

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 3

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

November, 2016

Spirit Week 2016:

Bonfire, Pep Rally, Tailgate and Rivalry Game



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Dieruff Spirit Week Collages by: John G. Hughes, Jr.



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Disappointed...but never Discouraged

The expressions on their faces told the story. The players, the coaches, the faculty, the students, the alumni, even our Husky Mascot all shared the disappointment. The "Drive For Five" had been denied. The William Allen Football Team had defeated Dieruff by a 26-23 score, in overtime.

It is so common in our competitive culture that the spirit of an entire group of people, whether it be a school, a city, a state, or a nation hinges on the outcome of a single event. That event could be a football game, a Baseball World Series Championship, or a political election.

The puffery leading up to the big event magnifies the level of expectation. For our Alma Mater, that hype takes the form of "Spirit Week", a series of festive activities that include a bonfire and an exciting pep rally. Even faithful alumni are invited to participate.

The pre-game tailgate party, sponsored by the Alumni Association blends the positive spirit of alumni, cheerleaders, marching band, and the AFROTC cadets. We all shared a common expect-

tation: a Dieruff Victory (the fifth consecutive win over the Canaries) on the gridiron that now boasts the name of Dieruff alum and NFL Hall of Famer, Andre Reed.

The October 29th contest was characterized by unfortunate miscues and missed opportunities (on both sides). At the end of regulation, the score was knotted at 20. Dieruff had the first possession in the overtime period, and was limited to a field goal. On Allen's first play of their possession, their running back slashed through the middle and into the end zone for a touchdown. Final score: Dieruff 23 Allen 26!

And so, for those of us who bleed Blue and Gray, the agony of defeat fell down upon us. But keep the faith. This too shall pass. There are no failures; there are only outcomes. The only failure is to fail to learn from the outcome.

I sincerely believe that we can all learn from this experience. We are disappointed, but not discouraged. Our Husky Pride shall continue to grow. Husky Pride... Unleashed!



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Alumni Profile - Don Tomasik '62

David Ziegenfuss '86

"As the Army keeps rolling along" - that's the line from the Army song of the same title and for 26 ½ years, Colonel Donald Tomasik continued to lead the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that the US Army kept rolling along.

A 1962 Dieruff graduate, Don Tomasik tells a bit about growing up in Allentown. "We lived on Union Street, between 7th and 8th Streets," Don begins. "My dad was big into sports and he was a professional boxer. He became the director of the Boy's Club in Allentown. Our family owned a newspaper and magazine stand on Sixth and Tilghman. I spent a lot of time working there. I used to be there at 6 o'clock in the morning and after football practice I would come back and work until 9 o'clock."

Don was part of the 1962 class which was the first class to attend three years at Dieruff. "I thought it was pretty neat to be in that first class that made it through all the way," Don continues, "I had a lot of good memories at Dieruff and when people would say about getting ready to graduate, I thought - gee, I wish I could be here one more year. The friends I made in school are still my friends today."

An athlete himself, Don was a three year letterman and played center on the football team (two as a starter), as well as a wrestler. "Wrestling was new to me, I decided to do that because I wasn't good at basketball," remembers Don with a laugh. Don was a good student in the College Prep courses, though he regrets the way he treated his Latin teacher, Mrs. Lucille Johnson. "I gave her a hard time in class...and I thought about it when I got older. She must have thought I was a real jerk," Don says honestly, "and I felt so sorry for her because I gave her a hard time, because she was so sweet. If I could go back, I would tell her

that I was sorry for the way I acted in class."

After graduation, Don attended college at Rutgers University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture, but one class that had given him trouble was English. "I flunked it three times until I finally passed. The funny thing was years later when I was Vice-President at the Citadel, the President of the Citadel would commend me on how well I wrote and finally I said, "You know General, I flunked English *three* times in college!"

After college, Don went to New York for his first job and ironically, his roommate was an old Dieruff classmate and teammate - Jerry Transue, who was the starting quarterback for two years. "Jerry and I moved into an apartment on Ocean Avenue in Brooklyn in 1967, but three months later I was drafted, so I decided to go to OCS (Officer Candidate School) and then I went into the Army."

