

Class of 1966

Class Agent
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Dear Men of '66,

In the last class letter it was announced that our class has a challenge/opportunity to name the Senior Arch at Wabash for our Wabash brothers who lost their lives in the Viet Nam war. The response has been very positive from many of you, and it is the hope of the College that the plaque to honor these Wabash war heroes will contain many of our names as donors to this wonderful project. Additional details regarding how to donate will be in the August class letter. Please consider how you can contribute to this challenge/opportunity.

We have recently lost two classmates, Bill Gilman and Jerry Jefferies, and their obituaries follow. It is noted that Bill Gilman was originally in the class of '65 but left school for a period of time due to a death in his family.



William W. Gilman, 81, passed away on Friday, June 20, 2025 in his home in Allenhurst, NJ, the place he loved the most.

Known by his friends as Bill, Billy, Champagne Bill, William W the 14th, and the Man, the Myth, the Legend; he loved baseball, the beach, horse racing, the Democratic Party and had a knack for writing poems and doing NY Times puzzles.

He also loved to tell stories or a good joke, and was a damn good insurance broker. He was never afraid to tell you what he thought and had a genuine desire to get to know people, either over a bottle of DP or a Diet Sunkist.

The only thing he loved more than the great states of New Jersey and Hawaii was his family.

He inspired many, "Gilman'd" a few and was loved by everyone who understood and accepted him for who he was. His generosity knew no bounds.

In his own words: I will live long after I die in the hearts and minds and stories of the people I have encountered in my journey. My hope is that people will remember me as a good guy who was courageous and honest and always spoke his mind without fear and lived his life that way.

He is survived by his wife, Madeline (Lynn) of 56 years; his daughters, Jenny Piche (Jared) and Samantha Mohs (John) and grandchildren, Nora, Henry and Theo; his sister, Enid Goubeaux and nephews, Edward and Jerome; his sister-in-law, Mary Keleigh and husband John.

A celebration of his life will be held at his home in Allenhurst on Saturday, July 19, 2025 between 2pm and 6pm.

Donations in his memory may be made to Interfaith Neighbors Inc. <https://interfaithneighbors.org>. For condolences, please visit www.fiorefunerhomes.com.



Jerry Lee Jefferies of Fairfield, OH left this world on June 27, exactly 81 years and 39 days after his birth on May 19, 1944. Three years earlier, Jerry's mother, Roberta June Jefferies, had confided to close family members her plan to give birth to a son in May 1944. Since Jerry arrived at the time scheduled by his mother, he was occasionally called "on time Jerry."

Jerry (often called JJ by his sisters and brother) was born and grew up in modest circumstances in Richmond, Indiana. Although "sandwiched" between an older brother and sister and a younger sister, Jerry generated more than his share of attention. As a child, he was good hearted but had a natural propensity for trouble. A couple of early examples follow.

At age two with his mother briefly out of the room Jerry climbed on the family's kitchen table and rolled in the baking flour his mother had spread there. When his mother returned, Jerry received his reward: a quick cold bath in the kitchen sink with his clothes on.

At age seven, Jerry delighted in jumping from a chair in the basement and grabbing hold of hot and cold water pipes just below the ceiling. There, unknown to mother, Jerry would swing back and forth. One day Jerry swung too far and fell headfirst on the unforgiving concrete floor. A fractured skull sent Jerry to the hospital and worried his mother for weeks on end.

In financial matters, Jerry was self-disciplined from an early age. While his brother and older sister often blew through their modest weekly allowances, Jerry placed all or most of his in an empty coffee can that he kept under his bed. When a sibling or even his mother needed a loan the "Bank of Jerry" usually obliged after carefully entering all loan details in a small notebook that Jerry kept close at hand.

Jerry was smarter than his brother and sisters although his report card did not always show it. He could read the sports page of the local newspaper when he entered kindergarten. He was a whiz at math and was blessed with a phenomenal memory, sometimes rattling off telephone numbers to his mother so she didn't have to consult the phone book.

After graduating from high school in 1962 (where he was a member of the tennis and cross-country teams), Jerry entered Wabash College. At Wabash Jerry was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. He graduated in 1967 with an economics major and one of the few students in the College with in-depth study of the classical and now unspoken language of Latin.

