

THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK

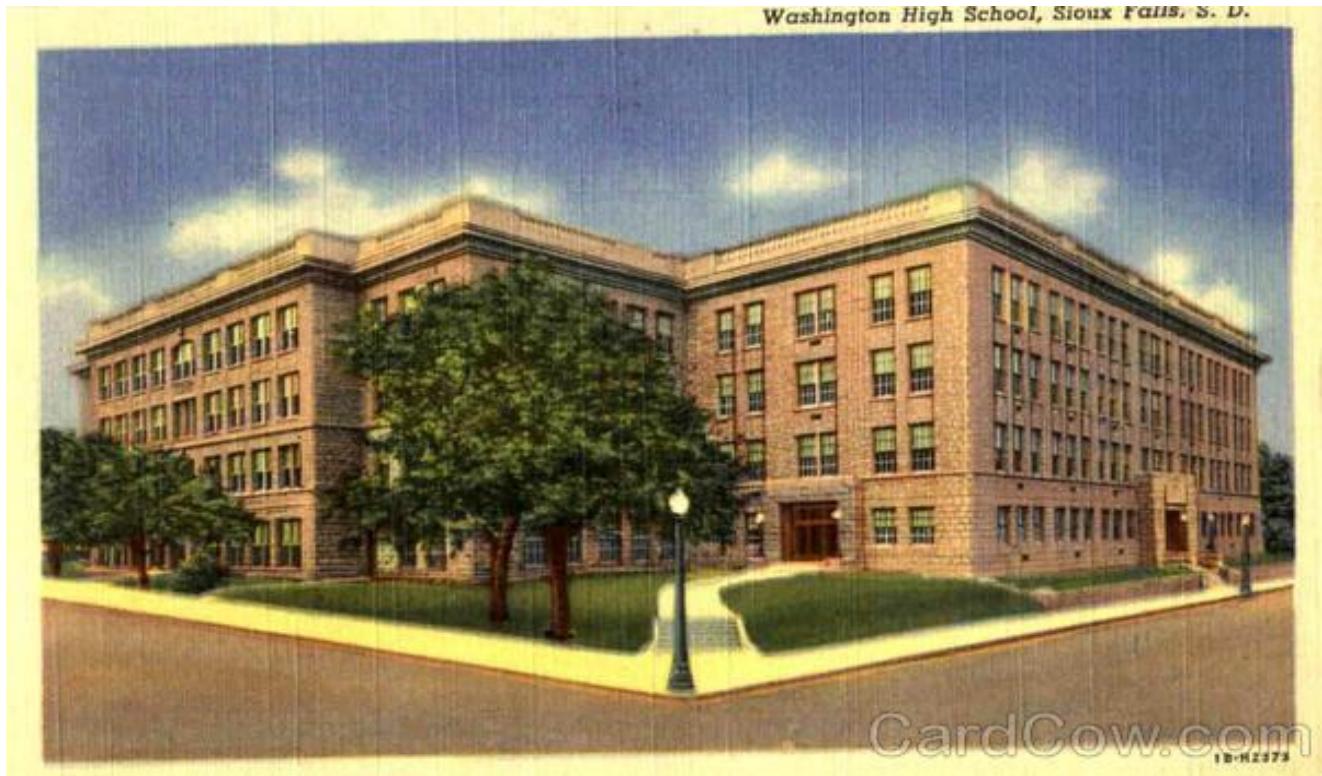


WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

Serving the Classes of The Great '50's Decade. Photos and Stories Requested!

Published in memory of our Founder Jack M. Phillips '54. Issue #06-25

orangeandblackonline@gmail.com 2261 Lauren Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134



Thank you to dedicated Classmates that are reporting to the O & B!

Mary Montoya '59, Jim Carlson '58, Eric Gustafson '58 plus our

Virtual Executive Assistant Bill Lobe '59

Please [CLICK HERE](#)

to send your news, stories & photos plus Letters to The Editor to Keep the O & B ALIVE!

