



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Alumni and Parent Relations

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### Class of 1959

#### Class Agents

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February 26, 2016

Dear 59ers,

I think it might have been Professor Donald Baker who required us to read the immortal words:

“Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”

John Donne 1575 – 1631

In this letter we toll the bell for two 59ers, Joe Chester and Herb Hill. I have attached their obituaries. As always, we mourn them and we treasure the memories.

**Joseph A. Chester, 78**, passed away Saturday, January 16th, 2016 at his home in Portage, Indiana after a brave battle with cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara (nee Wisner) Chester, son Joseph (Jennifer) Chester, son Thomas (Robin) Chester, daughter Annie (David) Endres, grandchildren Joe (Angel), Jacob and Jared Chester, Erica Tompkins, Ashley (Stacy) Weeks, Katie and Maggie Endres, great-grandsons Joey and Jackson Chester, Oliver Tompkins and Roamyn Grant. Also surviving are sisters Jean Prusiecki, Julie (Darrel) Thomas, brother Frank (Anita) Chester, sister-in-law Joanne (Ron) Williams and brother-in-law Jerry Carden.

Joe graduated from East Gary Edison High School and attended Wabash College on a football scholarship. He also attended Ball State Teacher’s College where he met his wife, Barbara.

He raised his family in Merrillville and was an active member of Saints Peter and Paul Church. Joe and Barbara moved to Portage in 1993 and then attended Saint Bridget Church in Hobart.

Joe is fondly remembered as “Coach Chester” and he touched the lives of many young people in the community. He coached CYO football at Saints Peter and Paul for 15 years. He coached CYO girls basketball, Merrillville girls softball, Merrillville Little League baseball, CYO high school basketball and he was the first coach of girls softball at Andrean High School in 1984. Coach set a winning example for all his players by instilling good sportsmanship, teamwork and fun.

He worked at US Steel Sheet and Tin Mill and retired in 1999 after 40 years as a millwright. The Coach was a loyal Chicago Cubs fan and an avid fisherman. But most of all he was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend.

Our father didn’t tell us how to live. He lived and let us watch him do it.

The Chester Family extends a special thanks to the emergency room and oncology floor at Hobart Mercy Hospital. Also heartfelt thanks to Dr. Barbara Fuller and her staff as well as VNA Hospice of Valparaiso.

Family and friends may call at Pruzin Brothers Funeral Service (6360 Broadway, Merrillville) on Tuesday from 2:00-8:00 P.M. with a Service of Remembrance at 7:00 P.M. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. DIRECTLY from St. Bridget Catholic Church (568 East 2nd Street, Hobart) with Rev. Dominic Bertino officiating. There will be visitation at the church ½ hour prior to the Mass. Cremation will follow the Mass.

In following with Coach Chester’s love of sports, please wear your favorite fan wear or uniform instead of formal wear. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family.

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**Herbert Noble Hill -78**, of Indianapolis, completed this life to enter God's eternal presence on Friday, January 8, 2016. Herb was born on July 4, 1937 in Granite City, Illinois to the late Mary Louise (Smith) and Elmer O. Hill, who was the founder of the Indianapolis YMCA system. He married Gloria Joy Reichenbach on June 11, 1960. Together they lived and thrived in the Indianapolis area for the last fifty-five years. Herb went to Park High School, where he played football and baseball, Wabash College, graduating in 1959, IU Medical School, graduating in 1963 and then completed an Internship at Methodist Hospital in Family Practice. Herb worked as a family doctor with a private practice on the northwest side of Indianapolis for thirty years, and the southeast side for twenty years. He volunteered at the Good News Clinic and participated in mission trips to Central America and China. Herb was a member of Southport Presbyterian Church, enjoyed Bible Study, family gatherings, pets, and travelling with family. He loved studying medicine and Spanish and could fix anything.

Herbert is survived by his wife Gloria Joy (Reichenbach) Hill; children Bob (Ginger) Hill, Maureen (Scott) Watson and Laura Metcalfe; grandchildren Stephanie and Matthew Hill, John and Alex Watson, and Kara and Andra Metcalfe; sister Merry Kay (Chris) Nussbaumer: brother Arthur (Julie) Hill. He is preceded in passing by his parents and a sister Patricia Remy.

Service for Herbert will be Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at Southport Presbyterian Church. Visitation will be Monday, January 11, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Singleton Community Mortuary and Memorial Center and Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. until the hour of service at church. Interment will be at New Palestine Cemetery. The family has suggested memorial gifts be made to the Good News Ministries or Moody Bible Institute. Online condolences may be extended to the family by visiting [www.singletonmortuary.com](http://www.singletonmortuary.com).

Remember what it was like walking to class in the snow on a winter day in Crawfordsville? You had to attend class and study because there was little else to do on the coldest days. Walking across campus today you would tread on the same paths. Same beautiful campus with a few buildings added on the fringes. For example, Wabash just dedicated a stand-alone building for wrestling, the Shelbourne Wrestling Center. Don was a standout wrestler at Wabash and always wanted to have first rate facilities for our men. The Max Servies wrestling room in the Allen Center became too small---the overflow men were wrestling in the Fieldhouse. Now, Don says, the only better facilities are at Ohio State and Michigan. Wrestling was eliminated at many colleges to accommodate women sports under Title IX requirements. That left colleges like Wabash sitting pretty. Large numbers of freshmen appreciate Wabash wrestling being available. Shelbourne, by the way, is a noted orthopedic surgeon in Indianapolis who for twelve years was the doctor on the sidelines for the Indianapolis Colts. But he also did the same thing for Purdue, and it became too much to continue with the Colts. Some Little Giant!

One more brick and mortar comment. After rebuilding the fraternity houses and (currently) building some outstanding townhouses, lodges, and halls in the block behind the Delt house the College is completing a multi-year upgrade of housing. Speaking of the Delts, they are well into "recolonizing". You might recall the College closed the fraternity in 2008. Now, with the legal proceduring over, the fraternity is alive and well. Martindale is closed for complete renovation: outside stays the same, inside will be gutted.

I do not mean to ignore academics. Professors I have met are impressive. There are now many women professors, a result of so many women going on for PhD's now that they now are often the best candidates for a job. Typically, undergraduate, private liberal arts colleges, including DePauw, are recruiting 60 percent women for the freshman classes! Our women professors are dedicated to educating Wabash men. Another academic item: the class of 2015 included another Wabash Rhodes scholar. We have had many more than DePauw, by the way.

Well, that's about it for now. Nice to know that another feather in Wabash's cap is that over 40% of our alumni (including non-graduates) donate each year to the College, more than all but a few other colleges. Of course, we 59ers are always way over 40%!

My best to you and yours, on behalf of myself, Wedgie, and Craig.

Rog '59