"OCS was tough...almost like Ranger School. They only graduated 33% of the class. It was a real experience and you have to say to yourself - hey, I'm not going to quit. I'm going to make it; you'll have to throw me out." To show Don's determination, he is both Ranger and Airborne qualified and is a Master Parachutist. He also is a member of the Engineer Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

"I was in three wars and commanded two task forces that went into Honduras during the Contra. I spent a lot of time in the Middle East and Central America." During his tenure in the Army, Colonel Tomasik commanded engineer troops in Vietnam, during the Grenada rescue mission and served in the Middle East as a senior Staff Engineer. His decorations include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three leaf oak clusters, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. He is also a recipient of the Corps of Engineers Silvery DeFlurry Medal for service achievements.

In 1994, Don retired from the Army after 26½ years of active duty and then served as the Vice-President for Facilities and Engineering at The Citadel, before retiring in 2008. During that time he focused on a lot of construction projects that updated many facilities on campus. "I was the city manager of The Citadel. I was responsible



for all construction and maintenance, operations, public safety, the police force and even the environmental folks. I built and renovated barracks that held 500 people each and even built half a stadium."

Don and his wife Sue have an interesting story of their meeting. "We met the day before I left for the Army. They were having a farewell party for me at the Ale House on Hamilton Street and Sue walked in with her girlfriend - it was her 21st birthday. I went over and talked to her and we started writing to each other when I went into the Army. We dated for two years and then before I left for Vietnam, we got married." Don and Sue are still married and have two children and six grandchildren.

We thank you Colonel Tomasik for your service to our nation and for your Husky Pride!



Freedom Is Not Free

David Ziegenfuss '86

This article was published last year. By your many requests we are repeating it again this year.

November is the month of Thanksgiving. It is a time to begin our holiday season, but there is a date that is just as important, but usually forgotten. And it is a time to remember and thank those who are serving and have served in the military for our great nation.

A date to remember all United States Armed Forces veterans was designated in 1954; that date, November 11th, was used when "the Guns of August", fell silent. So let us thank those who have protected our borders and have risked their lives. Now is the time to give thanks...

Give thanks to those who served. Who rise early for P.T., who slept in ditches, who marched during the sun's blazing day and the drenching night rain. Give thanks to those who swab the decks, passed the ammo and carried and aided the wounded.

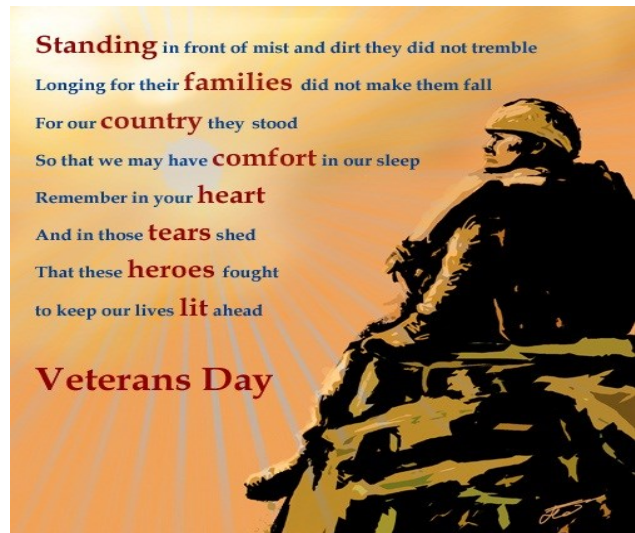
Give thanks to those who took to the air and the crews on the ground who helped get them up. Give thanks to the leaders and to those with the trust to follow.

Give thanks to the mothers, the fathers and the spouses who sacrifice their hearts and wait and wonder if, and when their loved one would come home.

And most importantly, give thanks to those brothers and sisters who will never return for they paid the ultimate price for freedom.

