

# AHS63 June 2023 Newsletter

## Surfs Up Edition

*Northern Outpost ... May 31st was 79° and faintworthy blue horizon when we started this little piece ... BUT here it is June 4th, rainy, and 48° ... and I woulda got this out if it just weren't for all this durn politikin'.* First, I wish a belated happy birthday to Tina Lawson Houston and Georgia Gaarde Fariss! Claudia is just not happy when I break the birthday rule—which is thou shalt not be late with the newsletter birthday list!—and I'm not happy about it either. I hope y'all got new cars and a million bucks under the tree. Wait wait ... nah, we'll just go with that. Meanwhile, up here in Whiskeysit, 'word on the street is I've got a good chance getting re-elected if I keep my mouth shut for 9 days. Huh. That is pretty much guaranteed not to happen—I don't look right unless my mouth is open. They'll think I've taken sick. And there's lots of talkin' to be done ... Fer instance, one of the interesting developments in the last couple of months is that my selectboard pal Dusty—another Texan, elected with me two years ago—is transitioning to Heather. I wondered at the time how that might work out. But he/she is probably the kindest and smartest selectman in the whole county. What people notice is his/her brainpower, and then the lavender nail polish, and they seem to take it in stride. But you can see the little thought bubbles popping up over their heads ... "hmm, the numbers guy ... does nails?" ... and that was happening a lot at the candidate forum last Tuesday night. Dusty/Heather showed up in new jeans and a pair of soft leather ankle boots to die for. The shopping gene had kicked in. There were about 150 people at the forum in the senior center—the fire marshall would've shut us down—and everybody wanted to see Dusty/Heather in action. He/she did not disappoint, being quickly and quietly to the point as always. I was the only one they could actually HEAR however, since I know how to hold a microphone like a rock star. Not sure what I said, exactly, but they laughed in all the right places.

Whatever. Our opponents are the local librarian and a retired seafood chain owner—more like milk toast and chopped liver. We knew our stuff that night. But with only a week to go I'm walking on eggshells (all the bad metaphors fall out of my fingers during elections) ... but *I'm not counting any eggs and chickens*. I don't even **look** at chickens. . 'Pro'bly lost the chicken vote. I'll make it up to the little cluckers after next week. —T

## Maroon Memorial Remembrance

Linda Burk Kemp

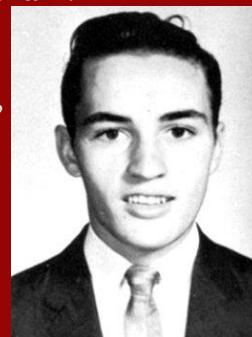
Memorial Day honors those who have died while serving in the United States military. Across the country, people celebrate through parades, family gatherings and ceremonies at cemeteries and memorials.

The Class of 1963 honors the bond of Loyal Forever in remembering two of our classmates, Edward Blackmon and Tommy Caruthers.



\*Edward Gee Blackmon, Army SGT died Nov. 8, 1966, on active duty in Viet Nam, province of service not known. Served with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, United States Army Vietnam.

Edward attended Mathews, O'Henry JHS, and AHS with us.





\*Tommy (Thomas Howard) Caruthers, PVT in USMC, our AHS classmate, died April 18, 1966, while on active duty in Quang Nam. He served with the Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, Third Marine Amphibious Force.