Jack & Debra Phillips

Letters to the O & B



Gary Conradi <conradi@sio.midco.net> wrote on September 15, 2025

In 1954, several of the freshman decided that we needed an alternative newspaper to the “Orange and Black” and created the “Black and Blue”. Unfortunately, not all the students agreed and the “Black and Blue” ceased our initial offering! Time has faded the ink on the newsletter operation after our initial offering. Time has not created a good copy due to fading but if you wish to include it in the “O & B” please do so.

Thank you for continuing this valuable service to those of us with strong attachment to WHS!

Gary Conradi
Class of '57

Editor's Note: Thank you, Gary, for taking the time to submit by snail mail the WHS alternate “paper for the Lower Classes, by the Lower Classes and of the Lower Classes” from 1954. Faded with time, but still definitely entertaining and enlightening, the [“Black and Blue” can be accessed and enjoyed here.](#)

Richard Sweetman rcsweetman@gmail.com wrote on September 21, 2025

Dear Debra, I am so impressed! Continuing Jack's legacy will require a huge amount of time & energy, a wonderful testament to the love & devotion the two of you shared.

I hope the material on Sioux Falls and what is happening at the Washington Pavilion will help.

Dick Sweetman, Class of '54

Editor's Note: Dick, thank you for your kind thoughts. The informative brochure you sent regarding what is currently being featured at the [Washington Pavilion and the Visitors Guide to Sioux Falls attractions can be accessed here.](#)

Michael Zerr <zerrmick@gmail.com> wrote on September 1, 2025

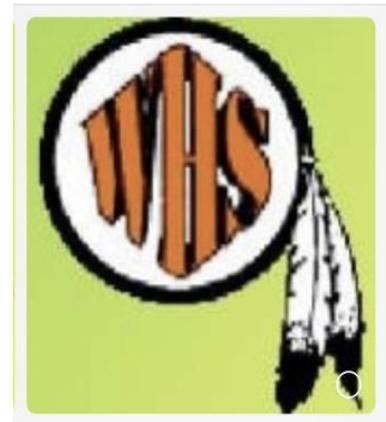
Folks,

here is the link to the September WHS Historical Newsletter. This month features the 1975 staff part 1, and HOD members in the legal field. Also included are the front pages of the Argus Leader from 50 and one hundred years ago.

All issues are accessible from our website at: <https://whshc.org/whshc-newsletter>

Mick
WHSCH

Editor's Note: Mr. Michael Zerr is the spokesperson for the Washington High School Historical Committee and has been kind enough to share their WHSHC Newsletter and informative website with our own '50's alumni subscribers. Thank you, Mick.



TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS BY WRITING TO LETTERS to the EDITOR!

[E-mail to:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com](mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com)



March 18, 1953

Fun, Food Fine for

Junior Personalities

If someone flashes a big smile along with "Greetins'", it's a good bet you'll be confronting Deede Woods. Eating roast chicken and rolls while listening to Eckstein, "King" Cole, Kenton or just "I Was a Fool" by June Christie sounds swell to this vivacious junior. Swimming, dancing, IRC, NFL, Job's, FBLA and Spanish, College and Chorus clubs take her remaining time. She insists her ideal guy should be "tall so I can wear heels" and have a super



Jack Phillips (left) and Kent Morstad were really in the spirit of Spinster week. It looks like they gave poor Deede the shaft, as far as books are concerned.

Looking Back at only Three Lifetimes

Being one of the '59 most junior members of the WHS 1950s classes that Jack Phillips addressed when first publishing the Washington High School Orange & Black Alumni Newsletter, I reflect now on much has transpired in my lifetime since my birth in 1941, 83 years ago.

I remember when I thought 30 was old. And when I was 30, I thought 60 was old. When I was 60, I never considered the fact that I'd live to be 83. Just recently I was flirting with a young lady (late teens) at the checkout counter at Home Depot and asked her if she had ever considered dating an older man. She replied, "Older – Yes. Ancient – No."

