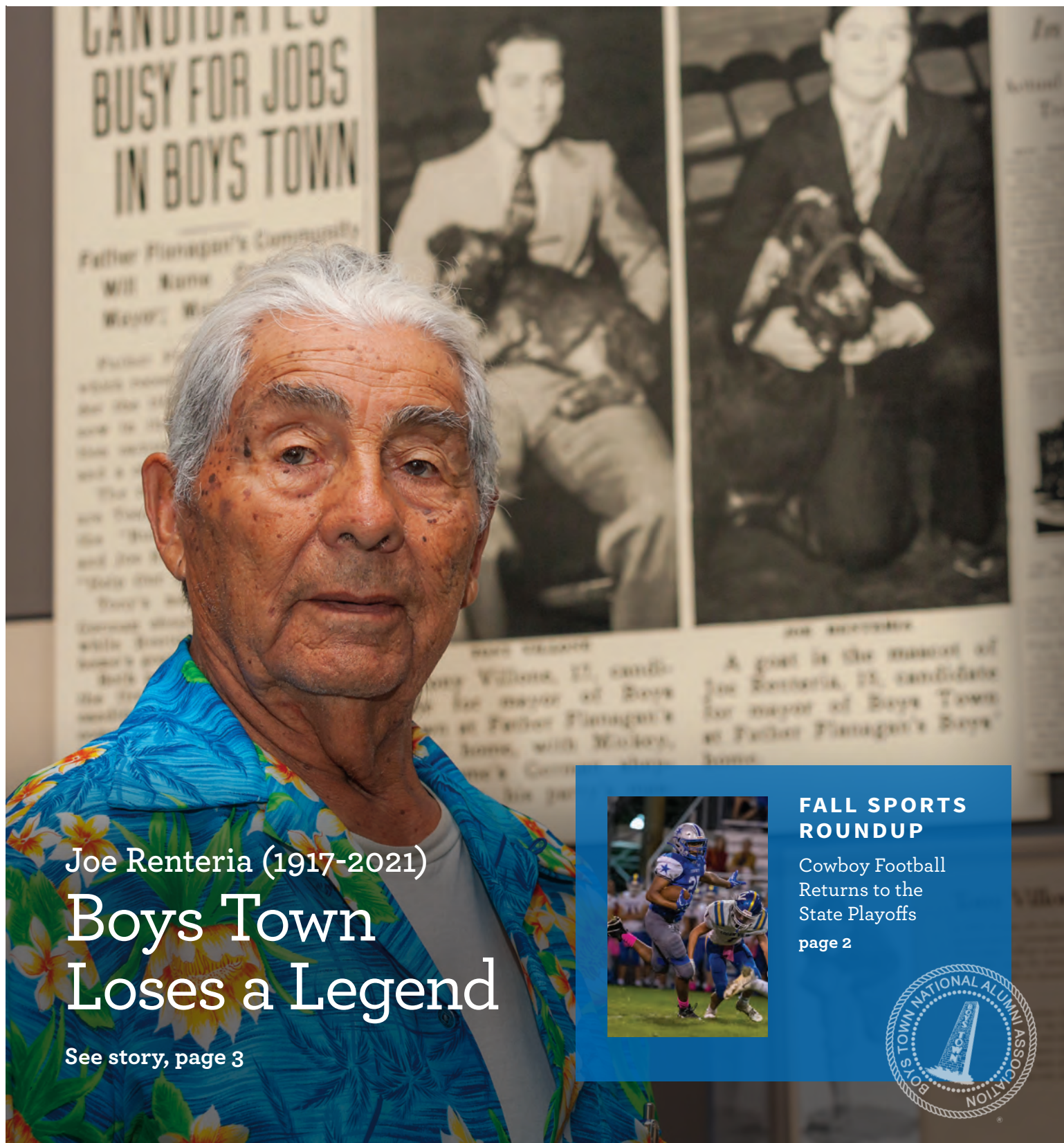


WE ARE

BOYS TOWN NATIONAL

BOYS TOWN NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION®

WINTER 2021
Volume 60, Issue 4



Joe Renteria (1917-2021)