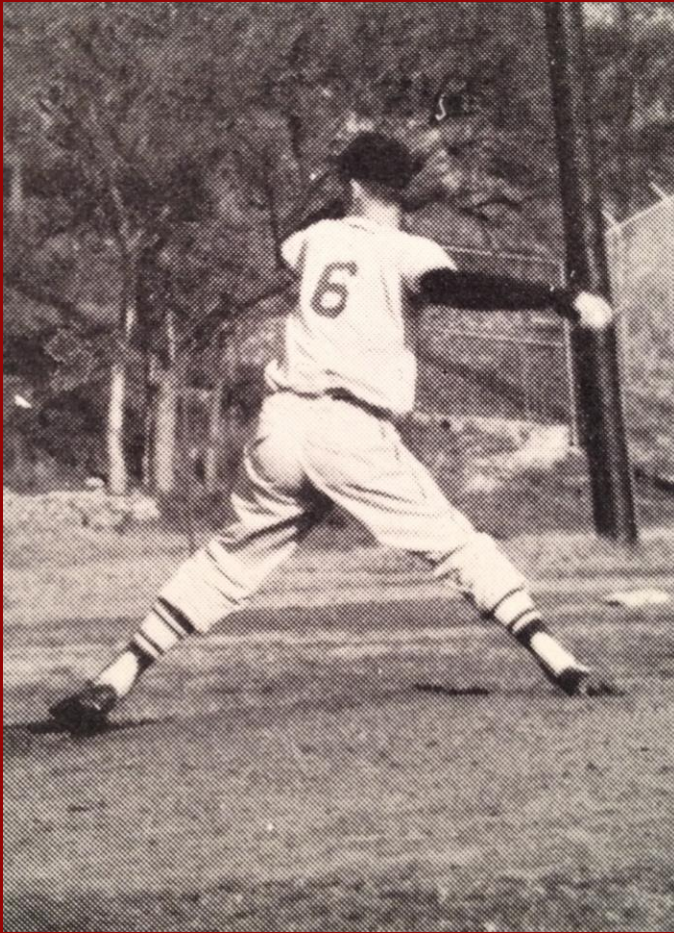


Both of these classmates died while serving our country and the names of both are on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Wash., DC.

Please go see the Wall of Faces on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's website—[www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces](http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces). There are photos and memorial remembrances posted for those who made the supreme sacrifice in that conflict. Larry Tasby wrote a fellow marine's remembrance for Thomas on the website: "I grew up and attended high school with Thomas. He was a quiet person most of the time but enjoyed people. After graduation from high school, I lost touch with him until I learned of his death in VietNam. I will always remember and honor Thomas as a fellow-Marine and VietNam Veteran. Play that drum at those Pearly Gates until we are all together again."

All of us in the Class of '63 are called on to remember those of us who served in the military on two days each year— on Memorial Day for those who perished, and on Veterans Day (Nov 11th). Let's make an effort to reserve these special days for keeping alive our school years' memories and friendships with all who went on to serve our country.

## A legend in his own time ...



Jimmy Raup has been accorded legend status by Texas Baseball on Twitter.

At left is an AHS action pic that was midway between a windup and release on any one of several pitches ... sinking fastball? curve? slider? changeup ...? Action pictures from AHS are hard to come by, so this one is a rare capture of Jimmy pitching in '63.

The book—Texas Baseball High School: Top 100 Legends, by Brad Groghan—features interviews and articles on each of the top 100 teams in Texas high school baseball. He ranked Coach Raup's 1970 Brenham team 14th. That's pretty tall cotton.

I had this lined up for the May issue but it got derailed by all the hoopla of an amazing 60th reunion—so this needed to be a headliner for this month's newsletter. Massive kudos and well done as an acknowledged legend, Coach.



Texas Baseball

@2ndLegends



## JIM RAUP - TEXAS LEGEND

Coached Brenham to a 27-3 record and 3A State Championship in 1970, helping establish Brenham as one of the premier baseball towns in all of Texas. Was key pitcher for the 1967 Texas Longhorns, the last season of legendary coach Bibb Falk [pic.twitter.com/tBppF26Abc](https://pic.twitter.com/tBppF26Abc)

Mr. Raup is also an extremely talented writer. Check out some of his work:

<https://www.texaslsn.org/jim-raup-by-horns-sports>

“Our coach was the other key to our success. Coach Jim Raup was young and energetic and he could relate to us on and off the field. He was great for us in that he trusted us and our abilities.” - Zane Grubbs, in an interview in our Texas high school baseball book.



Greg Wille

@TemBelSports

Apr 14

Raup also coached Austin McCallum to the Class 4A state semifinals in 1997, led by future longtime major league pitcher Matt Belisle.

“Most important, I learned and believe earnestly that there is no disgrace or dishonor in failure if one has tried his hardest to succeed. Disgrace is giving less than one’s best effort or allowing failure to kill one’s will to compete.” —JR [quoted from his story, "The 27th Out"]



# From Wade Weiler to Dr. Alan Smith



I would like to share an update on Alan Smith, cellist with the Austin High Orchestra 1960-63. I was chatting with Charles Beadle, AHS Class of 63. He and his wife, Jane, had not kept up with Alan and they were delighted to find that he is still concertizing on cello in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Alan Smith and I have been chatting off and on recently. He and I grew up around the block from each other

near Hemphill Park in Austin. We have known each other all our lives. Alan attended Catholic school until the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, when he joined us all at Austin High. Then, we graduated with the Class of 63. So, he pursued his career in music, and I continued to stay close to music since then. I was a band director for six years, then went on to various other projects, all associated with music. Alan went off to UT, getting his doctorate in music, and then teaching at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Check out his website to read all about his impressive career and what he has been up to since graduating with the class of '63 with all of us. He has several performance videos there.

