

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE EHS CLASS OF 1964 - Dom Summa

Before distributing our class gifts, I would like to make some comments about our class.

Etched in marble on an outside wall at Waverly School is the phrase “Enter to Learn....Leave to Serve.” I recently did some research on this phrase and found that its similar sounding phrase “Enter to learn...go forth to serve” is one of the ten best college mottos in the United States. Colleges such as Brigham Young University, Delaware State University and Keene State College in New Hampshire have adopted this motto. Even the New York City Police Academy adopted this slogan in 1925! Twenty five pages of Google search by a magazine writer failed to find out who coined this famous phrase.

Whatever its source, the phrase “Enter to learn...leave to serve” defines the mission of the Eastchester High School Class of 1964. We entered elementary schools at Greenvale, Cooper, Waverly and Anne Hutchinson. Some classmates started their elementary education at Immaculate Conception or Immaculate Heart of Mary. Others entered their neighborhood schools before moving to Eastchester to finish their high school education.

Our elementary and high school years occurred during a time of great change in this country. Most of us were the first real “baby boomers,” born in 1946. We entered first grade with “I Like Ike” buttons, became polio pioneers, and witnessed the launch of Sputnik. Remember the Air Raid drills? The election of John Kennedy opened the 1960’s and we were caught up in the Cold War and Cuban Missile Crisis. We all can tell you exactly where we were when we heard our President was assassinated in Dallas. We followed the progress of the Civil Rights Movement and the escalation of a war in Viet Nam. Our country’s issues helped shape the career choices of many of our classmates.

I reviewed about ten years’ worth of brag sheets from classmates and am impressed about the wide range of careers we have served. Classmates have worked at the local, state and national levels of government. We have many who became educators at all possible grade levels... from pre-school and Head Start programs to college and university professors. We have classmates who entered the field of medicine including nurses, lab technicians, doctors and dentists. Many classmates have made their success in the business world with CEOs, CFOs, lawyers, small business owners, research analysts, accountants,

real estate brokers and sales and advertising “Mad Men!” Classmates have enjoyed success as auto mechanics, landscape designers, homemakers, musicians, writers, and artists. We all should be proud of our collective service to family, community and country.

When we walked across the stage of Eastchester High School on June 23, 1964, I doubt many of us thought “Where would I be in fifty years!” We surely had dreams, ambitions and hope. But who would have thought we would all be here, thankful for our journey and celebrating our accomplishments at our 50th Anniversary Reunion. Thanks for making it happen!
