



## Class of 1969 - White Bear Lake High School

### Welcome Home

[Welcome Home](#)

[Classmates](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Golf Scramble](#)

[Guest Book](#)

[Memorial Wall](#)

[Photo Albums](#)

[Please RSVP](#)

[Salute to Veterans](#)

[Who Actually Came?](#)

[Year of 1969 Quiz](#)

August 2, 2019

11 days since  
our Reunion.



This 50th anniversary decoration is from 1969.

### Welcome to the White Bear Lake High School Class of 1969 Official 50th Reunion Website

This website will go dark on September 1, 2019, having done its job well this past year leading up to our 50th and final Reunion.

On Friday, August 2, 2019, 40 golfers showed up to play golf at the tournament at the Oneka Ridge Golf Course in Hugo. It was the largest number of classmates ever to participate in this, our third and final, golf event. In our inaugural golf event ten years ago, 20 golfers played. (For the names of all of the golfers, please click on the Golf Scramble tab to the left.)

According to golf coordinators, **Jim Steinmueller** and **Greg Pitlick**, play was rather slow, with 18 holes taking 5 hours to complete. There was a three-way tie with the tournament winners selected in a blind draw: **Scott Dahl**, **Bruce Jorgensen**, and **Keith Venburg**. They were awarded a large trophy of a swinging golfer. Go golfer bears!

**John Christianson** won an award for the longest putt.

**Sharon Elinger Marble** won an award for the longest drive.

**Sandy Arcand** won a free round of golf at Oneka Ridge Golf Course.

Each golfer went home with an orange golf ball with their name written in black ink that was definitely a nod to our White Bear Lake school spirit colors. Go Bears!

During the golf tournament, twelve motorcyclists and classic car drivers, lead by **Greg Pierce** and **Ron Magadanz**, rallied at the golf course then traveled to Taylor's Fall for lunch and returned to the golf course to continue to party hearty with the golfers. Several '69ers shut the place down at 9:00 PM.

On Saturday, August 3, 2019, 141 classmates and 45 guests came to the 50th Reunion Dinner that was held in the Celebration Room at K&J Catering in North St. Paul. (There were 8 walk-ins and 7 no-shows.) **Kurt and Jean Adamson** of K&J Catering were awesome hosts with delicious appetizers, a fabulous ham and roast beef buffet dinner with all of the trimmings and reasonably-priced drinks. **Suzanne Vilendrer Donnell** created a large dessert table using her 6-tiered 1969 Wilton cupcake tower and stands and filled them with 7 flavors of gourmet cupcakes from the Sugar Fairy of Hugo (formerly Uptown Girl Cupcakes) along with 6 flavors of delicious bakery bars and cookies from the BreadArt Bakery in Bayport.

In a small alcove, a lovely four-paneled Memorial Wall of 76 deceased classmates stood. It was lovingly created by **Chris Houliston Curti** and **Louann McDonnell Nicolai**. It was accented with a tall candle with a plaque that said, "A candle burns in memory of those who have gone before us." A beautiful bouquet of orange and black flowers decorated the end of the wall. The center plaque read, "In loving memory of those who are not here today, but who are forever present in our hearts." Classmates spent a lot of time at the wall, remembering and sharing stories of their beloved fellow classmates who left us way too early in life. (Please see the Memorial Wall for names and senior photos of our deceased classmates.)

**James Hamilton** kicked off the program with a heartfelt toast to our classmates both living and dead. He recalled fond memories of his grade school and high school days and remembered those special friends who are no longer with us. He thanked his friends for helping to guide him during his formative years to become the man that he is today. Everyone raised their glasses to toast the awesome Class of 1969.

