

# 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 #03-25

[orangeandblackonline@gmail.com](mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com) 2261 Lauren Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134

*Washington High School, Sioux Falls, S. D.*



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

**Mary Montoya '59, Bill Lobe '59, Jim Carlson '58**

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



**James Wylie** <[jimwylie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimwylie@sbcglobal.net)> wrote on May 13, 2025

Excellent !!! Quality Job !

So glad to learn of the pick-up of the mission and ministry of Jack & Deb. Like all of you I will send a word or two but first I need to prepare a draft....sleep on it....so I can identify all the bad stuff and only forward "good news".

For now Myrna ('53 (Irwin) R N,BS and I ('51--Seminary--Hosp Management) are well as we sail into our '90s. While there is much in the Chicago Region of interest (Hometown of our new Holy Father) and some goings on of note in DC et al....our life work for both of us was in the hospital component of what is politically and socially referred to today as HEALTHCARE 😊

Once the US gets "wings level" it will be HEALTHCARE'S turn for Fed attention. ---collectively the largest single component of the GNP/GDP.....expect noise !!!

Best wishes and BLESSINGS to all !!!

Jim Wylie  
Class of '51

**Eric Gustafson** [egustaf@me.com](mailto:egustaf@me.com) wrote on May 14, 2025

Hello O & B & Debra,

I was in frequent contact with Jack and constantly reminded of all the great things he did for the WHS classes of the '50s. He is truly missed by us all. After Jack's passing Steve Veenker introduced himself to me and we were in somewhat frequent contact including many conversations regarding how the O&B should continue publication. It was with shock that I read of his passing.

When the class of '58 was trying to pull together their 50th reunion I foolhardily volunteered to help the reunion chair get a handle on the class register. At that time, it was a spreadsheet of names with some addresses from the 40th reunion. (On that register I had been declared dead so I thought it might be to my benefit to take over the record keeping.) The result is a database of all the people who claim to have been class members of the Class of '58. (There are about 25 people who make that claim than those who are listed in the senior yearbook. There is a story about that which I won't bore you with now.)

I attempt to keep up with all the members of the Class of '58 and publish a bi-annual memorial listing as well as obituaries for all who have passed in the class. I sent any obituaries that I was aware of to Steve with the understanding that he would notify you for publication. In that vain I will now send you any obituaries that I become aware of. If you do not wish to receive them please let me know.

I'd like to personally thank you for your efforts to keep the memory of Jack alive and your dedication to publishing the O&B Alumni.

Sincerely,  
Eric Gustafson  
Class of '58



Double R Rudisill/Miller <[richrudy@live.com](mailto:richrudy@live.com)> wrote on May 17, 2025

Glad to get the newsletters. I would like to send more in this letter, but will try later. Just didn't notice in the Obits that I didn't see anything pertaining to Myron Lee Wachendorf. He was the leader of Myron Lee and the Caddies after he left WHS. I don't have any details of that, but you might be able to Google it. I'm a bit unstable at 86 on the computer thing LOL But I'm still breathing when I wake up in the morning LOL Maybe I will see it in the next letter. Many thanks for all you do. You're a godsend. Bye for now. Harold Rudy Rudisill Class of '56

O & B Replies: Rudy Here you go! O & B reported a story on Myron in Issue #2-25  
Myron Wachendorf Class of '59 Passed 06/22/24  
<https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd0869785>

James Deamud <[deamud@hlmich.net](mailto:deamud@hlmich.net)> wrote on June 2, 2025

Thanks guys for your efforts. Although I only spent my senior year in Sioux Falls, I still enjoy looking back.

Jim Deamud  
Class of '59

**TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS BY WRITING TO LETTERS to the EDITOR!**  
<mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com>



## Submission from Jim Ward Class of '53

### V-J Day in Sioux Falls

Do you remember V-J Day? I do. I was an about-to-be 10-year-old living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. (I generally don't tell people where I lived because it makes them very jealous.) The Japanese Emperor announced on August 14, 1945 that he had to accept the surrender demand of the Allied Forces. Due to time zone differences the word came to the US on August 15 and informal celebrations broke out all across the country. We got the word early in the day on the 15<sup>th</sup> and it seemed like the entire town gathered to celebrate.

Sioux Falls, a town of about 40,000 people had a typical downtown with hotels, restaurants, stores, movie theaters, etc. and that was where the celebration took place. The photo was taken not long after the War.

The civilian population was joined by thousands of personnel from the US Army Air Corps base on the north side of our town (aerial photo below). There were 40,000 G.I.s stationed there during the War.



My folks, Charles and Juanita Ward took me and my cousin, Connie (her dad, my uncle, was serving in the US Navy in the Pacific) downtown to see the celebration. My dad was too old to serve in WWII and he had been too young for WWI.

We drove downtown in our 1939 LaSalle automobile. Connie and I were seated on someone's car. There were instances of people climbing on top of cars and in a few cases of the roofs caving in on 1920s and 30s model cars.



