

70th Birthday Reunion Comments

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10/29/16 11:34 AM

[#1](#) [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)



[Vince "Vinny" Rusinak](#)

Here is the place for those attending and those that couldn't attend to comment on the 70th Birthday Reunion held the 28th and 29th of October, 2016 in Sarasota Florida.

10/29/16 08:21 PM

[#2](#) [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)



[Vince "Vinny" Rusinak](#)

Mike Heffner and lots of classmates have worked hard to make this reunion a great experience for everyone who has attended. I hope all of you thank him and everyone that has worked on this reunion to make it the success it has become. Nancy and I wish we could have been there with you.

10/30/16 06:49 AM

[#3](#) [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Sergio Siller](#)

The celebration of our 70th Birthday this weekend was so much fun and made more enjoyable as a result of Mike Heffner and the many others who supported him to make this a very memorable experience. Thanks go out to you Mike, and to your wife Barbara, Nancy Lundblom Blizzard, Tom Goslin and the all the others there who helped us capture all the moments on "film". Looking forward after returning home in the coming days to collecting the photos from all and assembling a photo album to share with all.



10/30/16 12:58 PM

[#4](#) [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Bill Stewart](#)

Sorry I couldn't make the reunion but really looking forward to the pictures and video Sergio is going to do. I hope there is a "next" one and I make it.

10/30/16 02:08 PM

[#5](#) [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Nick Piesco](#)

Darn near perfect. Only thing lacking were some missing T-breds. It didn't hurt that I won Lynne's picture and the raffle raised \$1,000 for our military heroes. Wonderful job by the reunion committee. The effort they put in showed and was appreciated by all. Thank-you one and all!

10/30/16 06:00 PM

#6 [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Bill Coffeen](#)

Just got back from Sarasota ... my first reunion ... did not know I would enjoy it so much. Never attended a reunion because I did not think, with a class our size, I would see anyone I knew.

Boy was I wrong ... I met classmates I remembered ... I met classmates I had forgotten ... And I made new friends with new Classmates ... many new friends ... and at 70 we need all the friends we can get.

Everyone was taking pictures ... we have to find a way to get all those pictures together ... at least have classmates send in those they think are best ...

Friday night classmates talked to after 2 in the morning.

Saturday night classmates danced the night away ...

never thought I would see 70 year olds dance our songs of the 60s so well ... everyone looked 17 again ... and acted 17 again ... their grandchildren would be shocked.



10/30/16 06:05 PM

#7 [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Bill Coffeen](#)

Mike Heffner ... great job ... thank you and the team you put together ... to make such a wonderful memory



10/30/16 11:07 PM

#8 [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Sharon Cutts \(Colvin\)](#)

Went to the 20th reunion and had no desire to go to another reunion, but when I heard about this 70th Birthday class reunion in Sarasota I decided to go. What a great time was enjoyed by everyone that was there. Great making friends with classmates and the food was delicious. The music was wonderful and had lots of laughter. I'm so glad I went and now looking forward to the next reunion. Mike Heffner and all those involved in putting this together outdid themselves. A big thanks to those who worked so hard and made this one great reunion. □



10/31/16 12:32 AM

#9 [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Hershal L Meizus](#)

For everyone who attended, thank you.

The "class" was special in 1962-1964...and remained so.

The hard work put into this reunion was more than anticipated and very much appreciated.

Brotherhood is a wonderful feeling and is sometimes lost in time. This renewed a sense of belonging to a personal and friendship laden group, who for a time who enjoyed the "innocence" of youth and the unknown thoughts, wishes and prayers of the future.

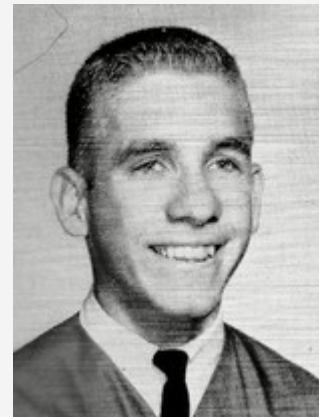
Hershal "Herb" Meizius, 352-229-3103, hlmeizius@gmail.com

10/31/16 08:26 AM

#10 [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Paul Stokes](#)

This was really great fun! Thanks to Vinnie and Nancy (gosh we missed you!), Mike, Sergio, Bill (Gay), Janet and the others for such hard and effective work. Here are some observations:



