



News of the Month – June 2015

Memorial High School – Class of 1959

Eau Claire, Wisconsin



June 1, 2015

Dear Classmates,

Summer has begun in Eau Claire! I saw eighty-two degrees on our outdoor thermometer today, and the sun was shining. After a really chilly spring, it's an amazing shift in the area. In fact, as recently as last Monday – Memorial Day, we started the day with dark clouds, cool temperatures, and intermittent rain. But that didn't keep anyone home. The Memorial Day Parade in Eau Claire followed a little different route this year. It usually follows Barstow Street from Wilson Park and turns left across the Lake Street Bridge to the Sarge Boyd Bandshell at Owen Park for a Memorial Day Program. However, because the Lake Street Bridge is undergoing some renovations and is closed, the parade started at the Eau Claire County Court House this year. From there, it followed Second Avenue to Chippewa Street, where it turned left to Owen Park and the program. I believe the whole city was there! It didn't seem to matter that there were rain drops now and then. Bands from Memorial, North, and Regis High Schools, plus DeLong, North Star, and South Middle Schools added much to the day. In addition, most branches of the military were well-represented during the parade and were enthusiastically applauded by the crowds along the route. After seeing the Memorial Day Program from Washington, D.C. on television the night before and attending the parade on Memorial Day, the events made me wonder how many people from our class have been members of our armed forces during their lifetimes. I'd really like to recognize all of you people by putting your names on our website with the years you served and the branch you were in. Any other information about your military career would be most welcome. If you would send me that information, I'd appreciate it. We owe so much to all of you for making this country the land of the free and the home of the brave.

As you know from the *May Website Newsletter*, based on the votes that were mailed to me from class members, our 55th Reunion is going to be a three-day celebration and will be held the weekend of September 13-15, 2019. I have sent a request for the different events to The Lismore Hotel in downtown Eau Claire. The hotel is still being renovated and will probably open after the first of the year – 2016. As a result, I have not been able to reach anyone there to confirm the reservations. However, I will try to secure that venue as soon as possible and will let you know by snail mail as soon as I am sure we have it.

Dorothy H. Preston, mother of our classmate, Barbara Preston Rude, died on May 1, 2015. Mrs. Preston was 95 years old and a life-long member of Plymouth United Church of Christ. (Many of you will remember that Barb was married to our classmate, Dave Rude, who died on October 10, 2010.) We send our caring thoughts and sympathy to Barb and her family at this sad time.

Our Class of 1959 bank account is still quite low even though our treasurer, John Schaaf, has switched our class checking account to Peoples Bank in Eau Claire. They have agreed to charge us no fees regardless of how low our class bank account gets. The good news is that over the past month, we have raised \$250.00 from class members who have sent donations to John to add to our bank balance. Thank you very much. That will help us a lot, but any donations from other members of our class who might want to give to our class treasury would still be very much appreciated, because we continue to have expenses between reunions. For instance, we will be sending a snail mail letter to all classmates later this year, and we will need a deposit to secure our reunion reservations for 2019.

Donations should be sent directly to John Schaaf at 4306 Meadow Lane, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Please make checks payable to the *Eau Claire Memorial High School Class of 1959*. Thank you so much!



Carolyn Gabrielsen Barstad
4292 Mill Ridge Circle
Eau Claire, WI 54703

715-835-5080
cjbarstad@charter.net