



## Class Agents Letter

Class of 1967

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Classmates,

Season's Greetings to you all as another year draws to a close. Hope you all had a pleasant Thanksgiving shared with family and friends and are welcoming the December holiday season. We have received a few updates from classmates to share with you all.

From **John Sturman** –

Weather has finally gotten cool here in Claremont, California. We are just below the Sierra Madre mountains, so we have both hot summer and a cool winter with leaves falling from the trees. Very reminiscent of Indiana. Karen and I are in the midst of renovating the original bathroom from 1928—we discovered that the bathroom floor is tile laid on concrete 4 inches thick, which was the building style then, the new floor will be much lighter. Over the summer we visited Indiana briefly on our way to Stratford Ontario for theater. The most engaging play was from the 1990s—by Edward Albee, “the goat or who is Sylvia?” It was a real stunner in terms of its intensity, asking the question of what is unforgivable. We also went on a cruise to the Baltic and Norway, which was pleasant but we felt very confined after a while. I don't think we're ready to take an around the world cruise anytime soon. I visited my daughter in Houston Tx and got to see the Union Pacific Big Boy which was touring there. Karen and I remain in good health. My big project is constructing a G scale model railroad which I have wanted to do for years. Best all for Thanksgiving and Christmas!



And a “Good News” update from **Rick Helm** –

Duane, Earl, and classmates- God is good. As is modern science and medicine. This note is to share my recent good news. My recent clear CAT scan was followed with a blood test called Signatera. Results are "negative", meaning no detectable levels of cancer cell DNA (specific to my particular urothelial metastatic cancer) in my blood. It does not mean there is no cancer, but none currently detectable. I understand that the likely procedure is that I will be able to discontinue my cancer meds (and the side effects also!!!) and likely monitor with scans every 3 months, and a repeat of the Signatera annually. I am thankful for my excellent physicians at Indiana University Hospital and Parkview Packnet Cancer Clinic. Best regards to all.

From **Gene Snipes** – It is a very pleasant Fall here in Monroe County, Indiana. We're taking our camper down to Monroe Lake, Hardin Ridge campground. Staying there thru Sunday night. The weather will be perfect, 70's during days and low 50's at night. The garden is starting to wind down, we harvested a lot from it this summer until it got very dry for several weeks. The end of October will find us in Gulf Shores for a week, hope the hurricane stays away. I've been retired since 2013, no complaints there. Our health is just fine although we do spend more time on medical appointments than before retirement. Marsha's mother, 94 years old, is in assisted living near Zionsville and she/we spend a day a week or so helping with groceries and appointments. Our main living area is on the 2nd floor of our home and we are discussing the stairs question but for now it isn't a problem. We don't want to move but we just acquired 24 acres next door and could build a single story home over there but at 79, not sure that is an option. Still have a ski trip to Whitefish Montana planned for March.

From **Ted Klopp** –

Harvest is over! It was early this year. My daughter has told me that she doesn't want to see me out there during harvest as we usually start about 12am as it is cooler for the guys and the grapes and arrive cool at the winery. As my balance is off a bit, I could be a hazard to myself and others, in the dark, so I get them going, then adjourn to the house. (They know

what they are doing.) I am both retired and working. Being a farmer never quits. The plants don't stop growing! Kathy and I designed and supervised the remodeling of a smaller house on another of our properties and have recently moved it. My daughter and her family will move into the house we just vacated. Divesting ourselves of 40 years of stuff and moving from a larger house to a smaller house is/was a huge task. My wife and some of her girlfriends did most of the work. Many full boxes were donated to charity so hopefully the items will find new welcoming homes. We hope to take off in our sprinter rv for a couple of weeks before the rain arrives and it gets cold. Hope you are doing well. Thanks for your updates.

And from me – we finally completed construction of our new house in coastal North Carolina. We sold the rescue farm we had for the prior ten years and rehomed our last two horses and two miniature donkeys. We had also become more involved in supporting a local dog rescue and decided to keep doing that, but at a different level. Since we were moving about 120 miles from the rescue, it didn't work for fostering individual dogs for local adoption. So we shifted gears and started fostering mama dogs with new litters. We pick them up from the rescue, drive them back to our house where we keep them until the puppies are weaned and ready for adoption. Then we take them back to the rescue where they are advertised for adoption. Our biggest challenge was a mama with eleven puppies – while we were still in a rental house. Happily we had a dog-loving landlord who allowed us to keep the extra animals in the garage. He even put an extra window in the garage to allow for more natural light. Since then we have had two other sets of mamas with six puppies each. Our total for fostering has reached 186 dogs – and all have found new homes. We have a mama and six more pups now in the shed we added to our new house..

As we moved into the new house, we have been sorting through boxes of stuff that have been in storage. I found a couple of interesting things in one box. It was the salary schedule for my first job after Wabash. It was a

position at the National Security Agency (where I worked for 47 years) and the starting salary was \$4,341. That wouldn't go very far today.

Another item in the box was a class agent letter written in November 1985 by **Beach Behl**. Beach had been reaching out for classmate updates, too. So here are a few classmate news items quoted from 1985 (just begging to be updated! Hint, hint).

*“While we are on the subject of milestones, it is time for all of us to pause for a moment of silent reflection in honor of our hot-blooded Latin classmate **Ron Salomone**. It seems that Ron is the first in our class to have one of his offspring enroll at Wabash. A classmate with a son at Wabash! Anyone else feel old all of a sudden?”*

*“**Roger Young**”, until recently an executive vice-president at Citizens State Bank, New Castle, has been named President of the First National Bank, Hartford City.*

*“Lt. Colonel **Paul M. Cunningham** has assumed command of the 34<sup>th</sup> Missile Security Squadron at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. Paul had previously been assigned to Boling Air Force Base, Washington.”*

*“**Thomas S. Burns** is a recent recipient of a National endowment for the Humanities grant for the summer of 1985.”*

*“**Larry Landis** makes the newsworthy category for the second class letter in a row by virtue of his appointment as Director of Communications for Pallm Inc.”*

*“**Bob Lazelere** reports that he is now an associate professor at Rosemeno School of Psychology, part of Biola University in La Mirada, California. Bob*

*says this is the first time since high school that he has lived in the same house two years in a row and that he's enjoying not being, as he puts it, a middle class migrant worker."*

*"Paul Robinson wrote that he has started his own business as a Certified Financial Advisor and in fact is sponsoring one of those tax dodging (oops) planning cruises where you sail around, enjoy yourself, and get to write it off."*

*If any of you guys mentioned above would like to provide an update, please send it along. Beach also noted in that letter that one part of the class agent job is fund raising. So with that in mind, thanks to all of you who have supported the College with a contribution this year. As Duane mentioned in the last letter, our class stands out for its continuing support of the College. While the College fiscal year doesn't end until June, most of us are on a calendar year fiscal year, so there is still time to make a contribution this tax season!*

*Duane and I wish you a Happy Holiday season and a great 2025. We look forward to hearing from you. (That might be a New Year's resolution – send an update!}*

*WAF,*

*Earl*