



September, 2021

**To the Messick Panthers
Class of 1970**

We are so thankful that we were finally able to have our Golden Anniversary!

The venues (Avon Acres on Friday and the Cat House at the Memphis Zoo on Saturday) were perfect on both evenings and even with the issues created by Covid, everything went amazingly well.

Your 50 Year Committee faced challenges unlike any we could have ever imagined. We were actually concerned less than two months before the reunion weekend that we were going to have to cancel the Saturday evening event and only have Friday. At our meeting during that time, there was a determination that we were not going to let that happen. When you have a special group of folks, special things tend to happen! Thankfully we were able to get over the mountain in front of us.

Having been involved in many events like this with my company and the reunion, the hard work prior to the event and behind the scenes are what determine its success. The Messick Class of 1970 has been the envy of many other classes (not only at Messick but spouses from other schools that have attended) because of the quality of our reunions. The attention to detail and the love and care put into every aspect always shines through. It is impossible to say enough thanks to those that sacrificed many Sunday afternoons and weekday evenings along with personal time gathering all the little things that add up to a successful reunion, but on behalf of the class, I want to send a heartfelt thanks to not only those that volunteered this year but the many years before. You made the job of Chairman very easy.

The 50th Reunion Committee was composed of:

- Nick Carter
- Vicki Ray Robertson
- Lynn Bennett Doyle
- Connie Caldwell McIntyre
- Stephanie Rush Brigman
- Greg Davis, Webmaster



- Karen Barker Hess
- Jim Coley
- Janie Smith Kirk
- Bill Taylor
- Sam Tune
- Jerry Woodard

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank and recognize those that have continually stayed involved and also those that have been able to volunteer when their schedules permitted.

There are two classmates that have always gone above and beyond: Vicki Ray Robertson and Jerry Daniel.

Vicki took the helm for our 10 and 20 Year Reunions and has been a driving force in every one since. Vicki used her skills to keep our directory as up to date as possible and always worked tirelessly on the big and small details to make sure that each event was the best possible. Her husband Wayne has always been there for us and provided a lot of needed muscle.

Jerry Daniel took on the Chairman role at our 25th and continued through our 45th reunion that may well have been the best Saturday evening of any reunion at the Rock and Soul Museum.

What many of you may not be aware of is that it was Jerry's idea not to wait for the 50th. We had lost several Panthers after the 40th and Jerry called the committee together to explore having a 45th which we all felt was a great idea. Little did we know that he would be one of our classmates to miss the 50th. Jerry truly loved working on the reunions and brought a calm steady hand. Jerry would be the first to say that there is no fallen Panther more important or special than another and that is very true. His commitment and love for the Messick Class of 1970 has always been strong and the committee truly missed him this year. His beautiful wife Diane, may have gone to Overton, but we definitely consider her a part of the committee.

We also want to really thank all of the spouses from every reunion who deserve a lot of credit for not only putting up with the time away from family things, but the many hours of help they always happily contributed without complaint.

There are several others on this year's committee that have been a core group for every reunion:

- Lynn Bennett Doyle (John)
- Connie Caldwell McIntyre (Steve)
- Stephanie Rush Brigman (Gordon)

Lynn has been a tireless worker on the reunions since the beginning. Her husband John, is President of the Rock and Soul Museum. He generously allowed us to use his beautiful venue for our 45th at no cost which allowed us to focus the bulk of our funds on the food and gifts. He and Lynn were also responsible for putting together the very special CD of music from our senior year that was given out on Saturday evening.



Connie has handled so many different duties over the years it is impossible to name. Her husband Steve is another that has always been there when we needed him. Connie's daughter was responsible for the really pretty arrangements on the tables at the zoo which definitely brightened up the evening.

Stephanie, like Connie has always been involved and shouldered many responsibilities. Steph was one of the committee members who really went after getting us over the hump for our Saturday evening by contacting folks. Gordon (also a Messick grad) like the other spouses is an integral part of the committee and has given many unselfish hours of his time.

Greg Davis has been our webmaster for the past three reunions. He did a masterful job on the class website and was very key in keeping in contact with all of our classmates he could via email and the web over the years. Greg did the formatting with the pictures for the name tags used at several of the reunions. He also made our Zoom meetings a lot of fun with his humor. I don't know his wife Carolretha, but she must be a sainthood candidate for putting up with him!

This was Karen Barker (Hess) first year on the committee. Karen turned a negative into a huge positive for everyone. Karen is very involved with the covid situation in Mississippi and as a result had to attend most meetings by phone. Because of her role, she had access to the Red & Black masks that were provided for everyone and a perfect touch.