So, I've recently put an 83-year-old lifetime in perspective. I'm not speaking of a generation considered to be 20 to 30 years, but an actual lifetime. If, instead of being born in 1941, I would have, instead, reached my current age of 83 that year, and with simple arithmetic, that means I would have been born in 1858 – just one lifetime before.

While Sioux Falls was founded in 1856, in 1858 Sioux Falls was a true frontier outpost. The Yankton Treaty was signed that same year between the United States Government and the Yankton Sioux Tribe (Western Dakota), that ceded most of eastern South Dakota (11 million acres) to the U.S. Government.

Construction of Washington High School began in 1904 and completed in 1908 at which time; I would already have been 50 years old.

In just that one previous 83-year lifetime, I would have witnessed slavery, heard President Lincoln's Gettysburg address, witnessed the Civil War and probably served in World War I. No gasoline-operated vehicles until around 1900 – only real horsepower, and no telephone service until then either. No TV available until the 1950s, no Internet nor computers. In 1858, Minnesota becomes the 32nd U.S. state followed by Oregon admitted as the 33rd U.S. state in 1859 and the first oil well was drilled in Pennsylvania.

In the 1850's, children were expected to take on chores around the house as soon as they could help. Small children, even as young as 4 or 5 years old, had chores such as keeping the fire going, fetching water, and caring for livestock. Even families who lived in towns often owned chickens or horses.

Now, going back only one additional 83-year lifespan, I would have been born in 1775. In 1775, South Dakota was a region largely unexplored by European colonists and predominantly inhabited by various Native American tribes collectively known as the Sioux including the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people.

Most colonists lived in rural areas, with agriculture being the primary occupation. Family life was central, with children often working alongside their parents from a young age. Technology was limited, and travel was slow, taking days or even weeks to cover distances that would take hours today. In 1775, the average life expectancy in the United States was around 35-40 years.

In 1775, the year I would have been born only three of my lifespans ago, The American Revolutionary War began on the East Coast with events such as the Battle of Lexington and Concord, and the appointment of George Washington as commander of the Continental Army. The war ended in 1783. Interesting to note that each of my three consecutive 83-year lifetimes began with a war – Revolutionary War, Civil War and World War II.

My mind and memories are still clear enough to recall most significant events in my life all the way from childhood in the early 1940s to present day. Three lifespans only triples that period of time yet seems far out of reach and incomprehensible except as defined in history books. I am grateful for the gift of life in spite of the mistakes I've made.

Looking forward, if I were born this current year, again with the same 83-year lifespan, I would become a senior living in the year 2108. I can't even begin to imagine what life will be like.

Bill Lobe '59

2025 WHS Alumni Scholarship Recipient Winner

Mariah Clark



Dear Ms. Marlys A. Hohman,

I am writing to express my gratitude for being selected as a recipient of the Washington H.S. Alumni scholarship. Without your generosity, I would not have the privilege of pursuing post-secondary education. Not only will I be the first in my family to receive a diploma, I will receive a bachelor's and eventually a doctorate degree.

I am dedicated to making the most out of my education so that your investment will be worthwhile. At Augustana University, I will double major in Biochemistry and Spanish while on the pre-dentistry track. There, I will be in the Civitas Honors and Journey Scholars programs, focused on promoting belonging and serving others. The practice of giving back to my community is something I'll continue for more than just college - for life. I yearn to support others in the ways that you do. You are not just a donor, you are a role model, and I am forever grateful.

If you wish to reach out for any reason, my email is: mariah.~~0000~~clark1807@gmail.com.

Thanks for everything you do,

Mariah Clark
mariah Clark



Good afternoon Mrs. Phillips,

I am so glad to hear that Ms. Marlys received my card! The exact scholarship name: Washington High School Alumni Scholarship offered through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation. To give, people can visit <https://www.sfacf.org> where they can access donor resources and plan their giving. For any questions, they can contact either Jamie Weyh at jweyh@sfacf.org, or contact the foundation itself at info@sfacf.org or (605) 336-7055.