Boys Town Loses a Legend

See story, page 3



FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Cowboy Football
Returns to the
State Playoffs

page 2





FROM FATHER BOES

PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR ALUMNI,

Christmas at Boys Town conjures up memories of warmth, joy and the special religious celebrations honoring the birth of Jesus Christ. The boys and girls of today celebrate Christmas much the same as you remember. It is this link with our storied past that helps to keep alive the traditions of faith and Thanksgiving that is the keystone of Father Flanagan's dream. He believed that if he were doing the right thing for the right reasons, the good Lord would provide for the care of his youthful charges. We have this same fundamental belief at the core of what we do today.

Christmas is a time of sharing. As you remember, receiving a gift at Boys Town was a treat to you — it said that someone cared. Our boys and girls are like you were so many years ago, in a new place with new faces and without their biological families. It can be a lonely time, but the joy of knowing someone cares enough to give them a family, a gift, and a chance, can overcome feelings of loneliness and despair. I ask you to open your heart, and if you can, send a small gift so that just like when you were kids, Boys Town can help another young person create a lifetime of special Christmas memories.

Our kids did well this fall and they are embracing the change being wrought in their lives. And we are now in the midst of the winter sports season. Santa arrived, once again atop the Boys Town fire truck to the amazement and wonder of the small children. In a few days, many youth will leave to go on home visits for the Christmas holiday. Keep them in your prayers that they return safely. About half of our kids will remain at Boys Town for the Christmas holiday and we will enjoy the many traditions you are all familiar with that make memories of this holiday special. The spirit and joy of small-town Christmas is alive and well in the Village of Boys Town!

As you gather with your families this Christmas, I ask you remember those who are suffering this holiday. If you know of a family that needs help, reach out to them and give hope in knowing someone cares. When you needed a hand there was one there for you and now it is time to pass that kindness forward.

May the Good Lord bless and keep you and yours safe during this holy season and give you strength and peace in the coming year.

Father Steven E. Boes
President and National Executive Director

AROUND THE 'TOWN AND THE Nation...

Ground Officially Broken for New Boys Town Education Center

Early in September, over 400 people gathered to take part in the groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction for the new Boys Town Education Center.

For over 100 years, the mission at Boys Town has been to save children and heal families. An important part of doing that is providing youth with a quality education so they are equipped to become all they can be and able to step into their communities confidently and boldly.

It's been a long time coming as the last high school was built in 1948.

The new school will educate all students (grades 4-12) who reside on campus. Graduating classes at Boys Town currently average 100 students. This number will continue to grow with more space. More advantages to the new Education Center include:



SCAN ME

Want to see footage of the ceremony? Scan the QR code!

- ✓ Classrooms will expand in size, growing room square footage by 25%
- ✓ Newer, modern facilities with advanced learning environments
- ✓ Lockers for all students
- ✓ Newer technology for teachers to promote success of our students

As construction begins and continues into 2022, updates will be shared along the way.



Football's Return to the State Playoffs Highlights Fall Sports Seasons at Boys Town

A return to the State playoffs by the football team highlighted fall sports at Boys Town High School. The football team went 6-3 before losing in the first round of the Class C-1 playoffs, 26-0, to Kearney Catholic.

The Boys cross country team finished fourth in the Class C-1 District meet. The Cowboys had two state qualifiers in Carlos Hurt and Dominik Cupp. Girls cross country finished ninth in Districts.

In volleyball, the girls completed their 1-27 season with a three-set loss to Omaha Roncalli in sub-districts.

"Character is formed by doing the thing we are supposed to do, when it should be done, whether we feel like doing it or not."

— FATHER EDWARD J. FLANAGAN



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BOYS TOWN LOSES A LEGEND

JOE RENTERIA, '35, BOYS TOWN'S OLDEST LIVING ALUM, PASSES AT THE AGE OF 104

Boys Town lost its oldest living alum this past October as Joe Renteria, Class of '35, died on October 24, 2021, in San Diego, California. He was 104.

