



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1966

Class Agent
Cal Black

November 2025

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office
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Dear Men of '66,

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO THE CLASS OF WABASH-1966!

The Fall semester has been successful and eventful. While the Monon Bell is in Greencastle after a 41-20 defeat of the Little Giants, the overall season record is 8-2 which is the same as last year. Retired basketball coach, Mac Petty, recalled that when he was the coach the basketball team cheered for the football team during Friday's practice prior to the Bell game. One of the players developed the cheer, and the football team always enjoyed hearing it:

The time has come to pass,
To kick some Danny ass,
DePauw to Hell,
Get the Bell,
Go Wabash!

COMMUNITY CENTER CLASS OF '66 PROJECT-UPDATE

Thank you to all of you who have given to our fundraising project to date. It is important to provide you with an update and share some exciting news about our next steps. As is typical with our class, we have exceeded the original goal. To review, our original goal was \$250,000 to name the Senior Arch rebuild and memorialize the four Wabash men who were killed in action in Viet Nam. One of those was our own Mike Hall.

-To date we have raised over \$361,000 toward this goal

-We have raised enough funds to name the Senior Arch for our class

-Since we have raised enough funds ABOVE THAT GOAL, we are also able to develop an outdoor garden area where we can properly memorialize these fallen Little Giants

So, the Senior Arch will be named AND we have an excellent location for a memorial garden.

The fundraising on these two projects is complete. BUT WE ARE THE CLASS OF '66, SO WE ARE NOT DONE!



The remarkable generosity of our class and the overall interest of many of you to support this effort has “set the wheels in motion” in the Advancement Office. They are looking at several more significant ways our class can support our Alma Mater. They hope to develop some options for us to consider in the very near future. These details will be provided in the December class letter. Obviously, we plan to announce the impetus for this wonderful project and our success at our 60th class reunion in June 2026. If you have any questions about the project and/or want to make a gift, please reach out to your Advancement contact or call/email Steve Hoffman at 765-376-2832, hoffmans@wabash.edu.

The 60th reunion is on June 5-7, 2026 and we have twenty rooms reserved at the Hampton Inn as well as the hospitality room. The manager is Nikki Copeland, a personal friend, and her number is 765-366-3563. The number of the Hampton Inn is 765-362-8884 and our codes are B60 and Wabash 60th-either should work for your reservation.

We have lost two more classmates-Doug Joyce and Mark Nilsson and it is always a most difficult task to advise you of the loss of our Little Giant brothers. Their obituaries follow:



Douglas Dee Joyce, 81, of Celina, Texas, passed away peacefully on October 13, 2025.

Doug was born on April 25, 1944, in Logansport, Indiana, to Catherine and Lloyd Joyce.

He attended Marion High School, where he earned nine varsity letters in football, basketball, and baseball. He served as senior class president, vice president of Hi-Y, and was a member of the honor society. He graduated in 1962.

In the fall of 1962, Doug enrolled at Wabash College, where his father was a member of the Wabash Sports Hall of Fame. After his freshman year, he transferred to DePauw University so he could play football and baseball alongside his twin brother, Dave. Doug graduated from DePauw in 1966 and earned his law degree from Indiana University School of Law in 1969.

In 1970, Doug took a leap of faith, leaving his position as general counsel for a warranty service company in St. Louis to start Physicians Placement Group, later renamed Spectrum Emergency Care. His brother, Dave, and a college friend joined him in the venture, working nights and weekends to help get it off the ground, but it was Doug who took the full-time risk and poured his energy into turning their shared idea into a thriving business. Together, they grew Spectrum into the largest company of its kind, serving more than 250 hospitals nationwide and generating over \$100 million in revenue by the early 1980s.

A lifelong entrepreneur, Doug went on to found and operate several other ventures, including an oil and gas company and a mobile dental service for senior citizens. Later in his career, he became a successful real estate mortgage broker.

Doug married Patti Joyce in 1974, and they had one son together, Kevin Joyce. Together with Patti's two sons, Mike and Danny, they built a home centered on Christ, filled with faith, love, and laughter. A born-again Christian, Doug served as a deacon in his church, and his faith remained an important part of his life.

Despite his entrepreneurial successes, Doug always put his family first and never missed a chance to watch his son play sports. A lifelong sports fan, he especially loved following the St. Louis Blues and his hometown Marion Giants. He will be remembered as a man of integrity with a quick wit, a strong work ethic, and limitless generosity.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Patti; sons Kevin and Danny; and three grandchildren, Dylan, Brody, and Jacob. He was preceded in death by his parents and his twin brother, Dave.



Mark F. Nilsson age 84, beloved husband of the late Elizabeth Farrell and the late Madelon Stone; loving father of Andy Nilsson (Susanna) and the late John Einar Nilsson (Jennifer Knight); grandfather of Isabella Nilsson, David Nilsson, and Joseph Nilsson; brother of Rand Nilsson (Gail), Karin Aukerman (Jim), and Kristine Chafin (Steve).

Mark Nilsson was born on September 12th, 1941 in Providence, Rhode Island to Einar and Gertrude Nilsson. A first-generation Swedish American, Mark spent his boyhood in Warwick and in South County, Rhode Island. After graduating from South Kingstown High at 17, he joined the U.S. Navy, where he earned a berth playing saxophone as part of the official US Navy's Sixth Fleet Band aboard CV-60 USS Saratoga. He traveled to ports as far flung as Nice and Marseilles and read the entire ship's library cover to cover. When Mark returned from duty, he attended the all-male Wabash College of Crawfordsville, Indiana, a decision he described as one of the most important he ever made. At Wabash, Mark majored in English and was a member of Delta Tau Delta, the Sphinx Club, and the Glee Club, as well as serving as assistant band director. At the end of his junior year, he was married in the Wabash College Chapel to Elizabeth Sue Farrell, his beloved first wife and the mother of his two sons, Robert Anders and John.

The young family moved to Schenectady, New York, where Mark joined GE's vaunted Internal Audit program. Mark spent eight years on GE's Corporate Audit staff before taking on the roles of CFO for GE Australia and CFO for the Distribution Transformer business. Mark then became General Auditor and Vice President at RJ Reynolds, Inc. He then served as General Auditor, in chronological order, for: RJR Nabisco, Ameritrust Bank, BlueCross BlueShield of DC and Maryland, and Medical Mutual of Ohio. At Ameritrust Bank, the widowed Mark met Madelon Stone, his dearly loved second wife.

Mark transitioned into a peaceful and productive retirement in Westlake, Ohio, filling his days with volunteer tax work for seniors through IRS's VITA program and visits to his cherished second home in wooded Vergennes, VT, where he was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Mark was a lifelong dog lover and owned corgis, a Bouvier des Flandres, and a Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen. He was an avid firearms collector. He played the tenor saxophone, alto saxophone, clarinet, and piano, and was known to sit down at the keys and spontaneously improvise, aided by his excellent pitch. He played in community bands around the greater Cleveland area for many years.

MEMORIAL SERVICE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 AT 12 NOON AT THE BERRY-McGREEVEY-MARTENS FUNERAL HOME, 26691 DETROIT RD. WESTLAKE, OH 44145. Interment Lake View Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to your local V.F.W. FRIENDS RECEIVED AT THE FUNERAL HOME STARTING AT 11 A.M. THURSDAY.

“...thy loyal sons shall ever love thee,”

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