<https://www.alansmithcello.com/biography>  
Enjoy!

Wade Weiler

4/14/23

Bet'n Man on Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/betnman0352>

*Thank you so much, Wade Wiler, for being the April birthday super-contributor! This is another way that Loyal Forever keeps playing out over the years, and it's truly remarkable how that happens. Thanks for keeping up with Alan and also Charles Beadle ... and for being just a great guy, same as you were in high school. T*

## JUST A NOTE.

Linda Burk Kemp has made tracks all over the place—before, during and after the 60th—and this issue is largely thanks to her efforts. A sincere and smiley thanks to you, LBK!! There's a surge of "Maroonness" down there in ATX land and classmates are showing up and pitching in to help keep us revved up and ready for when we turn 80. Case in point, a random note from LBK: "I've started a list of all 'our' parents who had attended or graduated from Austin High. Probably I will also collect names of 'our' children/grandchildren who are Maroons! Our Maroonness Never Ends, LBK" —iNDEED! IT DOESN'T!

## OKAY MAYBE 2 NOTES.

There's also Kelly Jarrell Luedeke somewhere on the phone down there calling up "lost" people and updating our directory. It's amazing who all she's turning up. The goal is to have a line on everybody when we turn 80 and show up again to be together. So. Y'all all have a job while this is going on: Stay on the planet! You hear me? Otherwise it messes up the directory. Just hold up for awhile, will ya?

## UH OH.

Apologies all over the place to the birthday girl Tina Lawson, who, it turns out, is not Georgia Lochridge, and who is 2nd from the right in this lineup of Phyllis, Leslie, Tina & Camey. And thanks, Tina, for your gracious note on my little snafu in last month's reunion issue.

SEVERAL wrote in to point out that I mangled that caption ... which is good news, actually. Y'all are still crackerjack at paying attention and yer not letting me get away with nothin'.





## **JUNE Birthday Kids**

**01 Tina Lawson Houston (45)**

**03 Georgia Gaarde Fariss (45)**

**04 John Brakebill (45)**

**05 Jon Fruchter (45)**

**09 Linda Slease Sadler (45)**

**09 Marsha Slease McLaurin (45)**

**09 Nancy Williams (45)**

**09 Polly Coffin Swain (45)**

**10 Will Houston (45)**

**11 Glen Lewis (46)**

**12 Ron Warden (44)**

**13 Bill Moses (45)**

**13 Jim Sanders (45)**

**13 Gary Don Whitlock (45)**



**14 Pamela Sue Anderson Burnette (45)**

**16 Connie Knippa Simmonds (45)**

**20 David Nelson (45)**

**22 John Luedecke (45)**

**23 Babs Becker (45)**

**23 George Covington (45)**

**24 Sam Boyd (45)**

**24 Richard Flournoy (45)**

**26 Nancy Taylor (45)**

**29 Sherman DeBusk (45)**

**29 Alan Bergstrom (45)**

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**And here's the new deal for You Birthday People:**

On your birthday or during this birthday month, take a minute  
and maybe think of someone you'd like to reconnect with.

That's what LAST MONTH'S birthday kid Wade Weiler did! He wrote in  
about it—how he's reconnecting with his friends Alan Smith, and Charles  
Beadle.

**This is loyal forever in action.**

It's what we're tawkin about.

**So. Birthday People—lissen up.**

**It's your turn.**

Need a phone number or an email address for a long lost classmate?

**[CLICK HERE](#)** and ask! Maybe we've got it!

Go connect with a classmate, or write about that classmate ...  
or go talk to that classmate and send me a story about that!!

Really  
How hard can it be?

Now's the time to do this ...  
**...while we're all still here having birthdays.**

Got it?

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Got a birthday? Don't see it? Just hit reply and send me your  
birthday/year and you'll make the big time right here.  
Guaranteed. Queenie



Bob Bodoïn, Mary Williams, Kenny Roberts, Lulu Peal, Hank Hundley,  
Meiling Lung, and Malone Hill

***LOYAL FOREVER Y'ALL***

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- the AHS Class of 63

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