1. Every person was a good listener, but ready with her or his story. Those stories were fascinating and encouraging. Some especially need to be written down, but all of them were well worth sharing. I'm thinking Herschal ("Herb") here especially and Larry, as described by Mike (I want to hear more about the MIG.) Thanks for being so ready to tell that story.
2. Getting to know the non-HHS spouses was such a pleasure. There is something extra special about a non-alum spouse who will come along to such an event. Thanks to each of you, especially mine.
3. I would like to remove that photo of me from the year book that has me in my graduation hat. Good grief!
4. Next time, we need a speed-dating format for part of the day. I don't mean we want to date anyone, but we want to make contact with each person and hear something about that person. Then I want to give them my business card and talk about estate planning. (Just kidding on that last sentence.)
5. The presentation by two of our Vietnam vets was moving, and the response to the appeal for our Wounded Warriors overwhelmed me. To see those classmates of mine who stood up when the call was made for our vets to identify themselves filled me with pride, admiration and a tinge of regret mixed with wonder that I did not participate in that signal event of our generation, at least not as they did. I am one of those who believes that God, finally, is sovereign, even though he allows things to happen that don't make much sense at times. (Now we are in one of those times, I believe.)
6. Speaking of politics, with a non-offensive exception or two, everyone seemed to leave that subject back home. Thank you.
7. The Ringling Museum was simply amazing. A huge surprise. Thanks, Lynn, for the idea to go there on Saturday and for Sergio and Ann for inviting us to join them.
8. We had the privilege to have Carol Ann ride with us. Poor woman! 8 hours in one weekend, coupled up in a car on I-75 with the Stokeses. But what a pleasant experience for "my" Carol and me.
9. There are so many I want to mention by name, but I would miss someone, so I won't, except for this. It is nice to know that Larry, so calm and dignified as he is, has such a

crazy-neat spouse. God will do that to you. He blesses, for sure.

There is more to say, but I need to get to work here at the office. But Greetings and thanks to all.

10/31/16 01:12 PM

[#11](#) [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Gary Licko](#)

From Gary and Carol Licko

Thanks so much to Mike and the Reunion Committee for an outstanding 70th birthday / reunion. Gary and I had a wonderful time - the Sandcastle was a perfect venue - and Lido Beach was lovely-- with incredible weather!! We had an amazing time catching up with everyone -- and thanks again to Mike and everyone who made this event so special!!!

10/31/16 01:39 PM

[#12](#) [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Patricia Spivey \(Zgodzinski\)](#)

I want to thank Vinny, Mike, Sergio, Bill and everyone involved in the planning of this very special 70th Birthday/Reunion celebration! It was fantastic to see faces and speak to people I haven't seen in too many years! It was so much fun to reminisce and laugh about past good times. Seems like everyone changed, but stayed the same as in our days at Hialeah High School! It was a great weekend at a beautiful resort on the Gulf of Mexico. My daughter, Lauri had a wonderful time meeting so many of my schoolmates and comparing them to pictures in the yearbook! Thanks also to Marilyn Carley, Richard Anderson and Alice Lacedonia Pace for making this weekend extra special for Lauri and me! Can't wait for the next celebration!



Pat Spivey Zgodzinski

10/31/16 02:16 PM

[#13](#) [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Richard "T R" Anderson](#)

As a retired Air Force Senior NCO, it was an honor and a privilege to coordinate and co-present the Missing Man Table this past weekend. My co-partner also a retired Senior NCO from the US Army, and fellow Hialeah High alumni, George Calder felt our returning veterans never received a proper "Welcome Home" from Vietnam or the South East Asian Theater. The Missing Man Table, although normally a military tradition is to honor our missing and fallen, brethren but for this occasion we wanted to bring it to our classmates, who answered their nations call to duty. Sadly several of our classmates did not return and should always be remembered, for them the glass will always be inverted - to symbolize their inability to share in the evenings toast. It was a privilege to see my classmates stand with us Saturday night not only to be recognized but to finally be " Welcomed Home."



