

JMHS Class of 1969 45th Reunion

October 10-11, 2014

San Antonio and Helotes, Texas

The John Marshall High School Class of 1969 alumni held their 45th reunion from 10–11 October 2014 in San Antonio and Helotes, Texas. Miki Cunningham, Jerry Deitchle, Christine Posey Schwope, and Gretchen Kuhn planned and hosted the reunion activities.

The Class of 1969 was John Marshall's ninth senior class, but represented the sixth graduating class with members who enrolled in all four years at the newly named high school. Marshall High School, located at 8000 Lobo Lane, is the premier high school in the Northside Independent School District. The originally formed school was known as Northside High School from 1949 until 1960, when it was renamed John Marshall H.S. The school is named in honor of the fourth Supreme Court Chief Justice of the United States John Marshall. This started a trend among Northside high schools, all of which were named after U.S. Supreme Court Justices. The Marshall H.S. mascot is the Ram, which was picked by students in 1950 and was based on the then-NFL Los Angeles Rams mascot.

The school was once particularly known for its vocal music department, which consistently has been recognized with the highest achievements over the past few decades. Vocal music is not the only outstanding fine arts program at Marshall. The Ram Band too has been consistent sweepstakes winners. In 1976, the band set a world's record for continuous concert, performing 52 hours and 3 minutes in Wonderland Mall (now known as Wonderland of the Americas). That same year, the band became the first band from the state of Texas in 20 years to be invited to march in the 1977 Tournament of Roses Parade. The Ram Band also appeared in the 1977 feature film "Rolling Thunder". The first and second band directors at Marshall have had Northside Schools named for them; Mr. Bob Lewis, band director from 1957 to 1975 and Mr. Charles Kuentz Jr., band director from 1975 into the 1980s.

Because it is the oldest high school for the Northside Independent School District, its surrounding huge population zones have been split through the years to form many of the current high schools including Holmes H.S. to the south in the early 1960s. Jay H.S. a few years later, although part of its area was also formed from the fairly new Holmes H.S. zones. In 1978, Marshall was split again with the creation of Clark H.S. to the east, and yet again in 1985 when Taft H.S. opened further west. Recently, the Marshall zone split off when the Helotes and north Loop 1604 areas were switched to the new O'Connor H.S. in 1998. The latest zone change was in 2008 for the new Brandeis H.S. Though its area zones are much smaller than they ever were, Marshall H.S. still posts high academic scores and is still competitive in sports.

On Friday night, October 10th, about 30 of Marshall's former classmates and their spouses reunited and enjoyed a few hours catching up on the past 45 years at BJ's Restaurant at the Rim off of IH10 West. Delicious appetizers and salads were served, and two decorated

chocolate cakes were provided. BJ's Restaurants, Inc. currently owns and operates about 148 casual dining restaurants under the name BJ's Restaurant & Brewery. The company operates several breweries, which produce and distribute BJ's beers throughout the chain. BJ's was founded in 1978 and first opened in Orange County, California. By 1996, seven restaurants had opened between San Diego and Los Angeles. Originally known as Chicago Pizza & Brewery Inc., the company went public about 1996. The company bought 26 Pietro's Pizza restaurants in March 1996, but then sold off seven of the locations with plans to convert the remaining locations to what was then BJ's Pizza. Between 2010 and 2011, the National Retail Federation named it as one of the 10 fastest growing restaurants in the U.S. based on year-over-year sales. The restaurants' menu features BJ's own delicious, innovative spin on favorite foods, including deep dish pizzas, salads, sandwiches, pastas, steaks, baby back ribs, and so much more. And of course, everything tastes better with BJ's own handcrafted beer. The Class of '69 offers a big thank you to Jerry Deitchle, Chairman of the Board at BJ's, and his wife Sandy for hosting a lovely Happy Hour with excellent service. If you'd like to drop them a note you can do so at jdeitchle@bjsrestaurants.com.

Prior to the Oct 10th event, Miki Collins issued a challenge to potential attendees to identify the two football players on page 7 of the 1969 yearbook. She said that she would buy a drink for the first one to name "Tommy Jordan and Clint Myers" in the photo correctly. Jim Hennig promptly and correctly identified his former teammates and Miki was happy to buy Jim a beer.

