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Thanks For the Memories 300-Plus Alumni Gather for Annual Reunion



Veteran Verl Joe Bolen '66 tells of his service to our country, while Bob Jensen (playing Bob Hope) and Dru Smith Magill (playing Ann Margaret) listen. All members of the Armed Forces were recognized at the 2016 Alumni Program, titled "Thanks For the Memories." (Jessica Tickle photo)

By Darlene Rimpley

"Thanks For the Memories" - was title of the 2016 Arnold Alumni Program - and the favorite saying that every alumni member takes away from every Alumni program that they attend. This year, the memories were especially sweet.

But let's go back to when the "memory making" really starts. Actually, the memories are called into play when the members of the honored classes start making plans for their individual reunions, and they

start recalling all of the fun, and heartaches, the class had when they were attending A.H.S. From there, the memories just start building. And then comes the actual class get-togethers as they look over their years since graduation, and do a lot of "do you remember whens?"

On to the great meal, which was orchestrated by Josh Magill and April Mills Tickle and their great crew of people who did the cooking and serving. A special thanks to members of the

Ground Zero youth group (future alumni members!) and their leaders who walked miles and miles carrying food trays and drinks, refilling cups, and picking up the used dishes from the 300-plus alumni who were served the wonderful meal.

Guests then settled into their chairs for the long-awaited program. In keeping with the patriotic theme, Alumni president Gary Halstead led everyone in reciting "The Pledge of Allegiance," and John Phillips led

the memorial for deceased members and invoked God's goodness on the gathering, thanking Him for the memories.

The Arnold School Foundation report was given by Betty Halstead Yeargain, followed by a brief Alumni report by Josh Magill.

The 2016 emcee, Lane Purcell, Class of '70, was introduced and recalled that the first question he heard when he visited the different class reunions was, "Are you going to keep it short?"

The honored teacher of the year, Carlene Lanham, was introduced by Glen Peister, '06, and David Halstead, '08, who told some great tales on Mrs. Lanham. They did forget the one about how she got in the car one morning to drive to school, and hit the button to raise the garage door. Little did she know that husband Doug had already opened the garage door, until she heard the crash on the top of the car as the door came down. Mrs. Lanham taught history, geography and was librarian from 1982 to 2012.

The parade of honored classes took place, with Lane relating some of the favorite stories about class members. The Class of '46 had seven remaining members out of a class of 22. Four of them: Dot Lindholm Gast, Dottie Beltz Bowman, Leona Christensen Shields and Stanley Pearson, attended the class get-together, and all but Dottie stayed to enjoy the evening. Stan recalled that someone put a potato in the muffler of the superintendent's car, and he also got "dismissed" from study hall a couple of times. The girls remembered that a favorite teacher was Iris Porter. Another fun story from Stan was that as he looked at the class pictures that hang in the school hall, he, '46, and his brother, Don, '44, both wore the same necktie in their class pictures. It was probably the only tie in the family at the time.

Out of 22 members of the Class of '56, 12 are still living, and there were eight in atten-

dance.

Thirty of the 34 of the Class of '66 are still living, and there were nine attending.

The Class of '76, clad in their red shirts with the emblem of '76 on the front, took top honors in attendance. They have no deceased members, and out of the 31 members, 23 attended the afternoon event and 19 were at the banquet.

Twenty members made up the Class of '86, with all still living, and 10 of those 20 were at the banquet.

Half of the still living members of '96, 20 out of 21, were present. Eight of the 20 members of '06 attended the banquet.

The newest Alumni members, the Class of 2016, had five members present.

Recognizing returning or present faculty was next on the program. The only ones I could glimpse as they stood were Glen Troyer, Bill Miller, Carlene Lanham, Ila Dailey, Chris Christensen, and Gary Halstead (if there were more, I apologize). Those of the longest tenure at Arnold were Bill Miller with 40 years and Mrs. Lanham with 28.

Continued on page 2.

City-wide Garage Sales Set for Saturday

This Saturday, June 4, bargain and treasure hunters can look forward to one of the largest city-wide garage sales Arnold Chamber has ever hosted.

By early last week, the number of garage sale locations had grown to 29, with several being multi-family sales.

