

**Class of 1961**

**Class Agent**  
**J B Bachman**

**November 2023**

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**Dear Many Miler:**

Greetings from the beautiful Wabash College Campus! The new Rhyne class of 2027 is now settled in; 238 strong and by the time you have read this, they will have had their “Sing” on the mall. Wabash starts the new year with a highly rated faculty and an administration who are deeply engaged in teaching men to Think critically, Act responsibly, Live humanely and Lead effectively.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, the College celebrated the conclusion of the Giant Steps Campaign. It was a lovely evening, and the Fieldhouse was all decked out for the event. Several students spoke, including our outstanding Quarterback, Liam Thompson. The final tally was a huge \$ 250 M from 12,029 donors who made 82,272 gifts. (\$313,298 per student) Many new scholarships have been established, and every Wabash student will be offered travel abroad at no cost. Next BIG issue: replace Sparks Center!!! So far, fraternities will keep their kitchens and Independents will dine in the new center. No bowling alley is planned! This will be the biggest project on the horizon. After it is complete, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will begin in earnest. Not sure how many of us will be around in 2032, but I’m hoping a few of us will be able to be there.



Coach Don Morel started his 12<sup>th</sup> season as Wabash football coach. This is the 50<sup>th</sup> season since Division III was formed. In August 136 young men showed up with enthusiasm running high! The front line averages just under 300#s. (Oberlin had a 417# player who did play.) The season started with a trip to Virginia to take on the Hampden-Sydney winning in an exciting finish, 29-28. On Sept. 18, Wabash played Butler (Div I) for the first time in over 50 years! The outcome was what you might expect, but Wabash held their own losing 47-21. The

bright spot was that the entire parking lot around Hinkle Fieldhouse was a sea of red! A big Wabash turnout was very special! The big game will be really tough this year.

DePauw is 9-0, winning by big margins. They are leading the NCAC conference.



The Monon Bell game is at Little Giant Stadium on Nov 11. QB Liam Thompson has broken nearly every Wabash record. He has participated in the Peyton Manning Quarterback Camp 3 years, the only Div III QB. He now has his younger brother, Conner, to throw to! They played together @ North Central High School in Indy.



Thompson has been named a finalist (one of 16) in the William V. Campbell Trophy by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. He is a rhetoric major, double minor in film & digital media and Spanish. He boasts a 3.87 cumulative GPA.

Norm Beesley reported that his lawn was “so dry it was crunchy to walk on.....” Our summer has been interrupted by my numerous visits to the hospital for kidney stones. I am now down to one kidney and that one also has stones that are problematic. I feel like I aged 5 years on my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday! Still playing Pickleball, but not as lively as before....

Word from Jan Wood is that Jay Moore entered a memory care unit July 1st.

Also Mike Hughes has undergone open heart surgery and is now home resting.

From Tim Conlon: “Yesterday morning in Sisters, OR (pop.3500) President Scott Feller and I had breakfast. With the Giant Steps Campaign exceeding \$250 M, Scott was elated; and he and Wendy are enjoying Central Oregon’s high desert and mountains setting. He is relaxing! His intelligence, enthusiasm, vision and singular leadership skills are evident to me as we talked for over an hour. We talked about the student body being in the Gen Z generation and how distinctly different they are from graduates now in their 30s and 40s. The post-pandemic ‘normal’ is a fluid, always changing ‘new normal’ and the student body is a reflection of that. He is comfortable and confident with the quality of the faculty, the Texas and Arizona outreach admission strategy, and the unique differentiation Wabash has compared to small, private liberal arts colleges in IN, IL, OH, MI and WI. Wabash being an all male student body is the differentiation..... Sitting with him wants me to be the 20 year old Editor, *The Bachelor* to have him communicate to the students. And, I didn’t even buy his cup of coffee!” Tim

Pete Phippen writes “Jake (grandson) loves Wabash and finished his freshman year with a 3.2 GPA. He loves his pledge brothers, the Sig House, lacrosse and has found a ‘Molly’ at Purdue!” So the 5<sup>th</sup> Phippen to attend Wabash has completed the Miami Triad – Beta, Phi Delt and Sigma Chi!

Earl Talbot: I’m retired on this coming June 30<sup>th</sup>. It’s hard to believe. I’ve adjusted nicely and enjoy not working very much. After 55 years in the practice of law, it was time to let others carry on serving our clients. However, the name of my firm, of which I was a co-founder, remains Hoogendoorn & Talbot, LLP, so there is a piece of me still attending to legal needs of those we served. Earl

Coach Clyde Morgan’s Cross Country team has won the NCAC Championship this fall. The track & field and Cross Country teams have continued to be a strong factor on any field! Congrats to them.

