



# Class of '59 News

Issue #14/Fall 2017

**Our motto: We're still vertical.**  
**Editors: Pete Prunkl & Joe E. Doyle**

## Bob Stefans



### See more about Bob and Hurricane Harvey below

**R**ob Stefans, 51, treated his old man to the Villanova/North Carolina game in Houston last year. It was Bob's 75th birthday gift. Bob's shirt tells the story of which team he favored; he graduated in '63 with a degree in civil engineering. "It was a once in a lifetime event," said Bob. "The chances of me seeing Villanova win another national championship in Houston at the buzzer are a zillion to one." Rob and his wife are both Florida State grads and live in Florida. Their two boys are FSU students. Their daughter is a sophomore at St. Thomas High School in Fort Lauderdale where she plays lacrosse.

## Pierre DeVincentis



**D**aniel V. "D.V." DeVincentis, a Hollywood writer and producer and Pierre and Sally's son, is shown with one of the two Emmys he won in 2016. Here is what the Internet Movie Base had to say about him: Born in Europe and raised in Evanston, Illinois, D.V. DeVincentis now makes his home in Los Angeles. He has written and produced screenplays in collaboration with others and alone, including *American Crime Story: The People Vs. OJ Simpson* (for which he received two Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe, and a WGA Award, among others), *Grosse Pointe Blank*, and *High Fidelity* (for which he was nominated for Writers Guild of America and BAFTA Awards).

His father adds that DV was friends with actor John Cusack, the lead in *Grosse Pointe and Fidelity*. "DV is divorced; no kids. Just two rescue dogs who are spoiled rotten. He is also the incorrigible uncle from hell to my daughter's two girls," said Pierre.

## Richard "Dick" Kossack

**D**ick graduated from Seton Hall University (BS) and then later from Rutgers (MBA). He went to work for Engelhard Industries in Murray Hill, N.J. right after Seton Hall. The company, a surface and materials science firm, transferred him to Chicago in 1972. Dick has remained in the Chicagoland area ever since. Later in his career, Dick went into the paper recycling business, which his son Kevin now owns. Dick retired at 59 and his son still owns and operates the business. Dick's wife Mary Ann died 10 years ago. When we contacted Dick he had just left the hospital after a gall bladder attack. Dick, who now lives in Huntley, Illinois, a town northwest of Chicago, has two granddaughters, ages 4 and 6.

## Mike Falivena



**M**ike plays keyboards in the Venice Community Orchestra and in Strings Con Brio, a string ensemble in nearby Sarasota, Florida. Considering a reverse mortgage on your house? Mike said, "It's a great thing for many retirees." His home in Venice produced tropical crops of plantains and loquats. "Come visit," Mike says. Call 941-456-6453. Jacaranda West CC Village, 934 South Doral Lane, Venice, Florida.

At left are Mike's grandson, Robert, who is getting an MBA at Quinnipiac University, oldest daughter, Michelle, an attorney in the Poconos, granddaughter Kendall, a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh, son-in-law Todd.

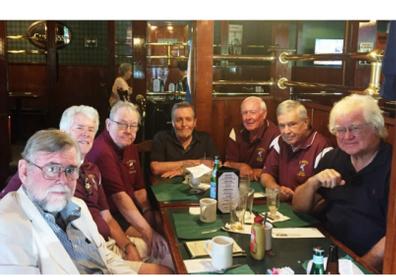
## Pete Prunkl



**D**rew Pendergrass, oldest son of Susan Prunkl Pendergrass and Tom Pendergrass, Huntsville, Alabama, poses with Donna Prunkl, Pete's wife, at Harvard's McKean Gate. Drew had quite an eventful freshman year at Harvard. He joined the Harvard Crimson and was appointed one of their editors. He had other articles in the Harvard Law Review. He assisted visiting composer Anthony Tan with the software for a piece Tan performed at Harvard in May. Drew spent the summer at Harvard doing research on air pollution in China.

Pete and Donna visited Paris in June 2016 with Drew following his senior year at Huntsville High School.

## Out to Lunch Bunch



**I**n August, the Old Gang got together for lunch at Harrigan's in Montville. From left: Jack Pierce, Charles Cameron, Bill Neafsey, John McGrath, Tom Kenah, Jack Matthews and Steve Smith. News from the group: Tom and Christine are going on a cruise. Bill wrote a book on the history of the Elizabeth (N.J.) Fire Department.

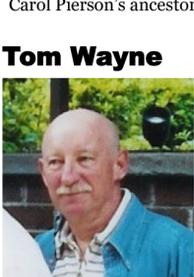
## Hal Pierson

**H**al's oldest son Harold lives in Seattle and Hal sent a photo of Riley (12) and Patrick (14). His youngest son, Ted lives in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Ted's children are the twins Ginna and Farrah (6) and Leo (3).