The Washington High School Alumni scholarship gave me \$2,500, and the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation gave me \$12,250 in total between that scholarship and three others. These scholarships covered the remaining debts for my cost of attendance at Augustana University. Without all the funds from my generous donors, I likely would not have attended college at all. The yearly price for my university is about double my single mom's salary, and I have 3 younger siblings in my household that will attend college within the next 5 years.

I became a TRIO Talent Search student after my school discovered I was a homeless unaccompanied youth. That school program allowed me to explore careers and colleges, and also prepared me for the ACT and scholarship applications. All of the students involved in TRIO are first-generation university students, meaning they don't usually have a parent beside them to tell them step-by-step what they need to do to get an education. There are so many students like myself that are so academically gifted but just don't possess the knowledge or resources to make use of their blessings. Yet, they remain the best candidates due to the empathy, compassion, and resilience they've gained from all the adversities they've faced. On the behalf of every college student that has worked 10 times as hard to get where they are today, we are forever appreciative of the donors that recognize that we are just as deserving of a good life.

Thank you,
Mariah S Clark

Editor's Note: We are happy to congratulate Mariah Clark for earning and having received the 2025 WHS Alumni Scholarship. We also wish to thank Marlys Ahrendt Hohman, WHS Class of '57, for her generous time in researching and informing our subscribers of the Washington High School Alumni Scholarship Fund. Anyone wishing to support the WHS Alumni Scholarship Fund may send their contribution to 200 N. Cherapa Place, Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

WASHINGTON HIGH ORANGE & BLACK

Alumni News and Information

Fall 1996

FIRST ISSUE OF ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK

Welcome to the Washington High School Alumni Association via your first issue of the Alumni Orange & Black Newsletter!

The objectives of the Association are:

- a) To promote the good name, image and well being of Washington High School, it's students and graduates;
- b) To promote and publicize alumni activities and programs;
- c) To assist classes in planning and organizing their reunions, including maintaining alumni addresses and information files;
- d) To assist the WHS All-School Reunion Committee with the reunions scheduled for years ending in 0 and 5.

Enclosed with this newsletter is your WHS Alumni Association membership card. (The zip code on the card is incorrect. The Post Office changed our zip code about a month after the printing of our cards--can't argue with the Pony Express!)

Do us a *BIG FAVOR*: after reading your issue, please pass it along to other alumni and encourage them to join. Also, help make this a successful newsletter/association by forwarding your suggestions and/or articles to be printed

TO: WHS Alumni Association
P.O. Box 88832
Sioux Falls, SD 57109-1005

WHS ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND



An endowed scholarship fund was established in 1993 to provide an annual scholarship award for continuing education to a graduating senior of Washington High School. The basic guideline for this scholarship award is based equally on financial need and demonstrated motivation and ability to succeed in their chosen field of study at an accredited academic or vocational school of the recipients choice.

In 1995, Scholarships were awarded to Carrie Burhenn, Angela Plueger, and Joshua Vrondran, given in honor of all WHS Alumni, George Mickelson (former Governor), Leila Leysse (oldest alumni-- Class of 1911-- attended '92 reunion).

In 1996, a scholarship was awarded to Leslie Medema given in honor of Class of 1942 (contributors to scholarship fund).

Your gift to the scholarship fund helps worthy graduates from Washington High School achieve their dreams. You may contribute by sending your gift

TO: WHS Scholarship Fund
Sioux Falls Area Foundation
1000 North West Ave., #130
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

WASHINGTON PAVILION UPDATE

*Completion is
Scheduled for 1998.*

The Sioux Falls City Council has voted unanimously on July 9th to increase the spending ceiling for the Washington Pavilion from \$25.1 million to \$29 million. This will allow supporters to raise an additional \$2.1 million through private funding. The Washington Pavilion will include a 1900-seat Performing Arts Center (our old auditorium), Civic Fine Arts Center, Discovery Science Center, Omni Theater and a small theater.

