

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 6

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

February, 2020

9th Annual **MARDI GRAS** February 22nd

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GET YOUR
MARDI GRAS
TICKETS TODAY!





President's Message

Kay Kurtz '74

Let The Good Times Roll!

Attention Huskies! You don't have to travel to New Orleans to celebrate the annual February celebration. Your Alumni Association is proud to present its biggest event of the winter season - Mardi Gras 2020 - right here on the East Side of the Mississippi – oops I mean -Lehigh River!

Our ninth annual event, which kicks off another full year of Dieruff activities, will be held on Saturday, February 22nd from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at the East Side Youth Center.

The Annual Mardi Gras Party, which began in 2012 as the very first event sponsored by the newly formed alumni association, is a great opportunity to reconnect with fellow classmates. In fact, the Class of 1990 is holding their 30th Reunion at our event!

New this year are fellow DHS alumni DJs – Harry Remaly '80 and Tommy Brunner '87. So, you Happy Huskies, contact your fellow graduates and reserve your own class table of 10 today!

Tickets are still only \$15 per person, and can be purchased in the Dieruff Main Office, on our website (www.dieruff-alumni.org), or from our good friends at Stahley's Restaurant. Although this great price already includes beer, soda, and snacks, you are welcome to BYOB and munchies.

Also, 50-50 raffle tickets will be available to purchase, and a Mardi Gras photo area is planned for group photos or selfies. Don't delay - to buy your tickets in advance to help us plan for enough refreshments. If you procrastinate, a limited number of tickets will be available at the door for \$20.00.

Come celebrate the cold weather as only Huskies can do. See you on February 22nd beginning at 7PM. You won't want to miss it!

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Kay



Joseph Prusak Shares Vietnam Story

John Hughes '61

Second Street in "The Ward" was a tough place to grow up. For Joe Prusak, it was just a natural way of life. Tough, but just a natural way of life. Similarly, wrestling for Coach Dick King at Dieruff High School was tough, but that's the way Joe liked it.

Those early years, with those "rough and tumble" experiences, certainly influenced Joe's decision to enlist in the United States Marines immediately after high school graduation. His commencement exercises were on June 15, 1969. Eight days later, his mother reluctantly drove him to 5th and Hamilton, and signed the necessary paperwork for Joe's enlistment. Semper Fi.

Joe Prusak shared his military story to over 200 veterans on Thursday evening, January 30, 2020. They had all gathered at the Lehigh Valley Active Life facility for his program, a part of the Lehigh Valley Veterans History Project. His presentation was compelling and dramatic.

Prusak described the rigorous basic training at Paris Island, and then the advanced infantry training at Camp Lejeune. Yes, the training was difficult. It was demanding. It was tough. Candidly, no amount of training can adequately prepare any soldier for the harsh reality of war... as Joe would soon find out.

His very first moments in Vietnam were quite sobering. As his flight landed, he observed several flight attendants were crying. When he exited the plane, he saw a dozen flag-draped coffins being loaded for the return trip to the United States. He gasped, and the 115-degree air entered his lungs, initiating the young Marine to his new reality. Swiftly he was trucked to a camp where he was assigned to the 1st Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, Mike Company, 3rd Platoon. Additional intense

training followed, and he was issued an M60 Machine Gun.

His seven months, 22 days, in Vietnam were filled with the grim horrors of combat. Frequent chopper rides, jungle fighting, and battlefield casualties became the norm. Seeing fellow soldiers crippled and maimed scorched his brain. Joe experienced his own injuries, including exposure to agent orange.

He caught malaria and was evacuated from Vietnam. His journey home included stops in Japan, Alaska, San Francisco, McGuire Air Force Base, and finally to the Philadelphia Naval Hospital, where he spent his last four months. His weight had dropped from 165 to 125 pounds.

Emotionally and physically scarred, Joe has bravely sought to create a "normal" life after his Vietnam experience. He went back to school, completing two years at LCCC, and then two more years at Mansfield College. He has been married for 30 years and has a daughter and a son. He is now retired after a 38-year career with the State of Pennsylvania.

Notwithstanding his health issues, to include heart problems and cancer from agent orange, Joe is justifiably proud of his military service. His stirring commentary for the veterans attending his Lehigh Valley Veterans History Project touched many hearts, and scores of soldiers stood in line to shake his hand and thank him for his faithful service.

We would also like to render a solemn salute to LCpl Joseph Prusak, Vietnam Marine Veteran and proud member of the Dieruff Class of 1969.



Common Interests Create Bond

John Hughes '61

"Honored! Genuinely honored!" Typically reserved in her verbal expressions, Ruth E. O'Connell, Class of 1961, was quite passionate describing the event that took place on Thursday, February 6, 2020. She had been asked by one of the Dieruff swimmers, Jenise Gonzalez, to serve as an escort at the "Senior Day" Ceremonies.

During the last several years, Ruth and Jenise have developed a unique bond. Jenese has been a faithful member of the "Sew What?" Club, the after school sewing club that Ruth created and has managed since its inception 9 years ago. The club meets every Wednesday, and selects projects based on their community service value. Not only has Jenese learned how to sew, she has also taken great pride in giving back.

Jenese has also been a faithful member of the Dieruff High School Swimming Team. Interestingly, Ruth has been an avid swimmer her entire life. In her early years, she and her family lived at 6th and Chew Streets in Allentown. She learned how to swim, and developed those skills, at the Jewish Community Center, at the same intersection. Her coach was none other than Dennis McGinley, who later became the swim coach at Dieruff High School. The Dieruff Natatorium bears his name, and his famous expression, "Swimming is Fun" is emblazoned on the wall.