Jerry served in the U.S. Army. For several years Jerry was a field claim representative for the State Farm Insurance Company. Later, Jerry was an independent rep for other insurance companies. He was also a substitute schoolteacher from time to time.

Jerry's marriage to a wonderful and talented young woman in 1969 ended sadly through no fault of his spouse. The marriage was blessed with one child, Diane Lee (Jefferies) Summerville, who provided unceasing and loving help to Jerry in his later years.

Jerry loved books. He had two sets of encyclopedias and enjoyed checking one against the other when he delved into subjects that interested him. Jerry's love of history may have been inherited from his maternal grandfather. Jerry was especially intrigued by the Civil War and could talk as an expert on that bloody conflict. Jerry's in-depth reading provided him with a formidable vocabulary. One of his favorite words was "archaic."

Truth be told, Jerry genuinely felt he often knew more than the doctors he visited and the lawyers he consulted. And, amazingly, sometimes he did.

In his long life there were lengthy periods when Jerry was challenged by physical illness and mental demons. In coping with these adversaries Jerry sometimes fell short, but he never gave up and rarely complained. Even when troubled, Jerry was quick, to the extent possible, to give unconditional love and support to close family members and friends.

Those who will miss Jerry include his daughter, Diane Lee (Jefferies) Summerville (Daniel) of Fairfield, OH, his granddaughters, Kayla (Summerville) Lives (Josh) of Fairfield and Camden Summerville of Fairfield, his brother, Robert Jefferies Jr. (Sylvia) of St. Louis, MO, his sister Patricia Jefferies (Bill Maloney) of St. Petersburg, FL and his sister Liz (Jefferies) Runyon (Paul) of Richmond, IN. Also surviving Jerry are nieces Elise Runyon, Exton, PA, Amy Runyon Swanson (Erik), Waco, TX and Pamela Binegar (Robert), Seminole, FL and nephews David Jefferies (Renee), Cincinnati, OH, Michael Jefferies (Christine), St. Louis, MO and Stephen Jefferies (Hannah), St. Louis, MO. Jerry was preceded in death by his mother, Roberta June Howell, his father, Robert Jefferies Sr., and his long-time and beloved stepfather, Gilbert Howell.

A memorial service to honor Jerry will be held at 12 noon on July 7 at the Stegall, Berheide, Orr Funeral Home, 222 North 10th Street, Richmond, Indiana 47374. Online condolences may be shared with the family via the guest book at stegallberheideorr.com.



Wabash has a new Dean of Students, and we hope he can handle his new duties like Dean Moore used to do-with class, compassion, careful consideration and creativity!

Dr. Scott C. Brown earned his bachelor's degree in English at the University of California, Irvine, a master's degree in higher education and student affairs from Indiana University, and his Ph.D. in student personnel administration from the University of Maryland.

He worked in residence life while earning his doctorate then started his career directing the career center at Mount Holyoke College. He served as associate vice president and dean of students at Colgate University for eight years. He left Colgate in 2016 to become vice president of student affairs and dean of students at the College of Wooster, where he oversaw a team of 60 student life professionals.

After a year as interim associate vice president and dean of students at Northern Arizona University, Dr. Brown became dean of the college at Dartmouth College, where he served on the president's senior leadership team and managed a staff of over 250 employees. He was honored as an honorary member of the Class of 1984. Most recently, Dr. Brown served as interim dean of students at Sterling College in Vermont.

As a consultant, Dr. Brown has conducted program reviews of career centers at more than a dozen colleges and universities. He has been widely published on topics ranging from wisdom and leadership development to inclusion and mitigating high-risk behaviors. He has given more than 30 invited presentations and keynotes, has been honored with the Annuit Coeptis Award for Outstanding Senior Professional and the Diamond Honoree for Contributions to the Profession by the College Student Educators International, and served as an Inaugural Senior Impact Fellow for the Aspen Institute. He is a long-time member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Dr. Brown and his wife, Anne-Marie Lemal, are the parents of three grown children.

Our 60th reunion will be on June 5-7, 2026 at which time we will dedicate the Senior Arch. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and bring your "Golden Little Giant" voice as we gather together in the Chapel and sing Old Wabash!

"From the hills of Maine to the Western plain..."

Cal