Maps will be available online at www.arnoldne.org or at businesses the week of the garage sales.

Businesses, including Mills Hardware, Farmhouse Antiques, Mighty Mart, Jim's Bar and Suzy's Pizza, are advertising in-store specials, happy hour and lunch specials.

The garage sales will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., so residents are encouraged to grab a map and spread the word to relatives and friends outside of Arnold.

Arnold Vets Will Be on Vietnam Combat Veterans Flight

Will Be Among Largest Group of Vietnam Vets From Any One State to Ever Visit Vietnam Wall

The manifest is complete with 500 veterans for the June 6 Vietnam Combat Veterans Flight. Veterans from almost 200 Nebraska communities will travel with their comrades to visit the Vietnam Wall, possibly triggering memories they have pushed into the recesses of their minds for 50-plus years.

Arnold residents Kent DeLosh and Bill Williams will be on the flight.

DeLosh joined the service in March of 1967, and went to Fort Bliss, Texas, near El Paso. From there, he went to Fort Sam Houston near San Antonio. In December of 1967, he was sent to Vietnam. He first served with the Americal Division at Chu Lai, and was then with the 4th Infantry Division at Pleiku. For 7 1/2 months, DeLosh was in the field as a combat medic.

"Most people say they wouldn't want this job, but if I was to go back into the army, I would join the medical field again," he said.

After Nam, he was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, until his discharge in March of 1970.

Williams, who is serving as the Arnold United Methodist Church pastor, served in the U.S. Army from March 1969 to October 1970. From August 23, 1969, to October 9, 1970, he served in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in South Vietnam.

Williams also served in the U.S. Army Reserves from April 1975 to April 1996.

The two Arnold vets will be part of what is considered to be a historic flight for Vietnam vet-



Arnold residents Kent DeLosh (left) and Bill Williams are set to take the June 6 Nebraska Vietnam Combat Veterans Flight. (Kendra Viers photo)

ers.

Jim Knotts, President and CEO of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in Washington, D.C., said this is the largest group of Vietnam veterans from a single state to ever visit the Vietnam Wall. Mr. Knotts will emcee a brief ceremony at the Vietnam Wall at 11:00 a.m., on June 6. The day will also include stops at the Korean War, World War II, Iwo Jima, Air Force Memorials, and at Arlington National Cemetery for the

Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Mr. Peter Smith, a Vietnam combat veteran from Australia, will accompany the American veterans from Omaha. He represented the Returned Services League (RSL) and will be met by RADM Steve Gilmore, representing the Australian Embassy. Australia was a key ally in the Vietnam War.

The flight will be preceded by a pre-flight dinner, June 5, at Eppley Airfield in Omaha. This will be everyone's chance to give these vets the proper welcome

to which members of the public are invited while seats last. Tickets are \$50.00 each (open seating) or a reserved table for eight is \$500.00. For more information visit www.PatrioticProductions.org.

Patriotic Productions anticipate thousands of citizens will take the time to welcome home our Vietnam veterans, June 6, from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m., at Eppley Airfield in Omaha. This will be everyone's chance to give these vets the proper welcome

they never received.

Following are some statistics on the Vietnam combat veterans who will be on the flight:

- Over 50 of them are Purple Heart recipients

- 161 of them (32%) have been diagnosed with Agent Orange, creating many health issues, including cancer

- Six have received the Distinguished Flying Cross

- Some were severely wounded (missing limbs, blinded)

- One veteran will be seeing his half brother in D.C. for the first time in 40 years.

- One veteran provided a copy of the list of 72 wounded and 4 KIAs from April, 1971

Thanks to the hundreds of generous donors throughout the state, these veterans will finally have the opportunity to feel appreciated for their service. The Flight Sponsors of the three charter jets are: The Theodore F. & Claire M. Hubbard Family Foundation, AuctionTime.com and TractorHouse (Sandhills Publishing Company).

Patriotic Productions organized nine previous Honor Flights that took 2,100 WWII and Korean veterans to Washington, D.C., since 2008. Patriotic Productions has a mission of honoring our military, including the creation, production and touring of Remembering Our Fallen photo memorials. More information: www.PatrioticProductions.org or www.RememberingOurFallen.org.