I don't know how the GIs got downtown from the Air Corps base as it was a couple miles north of downtown. In the event, they were there in huge numbers. Some even perched on the roof of our favorite men's clothing store.

Most of the crowd was there just to observe but inevitably with a mass of young men suddenly free from the prospect of fighting the Japanese, there were mischief makers. I would bet that there was a great deal of alcohol consumed. The antics of these men became the focus of the crowd's attention.



As things got rowdy, the Military Police from the base arrived. They came in jeeps and tried to control the boisterous crowd but the GIs commandeered the jeeps and began to drive them about. At one point, the rowdy ones tried to drive a jeep in the front door of the largest hotel in town. The hotel had been a gathering spot of military personnel.

Then, on the street, a fire broke out – it may have been a car. The local fire department arrived and put out the flames. Before they could retire from the scene, however, the GIs took over the fire hoses and began to pull them down the street. From that point, things got really rowdy. We continued to watch as reinforcements came for the MPs and big buses arrived from the base. Drunk and disorderly GIs were rounded up and sober ones were induced to board the buses to be taken back to the base. The party was over.



The scene is vivid in my mind, perhaps my most vivid memory of the War. I will never **forget that day**. Do you remember V-J Day? **J D Ward – 2022 [1945] Class of '53**



## Indigenous (Indian) Dancing

One of the highlights of my high school experience was being part of an Indian dancing group. Those of you who know me, realize I am not Indigenous. None of us in the group were except for our leader, Red Dawn, also known as Steve Jones, from the Yankton Sioux Tribe. He moved to Sioux Falls to work at what was then McKennan Hospital. He contacted the leader of my Senior Girl Scout group and the leader of a Senior Boy Scout group. The groups came together to learn how to dance Sioux style.

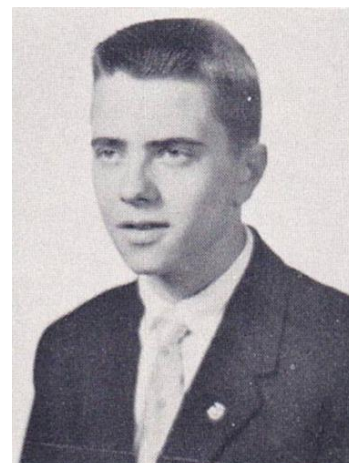
Some of the male Washington High students involved were Royce Adams '58, Dick Ellis '59, and Walt Cheever, earlier than that. Some of the female members were Judy Walsh '59, Marilyn Jacobson '59, Deanna Elliot '59, Barb James '58, Annette Hillgren '58, Barb Lodermeier '60 and me '59. We performed at the grand opening of the Park Ridge Shopping Center, at the Sioux Empire Fair, at the Minnesota State Fair and at the South Dakota State Fair. I know we performed elsewhere also, but I can't remember the other places or the names of the other dancers.

We had to make our own dance regalia and learned about Indigenous history and music, which I can't recall ever learning in history class except for Custer's Last Stand. Many years later I had the privilege of seeing Royce Adams dance again when he attended powwows in the prison and I was a volunteer for the Native groups at the prison. He had continued dancing after high school and became even more immersed in Indigenous culture.

Unfortunately, I no longer have any photos of the female part of the group, but I was able to get a photo of the male dancers and our group leader from Royce. I just have one photo of me taken years later wearing the dress I made.

The experience had a profound effect on me and on the other group members also! We grew to know and admire the Indigenous culture here in South Dakota.

Mary Larson Montoya '59



**ROYCE ADAMS**



?

R. G. ADAMS

# WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

501 NORTH SYCAMORE AVE.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. 57110

(605) 367-7968



5-27-2025

### WHS ATHLETIC HALL-OF-FAME

### CLASS OF 2025 INDUCTEES

#### ATHLETES

Jon Hander  
Jill Joyce-Hazard  
Chris Parker  
Joey Habtemariam  
Quintin McMartin  
Deng Geu  
Eric Lindquist

#### ADMINISTRATOR

#### COACH

#### CONTRIBUTOR

Rozhyer Aware

In 1995 Washington High School initiated an Athletic Hall-of-Fame with the expressed purpose to recognize athletes, coaches, administrators, and contributors who have made an impact on the tradition of Washington High School Athletics. Washington High School has had a long and rich athletic tradition and the WHS Athletic Hall-of-Fame is giving us an opportunity to recognize deserving individuals and their accomplishments.

*The 2025 Hall-of-Fame Banquet will be held at The Social, 301 S. Thompson Ave., Sioux Falls, SD on Friday, October 24, 2025. Social hour begins at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, and the Induction Program at 7:30 Please complete RSVP and make reservations by September 1, 2025.*

We have had outstanding attendance at all our banquets. The warm response of the inductees and their families has been inspiring to all of us in attendance. An impressive display of past honorees adorns the wall in the Washington High School Commons.