## Remembrances:

Sara Sommer  
Apr 7, 1939 – Aug 4, 2023

From Hal; With great Sorrow I am writing that Sara died this morning in Jacksonville. Dated 8/4/23

Keith Hayden  
July 15, 1939 – May 3, 2023

William Keith Hayden, 83, formerly 70 years in North Vernon, now of Columbus, passed from this life at 3:20 a.m. Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis after a five year battle with cardiac amyloidosis. Mr. Hayden was born July 15, 1939, in Madison. He married Carol Ritter June 11, 1961.

Keith retired from Arvin Industries in 2000 where he served for more than 40 years and he ended his career as the manager of customer service. He is survived by the love of his life, Carol of 61 years; children, Andrew (Mary) Hayden of OH; Pamela (Jeff) Stachelek of S.C., and Douglas (Amy) of Columbus; proud gramps of, Hayley and Heather Hayden, Kayce (Juan) Perez, Hayden and Davis Stachelek; step grandfather of Courtney and Cody Rogers; and great grandfather of, Braedon, Kayleigh, and Gabriel Votor.

He was preceded in death by his mother Hazel Stout Hayden Stults; stepfather Edward Stults and brother, Richard Hayden.

He attended Wabash College on a football scholarship and was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. After college he coached little league baseball, played slow pitch softball, umpired slow pitch softball and several national championship games. His favorite sport to officiate was high school and college football. He enjoyed golf with his buddies, gardening, reading, playing cards and wintering in Arizona. But his favorite pastime was watching his children and grandchildren participate in sports and other activities. Keith was the dad every child and grandchild deserves and the one his were lucky enough to have. "Many will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your life". (Eleanor Roosevelt) Keith left giant footprints in many lives.

A gathering of family and friends will be from 1 — 3 p.m. Sunday, May 21, 2023, at Villas of Stone Crest 5055 Boca Grande Blvd, Columbus, IN 47203.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be made to Our Hospice of South Central Indiana or The Amyloidosis Foundation. Arrangements by Barkes, Weaver & Glick Funeral Home. Online condolences and special memories may be shared with the family and a video tribute may be viewed at [barkesweaverglick.com](http://barkesweaverglick.com)

Dick Lesniak  
Mar 29, 1939 – Oct 1, 2023

SCHERERVILLE, IN - Richard J. Lesniak Sr., age 84, of Schererville, IN, passed away on Sunday, October 1, 2023 surrounded by family.

Born in East Chicago, IN on March 29, 1939, to the late Benjamin J. Lesniak and Helen (Gajda) Lesniak, Richard is survived by his wife, Janice (Kmiecik); four children: Linda Kiefer (Charles) of Centennial, CO, Karen Tracy

(Gregory) of Galloway, OH, Richard Lesniak, Jr. (Tamera) of Scottsdale, AZ and John Michael Lesniak (Eliza) of Singapore; five grandchildren: Charlie and Michael Kiefer, Rory and Sean Tracy, and Ariana Lesniak; his brother, John Lesniak (Janice, deceased) of Highland, IN, and sister, Margaret Doll (Kenneth, deceased) of Indianapolis, IN; many nieces, nephews and cousins; and one aunt, Lucile Gardner (John, deceased) of LaPorte, IN.

After graduating from Bishop Noll High School, Wabash College and Indiana University School of Law, he began his law career as an Escrow Officer with Chicago Title Insurance and then transitioning to Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Lake County. Next he joined the private practice firm of Given, Dawson and Cappas in East Chicago and later founded his own firm. While practicing in East Chicago he represented many local government agencies. As the East Chicago School City general counsel for 20 years, he participated in the financing and construction of numerous schools and municipal improvements. Later in his career, he relocated the firm to Schererville and leaned toward family practice. Preparing for retirement, in 2018 he merged into the offices of Rubino, Rumen, Crosmer and Polen in Dyer, IN. He was a member of the Lake County Bar Association and the Indiana State Bar Association for over 50 years.

In the late '60s and early '70s, he served as the Representative for Lake County in the Indiana House of Representatives. He was the Democrat Caucus Chairman in 1971 and 1972, a member of the Indiana Code Study Commission, and co-sponsor of Indiana Code of 1971.

He was an avid golfer and ballroom dancer, dancing with his wife in numerous amateur ballroom dance competitions across the United States.

A private service will be held at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions in Richard's name to the Saint Joseph's Carmelite Home (4840 Grasselli St, East Chicago, IN 46312) will be appreciated.

Services provided by Acevez Funeral Homes.

To: Janice Lesniak: Just got word of Dick's passing. So sorry to hear this.

From Janice Lesniak: "Thank you, John. Wabash was a very special part of Rich's life – mine, too. So sad to hear of the many who have passed lately. 1961 was filled with great guys.

From John Birdzell: "spoke with Rich's son Mike. ...he indicated that Rich and Janice had been in an automobile accident about 3 years ago and things had gone steadily downhill since then for Rich. Janice had been his care giver since the accident.