In attendance at BJ's were San Antonio residents Christine Posey Schwope, Darrell Poor and wife Irma, George Forman, James Meiske and wife Laura, Jim Hennig, Julia Corte, Kathy Forester Jordan, Miki Cunningham Collins and husband Norm, and Sharon Fulton Cullip and husband Ralph. Also attending from the Lone Star state were Bobbie Cook Martindale from Plano, Debbie Sibson Walton* and husband Mark Walton* of Cotulla, Doug Barrera from Austin, Gretchen Kuhn from Rockport, Jennifer Elmendorf Lehman of Bulverde, John Tschirhart and wife Jane from Houston, Kathleen Jenkins and husband Rick also from Austin, and Wallace Kraft* and wife Karen Crow Kraft* of Jourdan. Traveling from other states were Chris Swalm* and wife Renee Bellows Swalm* from Slidell, Louisiana, Jerry Deitchle and wife Sandy from Camarillo California, Pamela Olijar from Colorado Springs Colorado, and Charles Janson from Rio Rancho, New Mexico. (The asterisk symbol denotes '69 JMHS grads who married '69 JMHS grads.) Good news....Jerry and Sandy Deitchle said that they will be moving back to San Antonio in about 18 months!

On Saturday October 11th, a few hearty alumni braved the heavy rains and gathered at an old Marshall landmark, Floore's Country Store in Helotes off Old Bandera Road. For over 60 years, the John T. Floore Country Store has hosted Texas and American music legends alike. This quintessential Texas Honky Tonk hosted such legendary performers as Willie Nelson, Bob Wills, Ernest Tubbs, Patsy Cline, Hank Williams, Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Jerry Lee Lewis, Merle Haggard, Ray Price, George Jones, Waylon Jennings, Dwight Yoakam, Lyle Lovett, Robert Earl Keen, B.B. King, Little Richard, and many more. Known by many as the musical "birthplace" of Willie Nelson, Willie immortalized John T. Floore in his hit recording "Shotgun Willie". John T. Floore and Willie Nelson were partners in the original Willie Nelson Music Company. In the March 2001 issue of *Texas Monthly*, John T. Floore Country Store was listed

as one of the *50 Things Every Texan Should Do*. Opened in 1942 by Mr. John T. Floore, the former manager of the San Antonio's Majestic Theater, Floore's Country Store was not actually a store, but a unique Texas dance hall and cafe. Floore's, long renowned for its world famous tamales and homemade bread, offers a full menu of great "Texas cafe" style food, ice cold beer and truly unique "Texccentric" atmosphere. The store was added to National Register of Historic Places listings in Bexar County, Texas in December 2005.

Attending the scheduled Floore's afternoon event were James Meiske, Jim Hennig, Gretchen Kuhn, Bobbie Martindale, Kathleen Jenkins, Kathy Jordan, Pamela Olijar, Jennifer Lehman, Miki Collins, Doug Barrera, and Charles Janson. Also joining on Saturday were Susan Chapman Jackson and Jane Nixon Schmitt and their husbands. Susan resides in San Antonio and Jane lives in Folsom, California. Accompanying their daughters Kathleen Jenkins and Miki Collins were moms Mary Jenkins (95-years-old) and Akiko Cunningham (88-years-old). These two senior faces were beaming with happiness at seeing each other again, along with the classmates of their kids. It was a special treat to have them join the Saturday group.

Unfortunately, Stacey Hasbrook from Austin came to Floore's much later that evening because of a schedule mix-up. Robert E. Lee High School was having their "All Class" reunion and she attended that, receiving a name tag STACEY, CLASS OF '69. She was a good sport about it!

Please be on a continuous diligent lookout for information about our Big Five-O reunion planned for 2018. We hope to start earlier trying to locate more classmates and getting the word out way-in-advance. To prevent losing track of friends, please communicate with your former classmates as often as possible, so more folks can possibly be contacted in the future. We particularly need to keep track of your most current e-mails.