dail Roberts (76).

Upcoming Reunions– Save the Date, Sat., July 15, 2017 for the 40th Reunion of the Class of 1977. Arrowhead Golf Club 6:00 to ? . For info contact Tara (Maragas) Hill at (214) 681–8200 or Cindy (Spotleson) Malcuit (330) 575–0413 or Hoover40Reunion@yahoo.com.