BLACK HILLS GOLD PIN



Exclusive to WHSA!

Landstroms Original Black Hills Gold Creations have designed a tie tac/lapel pin depicting the Sioux Falls High School monogram. Their "trademark" grape cluster, pink and green gold leaves have been incorporated into this pin which is available to all alumni for \$50. If you are interested in ordering this pin, send check

TO: WHS Alumni Association
P.O. Box 88832
Sioux Falls, SD 57109-1005

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



P.O. BOX 88832 • SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57109-1005

Blissful Cartoons from Janelle



I was mugged by a thief last night on my way home.

Pointing a knife at me ... He asked me "your money or your life!"

I told him I am Married... so I have no money and no life...

We hugged and cried together.

It was a beautiful moment...



Woman: I don't want to marry. I am educated, self sufficient and satisfied with myself. But my friends all say that I should marry. What should I do?

Psychiatrist: You will no doubt achieve great things in life. But sometimes things won't go your way. Sometimes your plans will fail. Then whom will you blame? Will you blame yourself?

Woman: "NO."

Psychiatrist: "yes.. that's why you need a husband.."

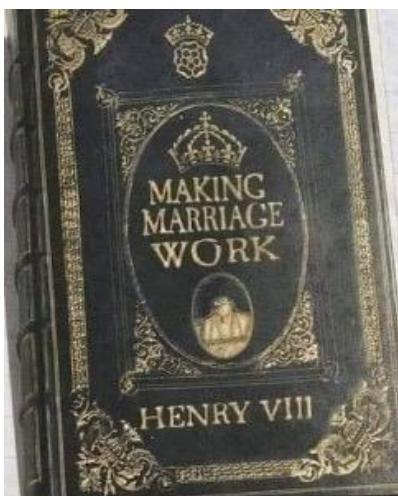
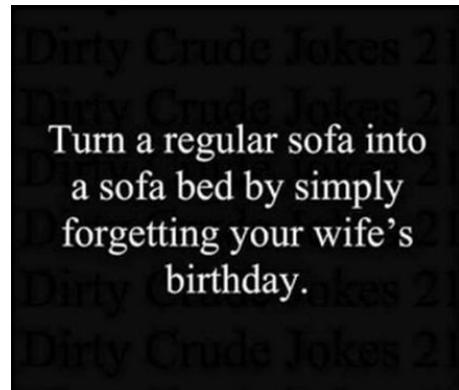
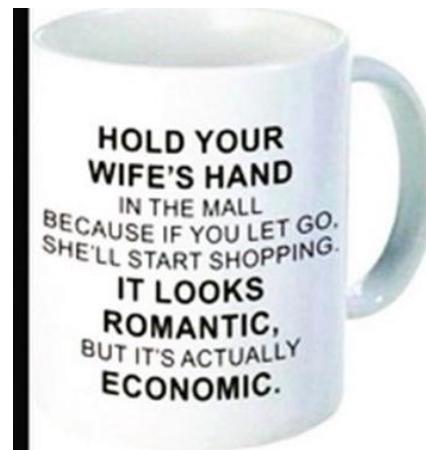
Nobody told me that when you get a husband the ears are sold separately.

Husband:
I think I'm having a heart attack...

Wife:
Ok honey, give me the password to your phone so I can call an Ambulance

Husband:
Nevermind. I'm feeling better.





Shared by silversurfers.com

STUFF

Priceless or Worthless?

A mother recently passed away joining their father, so the three adult children had the sad but necessary task of emptying their parents' home and getting it ready to be placed on the market for sale. As you can imagine it's one thing to decide who gets the jewelry, perhaps furniture and/or various knickknacks that make a house a home. This couple was no different and various items that were purchased while on vacation or special family events were easily taken care of, but one problem remained, "What do you do with the pictures and photographs that were taken not only over the years but decades?" Nearly a century and to further add to the quandary, the parents and especially the mom had always made sure there was a camera ready to capture any and all events. What do you do with all those photos? Are they priceless or worthless?