We will continue to have annual expenses of approximately \$6,000 to continue this excellent program. *The costs associated with the banquet have risen dramatically over the past few years, and this is an area we can use financial assistance.* For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to contribute, we are asking you along with many former athletes, coaches, and friends of Washington High School to consider contributing to the Washington High School Athletic Hall-of-Fame. For those of you who have so generously contributed in the past, we, on behalf of the WHS Athletic Hall-of-Fame Committee, would like to send a special thank you for your financial contribution. We would hope that you would consider contributing again to this outstanding project. We can continue this program only through the contributions of individuals such as you who are interested in recognizing Washington High School's great athletic tradition.

Please make your contributions payable to the WHS Athletic Hall-of-Fame and mail to:

Nate Malchow, Activities Director  
Washington High School  
501 North Sycamore Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

On behalf of the entire WHS Athletic Hall-of-Fame Committee, we thank you for your support.

**Washington High School Athletic Hall-of-Fame  
RSVP**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make the following banquet reservation:

Number planning to attend at \$50.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Name on ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL-OF-FAME

Mail to:

Nate Malchow, Activities Director  
Washington High School  
501 N. Sycamore Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Your name tags will be placed on a table at the event hall and may be picked up the evening of the ceremony. **Please circle the inductee that you are honoring with your presence.** The WHS Hall-of-Fame Banquet will be held on **Friday, October 24, 2025**, at *The Social*, 301 S. Thompson Ave., Sioux Falls, SD. Social Hour starts at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30 and the Banquet starts at 7:30.

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WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL-OF-FAME CLASS OF 2025

ATHLETES

Jon Hander

Jill Joyce-Hazard

Chris Parker

Joey Habtemariam

Quintin McMartin

Deng Geu

Eric Lindquist

CONTRIBUTORS

Rozhyer Aware



## WHS DECEASED LIST for 2025

FIRST NAME	NEE/Middle	LAST	CLASS	OBIT LINK	RED Denotes most recent Passings	DOD
Jack	William	Hamilton	50	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/jack-hamilton">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/jack-hamilton</a>		01/31/25
Mary	Ann	Costello	50	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/mary-costello">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/mary-costello</a>		12/25/24
Dina	Brandt	Holgate	51	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/dina-brandt-holgate">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/dina-brandt-holgate</a>		02/22/25
			52			
Joan	Perrenoud	Odland	53	<a href="https://www.postbulletin.com/obituaries/obits/joan-m-odland">https://www.postbulletin.com/obituaries/obits/joan-m-odland</a>		03/10/25
James	R	Smalley	53	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/james-smalley">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/james-smalley</a>		5/26/2025
Ronald (Ron)	F	Mattice	53	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-mattice">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-mattice</a>		5/29/2025
Joseph	H	Floyd	54	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/joseph-floyd">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/joseph-floyd</a>		01/14/25
Loetta	Lee	Munson	55	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/loretta-munson">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/loretta-munson</a>		01/13/25
Ronald	Gene	Fisher	55	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-fisher">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-fisher</a>		02/09/25
Robert "Bob"	Dennis	Thompson	56	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/robert-bob-dennis-thompson">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/robert-bob-dennis-thompson</a>		02/11/25
Donna	Mae	Murphy	56	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/donna-murphy">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/donna-murphy</a>		03/17/25
				<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/john-johannsen">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/john-johannsen</a>		
John	E	Johannsen	57	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/john-johannsen">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/john-johannsen</a>		03/11/25
Marcia	M	Ostrem	57	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/marcia-ostrem">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/marcia-ostrem</a>		05/24/25
Charla		Smith	57	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/charla-smith">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/charla-smith</a>		05/24/25
Dave		Herrick	58	<a href="https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/david-herrick">https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/david-herrick</a>		2/27/25?
Richard "Dick"		Miller	58	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/richard-dick-miller">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/richard-dick-miller</a>		03/02/25
Ron		Updegraff	58	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/ron-updegraff">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/ron-updegraff</a>		05/29/25
Philip	S	Helland	59	<a href="https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd1123483">https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd1123483</a>		03/15/25
Susan (Sue)		French	59	<a href="https://www.hansenfuneralhome.com/obituaries/susan-french">https://www.hansenfuneralhome.com/obituaries/susan-french</a>		05/22/25
				<a href="http://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/stephen-veenker-obituary?id=58243722">www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/stephen-veenker-obituary?id=58243722</a>		
Stephen		Veenker	59	<a href="http://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/stephen-veenker-obituary?id=58243722">obituary?id=58243722</a>		4/17/25
				id=58243722		
William (Bill)		Kullander	59	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/william-bill-kullander">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/william-bill-kullander</a>		5/11/25



**To all the WHS Alumni Grads Keep the Stories Coming!**

Many thanks to Mary Montoya '59,  
Jim Carlson '58, & Bill Lobe '59 as  
Contributors & for keeping the O & B informed!

**Please send your news, stories, photos &  
Letters to the Editor to our address  
[orangeandblackonline@gmail.com](mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com)  
Jack Phillips & The WHS Alumni Staff**

