

News of the Month – August 2012

Class of 1959 – Memorial High School

Eau Claire, Wisconsin



August 1, 2012

Dear Classmates,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you this month. It is hard to believe, but three of our classmates, one classmate's daughter, and one classmate's grandson died during July 2012. The sad news started when I opened the *Eau Claire Leader – Telegram* and recognized a picture of our classmate, Oscar E. Peterson, on the "Obituaries" page of the paper. He died at his home in Tacoma, Washington, on July 9, 2012. Oscar was a kind man who traveled the world as a Telecommunications Engineer and became Santa Claus for his community in Tacoma. We talked about both endeavors at a recent class reunion, and his eyes twinkled just like Santa's when he talked about that role in his life. We send our sympathy and warm thoughts to Oscar's wife, Ginny, and their children and grandchildren.

A few days after that, I went out to get the mail and found a card addressed to the "Eau Claire Memorial High School Class of 1959." When I opened the card, I found a note from Linda K. Golle Livingston's husband, Jerry, telling us that Linda died on July 15, 2012. Linda was part of our class during our senior year in high school when her family moved here because of her father's job with Montgomery Wards. She, quickly, became involved in school activities and started the card section at athletic events at Memorial. Linda was dedicated to children's learning and was an enthusiastic teacher for over thirty years. We send our condolences and caring thoughts to Jerry, to Linda's children and grandchildren, and to her brothers, Frank Golle, Jr. and John Golle.

The next day an obituary for our classmate, Charles F. Johnson, was in the *Leader-Telegram*. Chuck died on July 21, 2012. He had been ill for quite some time. As a result, he was unable to get to the recent class reunion, but Betty Pendergast Bowe and her sister, Janet, made sure that Chuck received one of the *50th Class Reunion Books*, so he was able to catch-up with classmates despite his illness. We send our sympathy and caring thoughts to Chuck's mother, Hazel M. Johnson; his children and grandchildren; and to his brother, Gary (and Donna) Johnson.

In addition to these deaths, one member of our class has also lost a daughter, and another member of our class has lost a grandson during the past month. Jamie Anderson, daughter of our class member, Karen Thompson Anderson, and her husband, Robert Anderson, died on July 12, 2012, at her home. And Jesse Schreiner, grandson of our class member, Dawn (Smuhl) Schreiner-Sutton, died on July 20, 2012, as a result of an automobile accident. There are no words to express the sorrow and the sympathy that is extended to you and to your families on the death of your children. We can only send our hugs and let you know that you are in our thoughts at this sad time.

Steve Loken has already provided links on this website, so we can go to "What's New?" to find all of these obituaries. And, after we do, we might want to give an extra hug to a loved one or a pat on the back to a friend or family member. None of us will be here forever. Hopefully, we'll leave good memories and lots of love behind.

Speaking of Love... There was a wonderful picture of our classmate, Tom Lake, and his wife, Mary, in the paper today. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 11, 2012. How wonderful! Congratulations and lots of good wishes to both of you for many more anniversaries ahead! (A link to the picture is on the [Bulletin Board](#) on "What's New?")

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