Luckily, the mom had placed the majority of photographs in very large albums. There were 18 of them plus 5 stuffed shoe boxes of various photos dating way back! There were photos before they were married! With no exaggeration, there were thousands of pictures.

How do you not throw them away? Even worse, why save them, especially when their grandchildren make it clear that they are not interested in the old photos. The eldest son did not have use for them either but couldn't bring himself to toss them away. So, as only their parents would approve, he made arrangements to have everything packed and shipped from their Florida residence to his home. The total weight being 158 pounds! He was startled to know how much it cost for the transport and especially how much time was needed in the new job sorting and storing these memories!

The photos indicate what a wonderful life their parents had together and how fortunate their children were but the question of "What do other people do, especially when faced with the same issue?" By the way, their father loved taking home movies too. He even moved all the film reels to eight track tapes and yes, they inherited all 42 of them!

Now photos are stored digitally on your cell phone and computer! But I guess what I'm really trying to say is we all have too much "stuff" and we need to go through and declutter and decide what Priceless or Worthless is!

[Click here to enjoy the late George Carlin addressing this issue from his point of view.](#)

Debra Phillips



60 Things to throw away Right Now

(DECLUTTER CHALLENGE)

In the Kitchen

1. Expired spices and condiments
2. Chipped mugs and plates
3. Plastic containers with missing lids
4. Old takeout menus (you can find them online!)
5. Duplicate utensils you never use

In the Bedroom

- Worn-out socks with holes
- Clothes you haven't worn in a year
- Extra hangers cluttering your wardrobe
- Single earrings with no match
- Old, flat pillows

Random Miscellaneous

Clutter

- Old greeting cards (unless sentimental)
- Freebies /promotional items you don't use
- Half-used candles with no scent left
- Duplicates of items you don't need
- Empty gift bags you never reuse

Digital Clutter

1. Old screenshots you don't need
2. Unused apps taking up space
3. Hundreds of unread emails
4. Duplicate or blurry photos
5. Subscriptions you forgot about

In the Bathroom

- Expired skincare and makeup
- Dried-up nail polish
- Empty or shampoo bottles
- Broken hair ties and stretched-out scrunchies
- Old toothbrushes

For Parents/Kids' Stuff

- Broken toys
- Clothes your kids have outgrown
- School papers you don't need to keep
- Dried-out markers and crayons
- Random Happy Meal toys

In the Office/Desk Area

- Pens that don't work
- Old notebooks you don't need
- Expired coupons
- Outdated receipts and bills
- Mystery keys you don't know what they open

Sentimental Clutter

- Unused wedding favours
- Old textbooks from school
- Dried flowers from years ago
- Unwanted gifts you're keeping out of guilt
- That one project you swear you'll finish but never do

In the Living Room

- DVDs/CDs you never watch or listen to
- Random cables you don't use
- Old magazines and newspapers
- Board games with missing pieces
- Throw blankets that have seen better days

In the Closet/Wardrobe

- Shoes that hurt your feet
- Bags you haven't used in years
- Scarves & accessories you forgot you had
- Old belts that don't fit
- Clothes that need repairs (but you never fix them)

Garage, Storage, and Junk

Drawer

- Old holiday decorations you don't use
- Dead batteries
- Rusty tools
- Expired cleaning products
- Anything "just in case" that hasn't been touched in years

Mental Clutter (Let it Go!)

