



## News of the Month – December 2015 Memorial High School – Class of 1959 Eau Claire, Wisconsin December 1, 2015



Dear Classmates,

The year is coming to a close this month, and, as I look back at the twelve months that are almost past, there have been many good things happening for members of the Class of 1959. However, there have been some difficult and very sad things happening for our group also. Especially sad is that some of our class members, and/or family of our class members, have passed on recently.

On September 10, 2015, Graham Layton Fleury Blakeley, who was two and one-half years old and the grandson of our classmate, Mary Mierow Blakeley, and her husband, Brian Blakeley, died at the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Graham was the only child of Mary and Brian's son, Derek, and his wife, Amy. Graham lived his entire life at the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. His service was September 20, 2015, in the hospital chapel. The next month, Mary Mierow Blakeley's sister, Nancy Mierow Gilbertson, died on October 29, 2015. Nancy lived in Osseo and passed away of ALS at the Pigeon Falls Health Care Center. We send our sympathy and big hugs to Mary and Brian and their family. Both Graham and Nancy's obituaries are on this website at *What's New?*

Everett E. Blakeley, father of our classmate, Diane Blakeley Boetcher, died on November 3, 2015. Mr. Blakeley loved to sing and was a member of the Eau Claire Male Chorus, the Lake Street Methodist Church Choir, and the Valley Gospel Choir. His funeral was a wonderful memorial to him through the songs he liked best. We send our caring thoughts to Diane on the loss of her father. His obituary is on this website at *What's New?*

Our classmate, Eugene A. Engelbretson, died on November 6, 2015, in Surprise, Arizona, after a long hard battle with ALS. Gene served four years in the U.S. Air Force and worked for many years for the RD Smith Company. He also owned Tidy Car for several years. There is to be no visitation or service, because Gene is to be part of a comprehensive research project into ALS. He was such a nice person throughout his life, and, now, he is giving back with research even in death. We send our sympathy and caring thoughts to Carole and his family at this sad time. Gene's obituary is on this website at *What's New?*

Roger R. Schilling, husband of our classmate, Laurel Olson Schilling, died on November 13, 2015. During his professional life, he spent a number of years as a special agent with the Treasury Department's Criminal Investigation Division in western Wisconsin. Many of our classmates got to know Roger over the last few years, however, because, as a retiree, he came to our class lunches and was always ready to visit and seemed to enjoy being part of the group. And the group loved having him there. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Laurel and their family. Roger's obituary is on this website at *What's New?*

Best wishes for a holiday season filled with love, friendship, and family.

Carolyn Gabrielsen Barstad

2002 Redwood Drive  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

715-835-5080  
cjbarstad@charter.net