Back in the formative years of our alma mater, girls did not participate on the swim team. It was for boys only. The girls who were interested in swimming were active in the AquaDierettes, a synchronized swimming club. Ruth was a shining star in that club. Even now, Ruth swims every day at the YMCA on 15th Street and also at the Jewish Community Center on the west end of Allentown, where she logs her daily one mile swim.


Last year, Ruth began to attend the Dieruff Swim Meets, in support of Jenese. Faithfully, she would cheer her on, providing encouragement. On occasion, she would even give Jenese new swim goggles.

So, when it was time for Jenese to select her escorts for the Swim Team Senior Day event, she did not hesitate to ask Ruth to serve in that capacity. The announcer on the speaker introduced Ruth as "Jenese's most faithful fan". Indeed, it was so very obvious that Ruth was "Honored! Genuinely honored!"




LOVE YOUR HEART

- Get active
- Eat well
- Control cholesterol
- Manage blood pressure
- Reduce blood sugar
- Lose weight
- Quit smoking



AMERICAN HEART MONTH





Presents
"A NIGHT OUT WITH THE HUSKIES"
 SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2020
 6:30 P.M.-11:00 P.M.
 EAST ALLENTOWN FIRE COMPANY SOCIAL CLUB
 405 E. WALNUT ST. ALLENTOWN, PA. 18109

Cause- To raise money for the Husky Football Program

Cost- \$100 per ticket (ADMITS TWO PEOPLE)
 ALL YOU CAN EAT, ALL YOU CAN DRINK (Beer Only...mixed drinks are cash bar),
 DANCING AND THE CHANCE TO WIN \$\$\$\$\$\$!!!

During the evening, we will be giving out \$6,000 in prize money!!!
 1 \$1,000 winner
 2 \$750 winners
 4 \$500 winners
 6 \$250 winners

The event is limited to 150 tickets (300 people)

Tickets can be purchased at Stahley's or by contacting Dave Lutte at
huskycoach@rcn.com

Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/ Karen Coleman
Collage By: John Hughes

Just wanted to fill you in on my February activities. We met up with Toni and the Three Husketeers, a new rescue group. We did a Meet and Greet at the Emmaus Winterblast on the Triangle. Met a lot of nice people and some huskies who are up for adoption. So many huskies need good homes. I want to interview Toni and then pass the information along in the Korner. It was fun and we had a nice long walk through Emmaus.

Then we stopped at Husky High. It was a basketball marathon with Allen. We only stayed about a half hour. The gym is so hot and there is really no safe place for me to sit. But I did get a chance to look for gum under the bleachers. Uncle John got some good pictures of me with our cheerleaders. As we left, we visited with some of the Allen cheerleaders. Nice young ladies and it is always good to extend the paw of friendship.

I love being "Diva Dog" and really enjoy all the athletic, social and charitable events. But thought I would take on another role – a storyteller, an educator for this month. To celebrate love, wanted to share this with you. It is a long read, but to anyone who has

loved a dog and has received doggie unconditional love, this is for you:

SO, GOD MADE A DOG

And on the 9th day, God looked down on his wide-eyed children and said, "They need a companion".

So, God made a dog.

God said, "I need somebody willing to wake up and give kisses, pee on a tree, sleep all day, wake up again, give more kisses, then stay up until midnight, basking in the glare of a television set".

So, God made a dog.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit, then stay, then roll over. Then, with no ego or complaint, dress in hats they don't need and costumes they don't understand. I need someone who can break wind without a first care, without a second thought, who can chase tails, sniff crotches, fetch sticks and lift spirits with a lick. Somebody who no matter what you didn't do or couldn't take, or didn't win or

couldn't make, will love you without judgment just the same."

So, God made a dog.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to pull sleds and find bombs, yet gentle enough to love babies and lead the blind. Somebody who will spend a day on the couch with a resting head, supportive eyes and lifts the spirits of a broken heart".

So, God made a dog.

It had to be somebody who remained patient and loyal, even through loneliness. Somebody to care, cuddle, snuggle and nuzzle and cheer and charm, snore and slobber and eat the trash and chase the squirrels. Somebody who would bring a family together with the selflessness of an open heart, somebody who would bark and then pant and then reply with the rapid wag of a tail when their best friend says, "Let's go for a ride in the car".

So, God made a dog.

Author unknown



I am starting to shed, which is a sure sign of an early spring. Like everyone else, I am soooooooooooooooooooooo sick of just rain and dampness. So think Spring!!

Love,

Kiska V, Diva Dog

Date Nomination Received: _____

Consideration Date: _____

**Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Wall of Distinction
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee: _____ Date of Graduation: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Reasons for nomination (attach additional pages if preferred)

Education

Professional/Work
AccomplishmentsLocal, State, National
Awards/recognition

Publications

Community
Involvement

Other

Note: Nominees stay on the consideration list for a three-year period. Deadline for entry is February 29, 2020



Nominator's Name _____
 Telephone Number _____
 Email Address _____

Return completed Nomination Form and photograph of nominee, if available to:
 Dieruff High School Alumni Association
 815 N. Irving Street
 Allentown, PA 18109

UPCOMING EVENTS

To get your event listed, please email event before the 24th of each month to: dhsalumninews@ptd.net

- February 22:** 9th Annual Mardi Gras 7PM
East Side Youth Center
(SEE FRONT PAGE FOR DETAILS)
- February 29:** Nominations for 2020 WALL OF DISTINCTION due
(SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS)
- March 4:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- March 28:** Night Out With The Huskies 6:30PM
East Allentown Fire Company
(SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)

All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: www.Dieruff-Alumni.org



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game, after EVERY-
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Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter

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