Janie Smith has volunteered on several reunions. Along with this year, Janie served on the committee for the 25th & 30th reunions. She took the helm on the registration desks and did a great job both Friday and Saturday.

Bill Taylor really stepped up for our Friday at Avon Acres. His company's work for Avon reduced our price significantly. The 50 Year Booklet idea came from his brother's 50 year Messick reunion in 2010. Bill also donated a copy of the book he wrote, *Dreaming in Sleepy America*, about the early years of our neighborhood that was the trivia contest prize on Saturday night.

This was Sam Tune's second adventure with the reunion committees. He also served on the 40 year. Sam was the keeper of the Messick capstone in the early years. Sam's wife Janice graciously took care of the photography both nights and caught some memorable shots.

Jerry Woodard and his wife Debbie (Messick grad) made the trek from Olive Branch for almost every meeting. Jerry was key in cajoling several of our classmates to attend. Debbie was a tremendous help on the mailings that were sent out to everyone.

There are other classmates that were on all of the earlier reunions. Cindy Williams (Land) and Robyn West (McFall) were on the committees through the 40th reunion. It is pretty certain, if they had not moved from Memphis they would have stayed involved.



It's impossible to mention everyone that has been involved over the past fifty years, and I pray I haven't hurt any feelings. We were able to find the lists of the committee members since the 20th reunion and they are included below. Thank you all for making our reunions special.

Sadly, we have several classmates that we know of (and I am sure some we don't) that are struggling with health issues or have a family member that is. Please lift them up in your prayers every day and pray for our great country.

It has been such a blessing to have been able to work on the reunions I was involved with. We truly have some very special people in the Messick Class of 1970. Ada Jane Walters, the assistant principal our senior year, went on to be one of the giants in education not just in Tennessee, but on a national level as well. She stated often, that the Messick Class of 1970 was by far her favorite class.

I think my wife, Shelly, may be right when she says "There must have been something in the water at Messick!"

Love to all of you and your families,
Nick



The past Messick Class of 1970 reunion committees were:
 (I was unable to find any detail on the 10th)

<p>20 Year – 1990 Vicki Ray (Robertson), Chair Lynn Bennett Doyle Jerry Daniel Ray Glasgow Brenda Hall (Jobe) Norma Rafferty (Cady) Stephanie Rush (Brigman) Sherry Shamley (Glasgow) Brad Sidle Diann Walker (Sanderson) Robyn West (McFall) Cindy Williams (Land) Myrna Witter (Franklin)</p>	<p>25 Year – 1995 Jerry Daniel, Chair Nick Carter, Assistant Chair Renee Richardson Scarlski - Chairperson for Friday Robyn West (McFall) – Chairperson for Saturday Dyrus Bell Lynn Bennett (Doyle) Connie Caldwell (McIntyre) Norma Rafferty (Cady) Vicki Ray (Robertson) Stephanie Rush (Brigman) Janie Smith (Kirk) Cindy Williams (Land)</p>	<p>30 Year – 2000 Jerry Daniel, Chair Nick Carter, Assistant Chair Lynn Bennett (Doyle) Connie Caldwell (McIntyre) Clint Powell Vicki Ray (Robertson) Stephanie Rush (Brigman) Janie Smith (Kirk) Robyn West (McFall) Cindy Williams (Land)</p>
<p>40 Year – 2010 Jerry Daniel, Chair Nick Carter, Assistant Chair Marshall Cummings Lynn Bennett (Doyle) Gregory Davis Connie Caldwell (McIntyre) Sherry Novak (Doan) Vicki Ray (Robertson) Stephanie Rush (Brigman) Sam Tune Robyn West (McFall) Cindy Williams (Land)</p>	<p>45 Year – 2015 Jerry Daniel, Chair Gregory Davis, Webmaster Nick Carter Lynn Bennett (Doyle) Connie Caldwell (McIntyre) Vicki Ray (Robertson) Stephanie Rush (Brigman)</p>	<p>50 Year – 2020-21 Nick Carter, Chair Gregory Davis, Webmaster Karen Barker (Hess) Lynn Bennett (Doyle) Connie Caldwell (McIntyre) Jim Coley Vicki Ray (Robertson) Stephanie Rush (Brigman) Janie Smith (Kirk) Bill Taylor Sam Tune Jerry Woodard (with major assist from wife Debbie)</p>