[Mike Heffner](#)

Observations I shared with the reunion attendees thanking the many people who contributed to the 70th birthday reunion:

- Vince for the set-up of the hialeahhigh1964.com website which allowed us to effectively reach so many classmates. We had 88 people for dinner on Saturday. We missed Vince and Nancy.
- The 13 people who anonymously donated \$10,818 to make the weekend events free for everyone.
- Judy Kessler and Arlene Shuler for the great table decorations, shoulder surgery notwithstanding.
- Bill Coffeen for all the name tags (with our 52 year old yearbook photos!) plus the video journey through the 1964 Hialeah Hi-ways.
- Paul Stokes and Sergio Siller for making the video possible.
- Sergio Siller for volunteering to assemble the photos taken plus the survey input to make a memory album. Details to follow.
- Jonnie Walker for trading a fishing trip for the free DJ services of Kurt who inspired so many to get up and dance. I'm sure a lot of people were sore for days.
- Lynn Anderson and Jack Dewhurst for the amazing HHS Birthday cakes.
- Pat Pierce for the donated wine which went to the oldest person in the room - rumor has it that Toni drank it all Saturday night with some help from friends.
- TR Anderson and George Calder for their very moving "missing man" memorial to our fallen veterans.
- Lynne Cunningham for her generous donation of a beautiful piece of art for the auction to raise funds for the Wounded Warriors Project. We raised \$1000 by the end of the evening.
- And to JoAnn McAlhany for her incredible work coordinating all the arrangements with the hotel. The queen of the 70th birthday reunion looks great in her tiara!
- The Hialeah racetrack for donating 50 plucked flamingos to substitute for the chicken marsala. And the catering staff for cooking only the bent leg as recommended by Toni Canonico - underutilized and therefore much more tender.
- Arlene Shuler for reminding us that you can have sex at 70 - best if you live nearby, like at number 68 where you don't even need to cross the street.

A couple of follow-up items:

- Sergio to issue instructions on how best to convey the photos you want to share. We will get these on the hialeahhigh1964.com website as well.
- Bruce Nierenberg (CEO, Victory Cruise Lines) to share his thoughts on possible cruise options a few years down the road for a future get together. Everyone thought a short reunion cruise was a great idea!!
- Everyone is invited to Reno next September when Larry Lee will be flying his MIG trainer in the jet class of the Reno Air Races! Do we have a cool class or what?

11/04/16 01:07 AM

#15 [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Sergio Siller](#)

Hi Everyone!

I just wanted to advise that my wife Anne and I just arrived home yesterday afternoon from our weekend in Sarasota and what a truly great time we had catching up with so many classmates. We had the opportunity to stop in Warm Springs, GA on the way back - first time there, hence the delay in tackling the process of posting the photos taken. I am about to upload several of the photos I took to start the ball rolling and while I continue to gather photos taken by our "volunteer photographers" and other fellow classmates who attended the 70th Birthday Reunion. Mike and I sent emails earlier this week requesting anyone who wished to share their photos to please contact me, so I am awaiting responses.



I have also established a DropBox account to capture these photos and any videos. I will then attempt to post as many as we have available space on this HHS website without exceeding our allocation. They will eventually be in the form of one or more slide shows. We will also provide links as necessary to YouTube and/or DropBox to permit accessing any videos we took and/or downloading for those interested (I have at least two videos to share and one is quite large). I will provide separate Instructions via email to our attendees on where and how to upload their photos.

Thanks for your patience!

Sergio Siller

11/06/16 04:25 PM

#16 [EDIT](#) [DELETE](#)

[Sergio Siller](#)

UPDATE of 11-6-16: Please note that I have uploaded additional new photos received from Alice Lacedonia Pace and Barbara Heffner (Mike's photographer-spouse) this weekend to our 70th Birthday Reunion Photos Gallery. And I have to admit, I am impressed with both of their photo sets, which are just great and far better than most of those which I took! Kudos to them for helping me!



I am also looking forward to hearing from anyone else who attended who would care to share their photos with the rest of our classmates, so please let me hear from you.

BTW, to the best of my ability to recall the names of the many fellow classmates who attended the reunion, I have attempted correctly add them to both my photos and those provided by Alice. I will be adding names to those from Barbara and Mike (those currently w/o captions) as time permits over the next few days, but I may require some help and may call upon a couple of you for your input. I would also appreciate any feedback with respect to any misspelled names, typos or other corrections required.

Thank you for your help in making this sites an enjoyable place to keep in touch with our fellow classmates and keeping up with any related events!

THE END