As US Airforce Colonel Walter Hitchcock coined "**Freedom Is Not Free**" Let us remember to continue to pay our veterans for our freedoms.

So as the calendar reaches November 11th, remember to give thanks to all of those who have served on behalf of a Grateful Nation.



Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

I cannot believe it is a year since I wrote my thankful list. Lists keep me focused. The husky mind needs focus, too many distractions, like cats, bunnies, squirrels, and even falling leaves. I also feel like that German dude, Martin Luther who listed 95 theses. Mom tries to teach me history. Like so many of her students, I do not know why we have to study dead people. I try to be grateful every day, but I would like to list some of this year's blessings.

Here is my 2016 list. I am grateful for:

1. My home. I am not on the streets or a shelter dog.
2. My friendship with Magnolia. She is one tough cat, but now we peacefully co-exist.
3. Learning to eat French fries with Aunt Joanie at Barkfest.
4. Mom's improved health. That gall bladder surgery was not fun.
5. Long walks with Mom and Aunt Susie. We often do two and a half miles a day. Great sights and smells.

6. Going to a soccer match this year. The boys were very polite.
7. Having my "biscuit money" so I can give to animal charities.
8. Having easily treatable zinc dermatitis instead of some horrible disease.
9. My BFF Misha
10. My play buddy Dozer.
11. Attending so many Dieruff functions.
12. Uncle John's beautiful pictures of me.
13. Our bows from the cheerleaders. Wear them proudly.
14. Aunt Dana and Uncle Dave who are always there for Mom and me.
15. Aunt Cindy and her love of all things Dieruff...and those blueberry treats.
16. My other cat friend, Willow. On cold winter nights were cuddle.
17. Mom's cooking.
18. Whipped cream on my kibble.....when I eat kibble
19. Husky Pride!
20. Having a short list.....95 items, that is a lot

For being a rescue dog, I have had many blessings. Remember to give thanks for your blessings.

"Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will forever change." - Karen Davison

How well I know

Love, Hugs and Kisses,

Kiska V, Diva Dog





Dieruff Class of 1976 - 40th Year Reunion Saturday, November 5th

Photos by John G. Hughes, Jr.



Additional photos can be found on our website: Dieruff-Alumni.org

Hall of Fame Autographed Football Winner

By John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

The winning raffle ticket for the Autographed Football was drawn at the conclusion of the Dieruff vs. Allen Football Game on October 29th. Talk about Dieruff's "Six Degrees of Separation"!

For months, people have been purchasing \$10 raffle tickets for a chance to win the valuable commemorative football signed by 38 Pro Football Hall of Fame recipients who attended the 2014 enshrinement ceremonies that honored Dieruff High School Alum Andre Reed.

The football had been donated to our Alumni Association by Joyce Hemerly Reed-Ebling (Dieruff Class of 1962). She had received the ball as a keepsake from David Baker, President of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, during the enshrinement of her son, Andre. Joyce generously presented the gift to the Alumni Association to raise funds for the "School Spirit Scholarship Fund".

Following the game played on Andre Reed Field at J. Birney Crum Stadium, Joyce was invited to draw the winning ticket. She reached into the opaque tub and selected the winning stub. Athletic Director Mel Riddick communicated the winner's name to the announcer in the broadcast booth. Powerful speakers broadcast the name throughout the stadium. No one responded.

Joyce then used her cell phone to contact the lucky winner. His name is David Balliet, Dieruff Class of 1984, with ticket number 0080. David had purchased his ticket at a neighborhood yard sale held in Midway Manor in September. Ruth O'Connell, Class of 1961 had sold him that ticket from the display table the Alumni Association had set up to market

the raffle tickets. Coincidentally, at one time, David had lived in Midway Manor and had been a student of Ruth O'Connell when she taught at Ritter School.

When Joyce connected with David on the phone, he was genuinely excited to hear that he had won the autographed football. She explored how we could get the prize in his hands, and discover that he is currently a neighbor of hers. Joyce was able to hand deliver the coveted football that evening.