Perfect Attendance Awards were made and given by **Suzanne Vilendrer Donnell** to those classmates who have attended all ten reunions over the past 50 years. In grade school, we received gold stars for perfect attendance, so the recipients received a Swarovski Austrian crystal star suncatcher made with golden crystal beads in a black and gold velvet bag. The golden beads were last made by the Swarovski Company in 1969. Star awardees were: **Sandy Gleixner Goldetsky, Laurie Griemann Sanftner, Linda Lindau Letourneau, Glenn Lutz, Louann McDonnell Nicolai, Gail McGinnis Frame, Linda Michaud Jolly, Patty Reinhardt Kieffer, John Schwartz, Jim Steinmueller, Cheryl Warn Steinmueller and Roger Tatge for his late wife, Nancy Robinson Tatge**, who sadly died from cancer last fall. Congratulations to these eleven for their perfect attendance!

**John Molkenbur** was our hard-working emcee. He took us on a wonderful "blast to the past" of memories through our school years in White Bear Lake. He reminded us how cheap things used to be back in our day. The average income in 1969 was \$8000. A hot high school cafeteria lunch was 35 cents. Next he asked who attended which grade schools. All of the schools were well represented but St. Mary's seemed to give out the loudest cheers. He then took us through our junior high school and high school years, asking us to remember how things once were. A few funny stories were shared by the audience. Those of us who participated in the Memories program felt John did an awesome job taking us on a cool journey down memory lane. John ended the program by asking the military veteran classmates to stand while their respective service branch anthems were played. The rest of the audience gave the veterans a resounding round of applause and loud cheers of thanks for their service. (Please see the Salute to Veterans tab on the left to see which veteran classmates were recognized.)

The white bears that adorned our tables during the 45th Reunion came out of hibernation to return for our 50th Reunion. **Chris Houliston Curti** and **Louann McDonnell Nicolai** dressed them in bright orange shirts with black embroidery which read "69" and "WB" down the two front legs. Chris and Louann drew the names of the winners, but we can only remember the names of a few of them: **Janet Cahill Zimdars, Carolyn Carlson, Susie French, Laurie Griemann Sanftner, Steve Hamel, Kathleen Mullaney Hartzell, Merle Richter and Jackie Schwieger Lerud**. In addition to the dressed bears, committee members **Petra Heck Blackwelder** and **Fred Blackwelder** donated 3 huge white bears dressed in school colors and other '69 regalia to give away in the drawing. (If you know the names of



other winners, please use the Contact Us link on the left to let us know. Thanks.)

Our class computer whiz and webmaster, **Douglas Magnuson**, took files from our Matoskan year book and created a photo loop that played on all of the screens that surrounded the Celebration Room all night long. Thanks for the memories, Doug.

Our classmate, **DJ David Bridges**, provided wonderful 60's music all night long. His playlist was truly amazing and brought back so many almost-forgotten memories. All of us '69ers agreed that they don't make music today like they did back in our day. We were fortunate to live in the era of golden music. You might recognize Dave from Grandma's Marathon. He's been their official Disc Jockey since its inception on June 25, 1977.

We '69ers had a lot of fun taking crazy photos with all kinds of props at the **KaiserClix** professional photo booth. Classmates and guests can request to download the photo images and receive photo strips free of charge as well. Please click the "Contact Us" link on the left to request access to the downloaded images. You must be a classmate and/or a reunion attendee to receive these images. Go Bears!

White Bear Press Clippings Books were placed at each table. These books held the newspaper clippings of Class of 1969 Bears who appeared in the Press during our senior year. The books were compiled by **John Christianson** and printed by John and **Fred Blackwelder**. The person at the table whose birthday was closest to August 3, won the book. Trivia question: Which classmate had the most articles written about him or her during our senior year? Answer: **Jim Steinmueller**

**Sharon Elinger Marble** reprinted and distributed copies of The Bequests and Legacies of the Student Members of the Class of 1969 that she found stuffed away in her Matoskan year book. The first entry says that "**Joe Ackerley** leaves for art school" while the last one states that "**Mike Zillinger** leaves to join the orderlies." This document definitely triggered lots of nearly forgotten memories. A scanned version can be found on our regular 1969 class website [www.wbl69.homestead.com](http://www.wbl69.homestead.com) under the "Last Will 1969" tab on the left. Thank you, Sharon, for sharing this "blast from the past" artifact with us.