- Guilt over getting rid of things
- Unfinished projects that stress you out
- Toxic social media accounts
- Worrying about what people think
- The idea that decluttering has to be perfect



WHS DECEASED LIST for 2025

10/20/2025

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	CLASS	OBITUARY LINK <i>RED Denotes most recent Passings</i>	DOD
Solveig	M	Beckman	50	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/solveig-beckmen	07/08/25
Jack	William	Hamilton	50	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/jack-hamilton	01/31/25
Mary	Ann	Costello	50	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/mary-costello	12/25/24
Dina	Brandt	Holgate	51	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/dina-brandt-holgate	02/22/25
Lavonne	Joyce	Schildhauer	51	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/lavonne-schildhauer	08/17/25
Verla	Joyce	Fehrenz	51	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/verla-joy-fehrenz	08/21/25
Stephen	Henry	Jensen	51	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/Stephen-jensen	10/08/25
Donald	M	Branson	52	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/donald-branson	09/10/25
Joan	Perrenoud	Odland	53	https://www.postbulletin.com/obituaries/obits/joan-m-odland	03/10/25
James	R	Smalley	53	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/james-smalley	05/26/25
Ronald (Ron)	F	Mattice	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-mattice	05/29/25
Lowell	Eugene	Larson	53	minnehahafuneralhome.com/obituaries/lowell-eugene-larson	06/17/25
Wayne	Lee	Steensma	53	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/wayne-steensma	07/02/25
Rodney		Bird	53	https://www.millerfh.com/guestbook/rodney-bird#45780563	07/26/25
William	O	Garner	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/william-garner	09/09/25
Kay		Reiner	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/genevieve-rainer	09/21/25
Joseph	H	Floyd	54	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/joseph-floyd	01/14/25
Charla	Farnsworth	Smith	54	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/charla-smith	05/24/25
James	R	Waldner	54	https://heartlandfunerals.com/james-waldo-revillo-waldner/	09/02/25
Loetta	Lee	Munson	55	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/loretta-munson	01/13/25

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	CLASS	OBITUARY LINK <i>RED Denotes most recent Passings</i>	DOD
Ronald	Gene	Fisher	55	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-fisher	02/09/25
Ralph	J.A.	Rosser	55	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/ralph-rosser	07/16/25
Robert "Bob"	Dennis	Thompson	56	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/robert-bob-dennis-thompson	02/11/25
Donna	Mae	Murphy	56	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/donna-murphy	03/17/25
John	E	Johannsen	57	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/john-johannsen	03/11/25
Marcia	M	Ostrem	57	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/marcia-ostrem	05/24/25
Charla		Smith	57	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/charla-smith	05/24/25
Dave		Herrick	58	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/david-herrick	2/27/25?
Richard "Dick"		Miller	58	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/richard-dick-miller	03/02/25
John	S	Hedland	58	https://adportal.adn.com/adportal/listing/JohnS-Hedland/W0052259.html	04/16/25
Ron		Updegraff	58	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/ron-updegraff	05/29/25
Robert	E	Wichner	58	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/robert-wichner	06/27/25
Janet Irene	Langdon	Rist	58	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/janet-rist	10/20/25
Thomas		Brown	58	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/thomas-brown-9481262	10/29/25
Philip	S	Helland	59	https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd1123483	03/15/25
Stephen		Veenker	59	legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/stephen-veenker-obituary?	04/17/25
William	Bill	Kullander	59	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/william-bill-kullander	05/11/25
Susan (Sue)		French	59	https://www.hansenfuneralhome.com/obituaries/susan-french	05/22/25
Patricia	O'Reilly	Miller	59	https://www.martinson.info/obituaries/Patricia-O-Miller?	08/09/25
Vaughn		Neshiem	59	https://www.wightandcomes.com/memorials/vaughn-neshiem	09/12/25
Beatrice "Bea"		Baumberger	59	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/beatrice-bea-baumberger	10/20/25

[Click here to view our website's historical deceased lists](#)



To all the WHS Alumni Grads Keep the Stories Coming!

Many thanks to Mary Montoya '59,
Jim Carlson '58 & Eric Gustafson '58
for keeping the O & B informed!
And Bill Lobe'59 as Executive Editor

Please send your news, stories, photos & Letters to the Editor to our address

orangeandblackonline@gmail.com

Jack Phillips & The WHS Alumni Staff

**I swear if my
memory was
any worse, I
could plan my
own surprise
party.**