

Welcome Class of 1961
Good Morning and Good Afternoon,

Ask David Leippe to lead the flag salute.

Stand and salute the flag.

What a pleasure it is to see all of you once more. It's wonderful that we can still get together after all these years. 60 years is a long time and lots of things have happened to our classmates through the years

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge all the classmates who served in the Military which included the Air Force, Army, Marines, National Guard and Navy. A big thank you for your service to our country.

Now I'd like acknowledge the five couples who married 1961 classmates and remain married to this day: Evelyn & Tony Coelho, Ron & Rosi Keaton and Jack and Carol Reeves married for 60 years. Barbara and Wayne Holt and Marsha & Gene Wada for 57 years.

Our class produced many talented folks who became an Air Traffic Controller, Air Force Band

Member, Airline Stewardess, Author, Auto Leasing Agent, Attorneys, Bank Officers, Cafeteria Cooks, Car Salesman, Chief of Police, Clinical Microbiologist, Classroom Aides, Commercial Fisherman, Computer Analysts & Programmers, Circuit Board Designer, Custodian, Cruise Ship Hostess, Dental Hygienist, Dentist, Draftsmen, Drywall Contractor, Engineers, Episcopal Priest, FBI Special Agent, Farmers, Fast Food Chain Owner, Fiber Artist & Dress Designer, Florists, Government Employees, Greenhouse Builder, Grocers, Hair Stylists, Housewives, Independent Business Owners, Insurance Broker, Ironworker, Judges, Law Enforcement Officers, Legal Assistants, Mathematician, Mechanic, Military Officers, Motocross Racer, Nurses, Owners of Private Businesses, Parents, Pilots, Private Investigator, Probation Officer, Professors, Real Estate Agents, Rest Home Owner, School Principals, School Secretaries, Social Worker, Square Dance Caller, State Librarian, Stenographer, Teachers, Telephone Operators & Managers, Truck Drivers, Travel Agents, US Court Estate Administrator, Veterans, Waitresses, Window Washers, and a Raisin Inspector

Many were employed by big name companies such as Aerotech, ARCO Oil, Chevron Oil, Douglas

Aircraft, Lockheed Missiles & Space Company, Harvard Medical, Hewlett Packard, Granite Rock, Southern Pacific Railroad, Safeway, Pacific Telephone Company, and Pacific Gas & Electric, not City, State, and Federal government agencies.

It was a challenge to try to locate everyone. I had a difficult time dealing with reality when I found some had died or were very ill. I had wonderful conversations with many who weren't able to attend and received emails from others.

We are excited to welcome classmates from Alabama, Arizona, Mississippi, Texas, Oregon, and Nevada and throughout California.

I actually had a long conversation with a fella in Tennessee named Leon Roane, same age but he didn't know who I was. He had never gone to Watsonville High School. We talked for at least 20 minutes only to find out he wasn't the Leon Roane from the Class of 1961. I had a wonderful conversation with Toshio Yorita who told me he was very old and sick so he couldn't attend. He told me his life story and even told me that he was born in Manzanar which gave him rightful citizenship. His father took the family back to Japan when he was 4 years old. They were treated very poorly and came

back to the US on a Carnival Cruise ship when he was 14 when he entered the school system in Watsonville. He told me that he learned more English in the Army than he ever learned in school. He recalled attending the 25th Reunion on his honeymoon and getting an award for being the newest married.

Several emails came in thanking us for the reunion invitation and sending their regrets that they would not be able to attend. Those sending greetings were Jean Ackerman, Joanne Amato, Arlyne Antle, Dale Bassman, Beth Blanton, Lois Bumbalough, Nancy Burpee, Ted Bohrer, Arlene Celebrado, Shirley Coffey, Pat Corbin, Sandy Edwards, Bonnie Ellwood, Richard Erbe, Juhree Fort, Dennis Freeman, Bill George, Carl Hansen, Jerry Hubbell, Annette Hudson, Sandy Jensen, Bob Johnson, Linda Jolley, Karin Koenig, Sharon Kusanovich, Sheila Lettis, Jeannie MacQuiddy, Gene Petty, Mary Jo Robedeau, Marie Roche, Diane Secondo, Gino Silva, Lorita Stringari, Pat Stocking, Sharon Wilson, and Toshio Yorita. We also received a few monetary donations from some who could not attend.

There's a copy of a book written by two of our classmates, Cecil Smith and Lois Bumbalough. If

you would like this book, put your name in the hat and we'll draw a winner.

There were approximately 550 students entering high school in 1957. Our Commencement program listed 352 graduates. Mora had 36 graduates. I'm sure you've looked at the Memory Display Boards. 95 classmates from Watsonville High and 13 from Mora have left this world. It was a labor of love adding 52 more names since our 50th reunion but very difficult to put so many of our friends on these Memory Boards. I actually had dreams about those who were no longer with us.

I would like to recognize some of the Senior Class officer in attendance today: Barbara Miller Holt, Vice President, Bonnie Lowder and Rosemary Franco Keaton, Yell Leaders.

Also the Student Body Officers attending today are , Bob England, Treasurer and Marsha Tsuda Wada, Head Pom Pom Girl.

I would like to read a Certificate of Recognition for Charlie Johnston who was the first person from the Class of 1961 to be nominated to the Watsonville Hall of Fame.

(Read certificate)

At this time, I'd like to introduce Brad Hubbard who is a member of the Hall of Fame committee. He has a few words he's like to share about Charlie's nomination

Special thanks goes to my reunion committee partner, David Leippe for his dedicated work keeping our Class rosters up to date, compiling a survey, printing mailing labels and reunion invitations, putting up with me and all my roster requests, and for his new venture of maintaining the Class website which you can visit at www.wuhs.1961.org. Also thanks to Sharon Stevinson for accepting the reservations and maintaining the Class bank account, Barbara Holt for making the name tags, Joan Lohr for acting as our greeter today, and Sue Dodge for offering grace, and last but by no means least, thanks to my hubby Rick and granddaughter, Magnolia Norris, for helping me fold and stuff and seal envelopes for the mailings, making numerous trips to the post office to buy stamps and retrieving the returned mail. I don't know what I'd do without my helpmate.

At this time, Sue Pitts Dodge, has graciously accepted the honor of blessing the food we are about to partake.