Congratulations to David Balliet, and a big shout out to Joyce for her wonderful generosity. The campaign has put several thousand dollars into our scholarship treasury.



Blue and Gray Season Tipoff

When: Tuesday Nov. 22nd
@ 6:30pm

Where: Dieruff Gymnasium

Who: Present & Former
Basketball Dieruff ALL STARS

Why:

- FREE t-shirts!
- FREE giveaways!!
- Watch an ultimate dunk contest!
- Dieruff Cheerleaders performance!



From Everyone On the Newsletter Staff...



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**ATTENTION ALL DIERUFF ALUMNI
DO YOU HAVE A GIANT BONUSCARD?**



THEN YOU CAN HELP EARN \$\$\$ FOR DIERUFF!

USE YOUR BONUSCARD WHEN YOU SHOP AT GIANT &
A PORTION OF YOUR GROCERY BILL WILL BE DONATED TO
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Thank You Joe Ruffino!
On Wednesday, November 2nd JOE RUFFINO and BIAGGIO'S PIZZA fed free pizza at the monthly meeting of the Dieruff Alumni Association. We would like to thank both BIAGGIO'S and JOE RUFFINO for their kind hospitality and thoughtfulness.

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Allentown - 610-395-7006 - 610-395-7007
www.Biaggiopizza.com - Biaggiopizzeria@gmail.com
Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm - Fri & Sat 10am-11pm - Sun 11am-10pm

CALLING ALL SINGING HUSKIES
Join the Dieruff Alumni Choir for our 2nd Annual Christmas Carol Sing

December 3, 2016 2:00 p.m.	Westminster Village 803 N. Wahneta Street, Allentown, PA 18109
December 4, 2016 2:00 p.m.	Whitehall Manor 1177 6 th Street, Whitehall, PA 18052
December 10, 2016 2:00 p.m.	Saucon Valley Manor 1050 Main Street, Hellertown, PA 80155
December 18, 2016 2:00 p.m.	Cedarview Apartments 4230 Dorney Park Road, Allentown, PA 18104

If interested please contact Cindy Fidler Wolst at:
Huskypride1974@gmail.com



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good times are!



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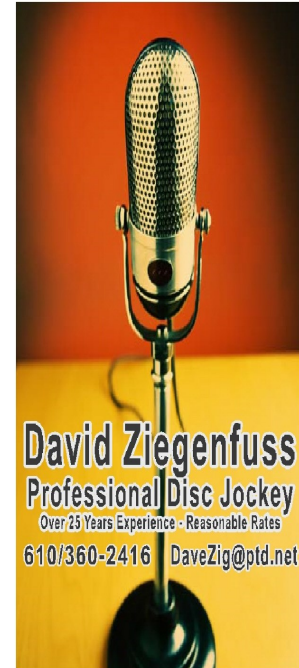
Allentown, PA
610/433-2468

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- November 22:** Blue and Gray Tipoff 6:30PM
Richard Schmidt Gymnasium
- November 30:** 2nd Annual Police and Dieruff Boys Basketball Game 6:00PM
Richard Schmidt Gymnasium
- December 3:** Dieruff Alumni Choir Carol Sing 2:00PM
Westminster Village 803 N. Wahnetta St, Allentown
- December 4:** Dieruff Alumni Choir Carol Sing 2:00PM
Whitehall Manor 1177 6th St. Whitehall
- December 7:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- December 10:** Dieruff Alumni Choir Carol Sing 2:00PM
Saucon Valley Manor 1050 Main St, Hellertown
- December 14:** Dieruff Holiday Concert 7:00PM
Dieruff Auditorium

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Louis E. Dieruff High School

Alumni Association Newsletter



David Ziegenfuss '86, *Publisher*
Dana Ziegenfuss, *Editor*

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We publish an online digital .pdf copy of the newsletter 11 times annually, with two special printed editions for the Fandangle and Dieruff-Allen Game tailgate. All digital copies will be emailed by or on the 5th of each month. Deadline for inclusion for the next month's edition is by the 24th of each month, unless arrangements are made. Please email articles, advertising and events to:
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