#### **The Party will Continue!**

Our class will no longer have formal reunions because the reunion committee has officially retired. We plan to meet annually, every first Saturday in August, starting next August 1, 2020, at the Village Inn/Stadium at 6:00 PM. We'll just gather to eat and drink off of the menu and just chat the night away.

"A reunion is a time for familiar faces and almost forgotten memories to be recaptured as if it were yesterday." (Anonymous)

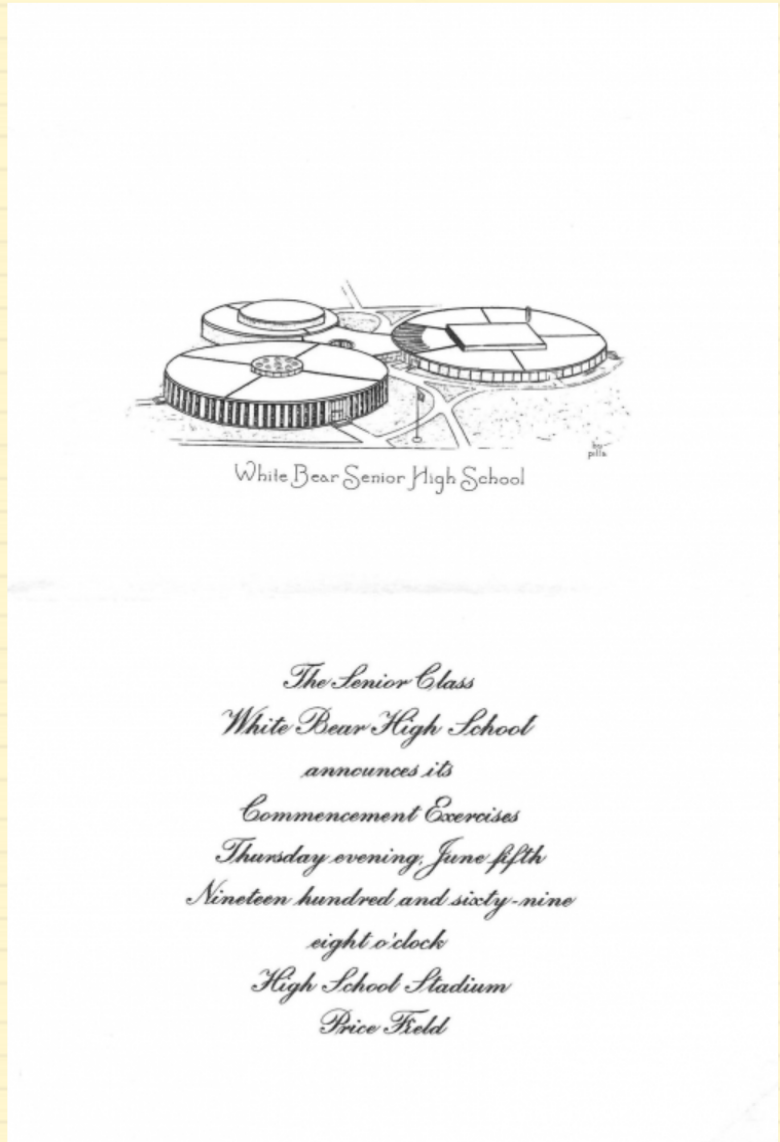
Your 50th Reunion Committee,

Fred Blackwelder  
David Bridges  
John Christianson  
Petra Heck Blackwelder  
Chris Houliston Curti  
Doug Magnuson  
Louann McDonnell Nicolai  
John Molkenbur  
Greg Pitlick  
Jim Steinmueller  
Suzanne Vilendrer Donnell





This school drawing "by pillis" was featured inside the Class of 1969's graduation announcement that was printed by the Josten's Company of Owatonna. The full version is below.



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