Hal watched the eclipse in Spartanburg and then explored the Revolutionary War battlefields at Cow Pens and King's Mountain. Carol Pierson's ancestors fought at both sites.

## Tom Wayne



**A** call to Tommy's home in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for a newsletter update yielded the sad news that Tommy died on March 28, 2014. His wife, Mary said that he had been hospitalized in 2013 for a bleeding episode. She quit her job soon after to take care of Tom, who was then referred to the local hospice. "He was a real sweetie," said Mary. The Waynes lived at 4408 Schlegel Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020. Tom had a daughter, Tricia. The photo was taken at our 40th reunion.

## Bob Stefans

**O**n Saturday, September 2, 2017, Bob wrote:

The Brazos River water has shut down the turn-around under the bridge. We have dodged a bullet in Georgetown because of the levee system." No Chevies on this levee.



**B**ob lives in Houston, Texas. He said, "Our big concern is with the Brazos River which runs alongside our subdivision. There are levees but the river is rising and will not crest until September 1." On September 1, Bob wrote: "River will crest on Thursday and it is expected to stop before it reaches the top of the levee."

## Bill Pietrucha



**B**ill wrote to say that he finished up with a large Australian consulting firm in April and that he and Nancy were enjoying their time together. Earlier this year, t

he Pietruchas visited their East Coast Grandkids. Bill sent this photo of their children. From left, Michael is a Colonel in the USAF based in Washington; Lynne is a Computer science teacher at a charter school in suburban Salt Lake City; Kevin manages the Los Angeles distribution center of a NJ based company providing custom built electrical

## Bob Wegner

**F**or Bob, it is very important to be a good grandparent. He loves to get away from his busy law practice on weekends by heading to Wall Township, in Monmouth County, NJ to "hang out" with his third grandchild, 15 month-old, Olivia, and his daughter, Ally.

As he marks 50 years as a lawyer, Bob proudly continues the tradition of Wegener and Wegner, P.A., the law firm that traces back to his grandfather, John Wegner, Sr. Bob's grandfather was once a New Jersey Workers' Compensation Deputy Director for the Department of Labor and Industry and retired from the Department as a Judge of Compensation after 32 years of service. He was in private practice until his death in 1967.

Bob earned his B.A. from St. Bonaventure in 1963; then attended Seton Hall University Law School, where he gained his J.D., in 1966. As he built his practice solidly in the field of Workers' Compensation (WC), Bob served on the N.J. Bar Association WC Executive Committee for 11 years, and was a founding member of the Justice James H. Coleman, Jr. N.J. WC American Inn of the Court.

The firm, Wegner and Wegner, was located in Paterson for 29 years, and moved to Totowa 21 years ago. Looking back at his St. Benedict's days, Bob says he cannot recall one memory better than another. "So many memories were great," he said. "Plus, we had a really great group of guys." Bob singled out several favorite classmates, including Tom Kenah, a monthly "Lunch Bunch" regular and the late Ed Tidaback, his former brother-in-law.

Bob's daughter, Ally is a teacher in Monmouth County and his son, Michael, an instructor in the English language in Tokyo, Japan.

Bob last got together with the Class of '59ers at one of the regular five year-cycle reunions. When he learned that, the Lunch Bunch, a group of 59'ers, meet monthly to eat, laugh and reminisce, Bob said he would like to join in on the fun. Always room for one more ... and more than that.

## More Family Photos



Bob Stefans and daughter Jennifer, who lives in Toronto with her husband



Mike Falivena's daughter Lauren, who lives in Newton, MA. Lauren received an MBA from Boston College and works in banking & finance. And Lauren's daughter, Ava.



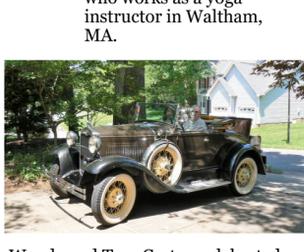
Mike Falivena's youngest daughter, Alexis, a magna cum laude UMass grad, who works as a yoga instructor in Waltham, MA.



Jack McGrath and his sons at a Giants game. From left, Jack, Dr. John W, McGrath Jr, Keith McGrath, Michael McGrath



Jack's wife Carol (she died on June 18, 2017), granddaughter Marissa and Jack McGrath at Marissa's wedding in November 2016.



Wanda and Tom Carton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2014. Here they take to the blue highways in Tom's Ford Roadster.

**The Class of '59 News is published periodically throughout the year.**

**Joe Doyle & Pete Prunkl, co-editors**

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