### Charlie Bowerman Dec 16, 1939 – Sept 2, 2023

Charles Leo Bowerman was born on December 16, 1939, in Alamo, Indiana to Thomas Edward Bowerman and Hazel Augusta Melvin Bowerman. He died peacefully in his sleep on September 2, 2023, and the age of 83. Charlie played basketball from the time he could walk, and in true Hoosier fashion developed a lifelong passion for the game. This passion led to a career that spanned nearly 4 decades with Phillips Petroleum Co. Bowerman attended Alamo HS, where he averaged over 27 points per game- playing for one of the toughest coaches he ever had - his dad! As a high school baller, Charlie was selected All-County, All-Sectional, and Outstanding Senior Athlete in Montgomery County in 1957. Bowerman then earned a scholarship to Wabash

College in Crawfordsville, IN. He had a great basketball career there including an historic five overtime game with Butler his junior year where he scored 53 points helping Wabash get the win 110-108. Then his senior year, he scored 63 points in a game record that still stands today. Between his junior and senior year Charlie married Coralea Weir, the love of his life whom he had known since grade school. Charlie graduated Wabash in 1961 with a liberal arts degree in history and psychology.

His success on the court gained the attention of a Phillips recruiter who asked him to come to Bartlesville for an interview. The recruiter also happened to be a Phillips 66ers assistant coach, and the interview quickly turned into a basketball tryout and soon after, a job offer. Bowerman often said the best advice his father ever gave him was to take the job at Phillips and work while also getting the opportunity to play ball. He had already turned down a chance to play in the NBA with the New York Knicks, being selected in the 5th round of the 1961 draft. Bowerman's three-year stint with the 66ers included a good will tour to the Middle East and playing in the world games in Rio de Janeiro. He was selected an AAU All-American in 1964 and was a member of the AAU All Star Team in the Olympic Trials. After three years of basketball and traveling, Charlie decided to settle down with his family and focus on his career.

Starting out in the sales training program in South Bend and then La Porte, IN he worked as a district sales rep and rose rapidly in the ranks. Bowerman held various managerial positions in the marketing operations in the 1970s and 80s which brought him to Oklahoma and in 1984 he became the VP of marketing for Phillips. Some of his fondest memories were working on "The Rebirth of the Brand" a national marketing campaign to improve and revamp their retail store image. In 1988 he became Sr VP of Petroleum Products with worldwide responsibilities for refining, marketing, and transportation. Bowerman was elected to the Phillips board of directors in 1989, and held various other executive positions including 1995 when he became the executive VP of planning, corporate relations and services. Charlie retired in 1999 after 38 years of service with Phillips Petroleum Co. and was the last remaining Phillips employee from the 66ers glory days.

While working, Charlie was a member of the American Petroleum Institute's board of directors, the Boy Scouts of America's national executive board, was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1995, he served on the board of trustees for the Boys & Girls Club of Bartlesville, and was also a trustee for Hanover College and Jane Phillips Medical Center. He continued his service to the community after retirement serving on various committees with First United Methodist Church in Bartlesville, the Bartlesville Community Foundation, the Bartlesville Sports Commission, and helping bring the American Legion World Series to Bartlesville. And while all of these are admirable things, he did them humbly while coaching his girls in sports, teaching their Sunday school classes, helping with term papers, and later even running a basketball camp in the driveway for his grandkids.

Charlie's successes in life both on the court and throughout his work career were rooted in a strong foundation of faith. He never shied away from talking about hardships and trusting in the Lord. He had a disciplined prayer life, set goals, and expected excellence along with ethics. This living out of his faith was the greatest legacy he left his family. With fond memories of holiday gatherings, family vacations, treasure hunts, and fancy dinners, we hold these close to our heart as we take comfort in knowing he is reunited with Coralea, worshiping his Lord Jesus Christ and walking on those streets of gold.

Family members include:

Daughters: Cindy Dean and her husband Paul, Cristie Lister and her husband Darren, Candie Morris and her husband Jeff. Grandchildren: Jennifer Dean, Robbie Dean and his wife Jenna, Zachary Lister and his wife Shelby, Jacob Lister, Nathan Lister and his wife Madison, Erin Morris, Carlie Morris, and Jordan Morris Great Grandchildren: Brynlee, Skylar, Luke, Ezekiel, and Landry. Sister: Judy Bratton and her husband Joe. Charlie was preceded in death by his parents Tom and Hazel, his sister Pat Bryant and his wife Coralea Weir Bowerman



A Celebration of Life service will be held at 10am at First Church in Owasso 10100 N Garnett Rd. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Bartlesville Community Foundation, Bartlesvillecf.org, Suncrest Hospice Tulsa, Ok 74135

Many thanks to John Birdzell who got funeral information and sent flowers from our Many Milers.

Many Miles Before the Night.....  
J B

Waback Mary Milers,  
Thank you all so very much for  
the Beautiful arrangements for both  
of our parents services. It's been a  
rough year and we so appreciate  
all the thoughtful gestures, prayers  
and support.  
Sincerely,  
The Bowerman Girls  
Cindy, Christie & Candie



Photos from the Giant Steps Campaign Celebration