Fellow Boys Town Alumni celebrated Joe's 100th birthday right in the middle of the Home's 100-year Centennial celebration. He turned 100 on July 17, 2017, and celebrated with Boys Town youth during their lunch period at the Great Hall. Renteria was presented a birthday cake and was able to sit and talk with various students. He was also recognized at that summer's Alumni banquet.

Renteria shared one of his favorite stories of his involvement with Father Edward Flanagan during his lunch with the Boys Town youth. A great storyteller, Renteria always had time to relive his storied past.



Renteria said he arrived at Boys Town as a rebellious child. As a Native American in the early 20th century, he was unwelcomed by many, and his attitude reflected the way he had been treated. Father Flanagan set the groundwork for his happy and meaningful life by welcoming him with open arms and teaching him the power of positive thinking.

One particular conversation with Father Flanagan left a lasting impact on Renteria.

"Father Flanagan took me to the side and said, 'I'm not going to order you or tell you what to do, but since you're one of the

older boys it would be very encouraging to the younger boys if you attended church,'" Renteria said. Renteria was not Catholic or very spiritual at the time, but he attended mass once a month to set a good example. He says the way Father Flanagan asked made all the difference.

Renteria, a proud Native American, was a World War II veteran. He served as an Army soldier and later a Navy intelligence photographer. He entered the Army in 1935. He later made the move to the Navy as a plane mechanic and was stationed at Oahu, Hawaii. He helped overhaul planes there, but also began to take photos during various missions. He went to school for photography and learned a skill that would eventually change his life. He worked his way up, doing challenging assignments. He was highly respected by his peers.

He retired from the service in 1957. He and his wife, Jill, and their four children lived in San Diego, California, where he continued his work as a photographer. He worked for various media outlets, then for San Diego State University where he made a name for himself with his incredible work ethic and high standards.

Renteria served as a link to Boys Town's past and a witness to its present and future. He enjoyed coming back to the reunion and while he said Boys Town was a lot different in his day, he said Boys Town showed him where family life begins.

"Being in a family setting is good," Renteria said. "The way things are set up at Boys Town is the way it should be. A hug feels so good. That little sign shows that someone genuinely cares about you. That is the way it should be, and I hope that is the way it will continue forever."



IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD JOHN HESS, '52, 9-3-21, in Albuquerque, NM

JAMES FRANCIS GRECO, JR., D'54, 9-3-21, in Omaha, NE

***DONALD HENRY FORD, '57**, 8-5-21, in LaVie, LA

JERRY MICHAEL FLATTERICH, D'62, 2-12-21, in Neodesha, KS

JOSEPH PATRICK GUINN, '62, 6-11-21, in Maplewood, MN

DANIEL LEROY HUTCHINS, D'62, 11-22-20, in South Sioux City, NE

***ARNOLD LAVERNE LIGHTFOOT, '62**, 11-12-29, in North Platte, NE

DERYL MILLER, '62, 1-13-21, in Columbus, NE

***JAMES R. ORR, '62**, 4-18-21, in Omaha, NE

JAMES ARTHUR SWEETING, '62, 12-31-20, in Passaic, NJ

JUAN "JOHNNY" L. MARQUEZ, '69, 8-30-21, in Denver, CO

JOHN PHILLIP MATTHEWS, '69, 11-6-21, in Omaha, NE

BENJAMIN CHARLES "BEN" SIMS, '03, 9-21-21, in Chicago, IL

TERRENCE G. "TJ" COLLINS, '18, 10-29-21, in Omaha, NE

MORGAN DUNCAN, '18, 9-25-21, in Blair, NE

FATHER FRANK LORDEMAN, Chaplain and Spiritual Advisor to Father Boes, 10-22-21, in Minot, ND

***BTNAA® LIFETIME MEMBER**



FROM TONY JONES

ALUMNI DIRECTOR

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

Ever since 1917 when Father Flanagan founded Boys Town, it has always been a place of hope.

First for boys, then eventually for girls and families, we have led the way in providing a home for those that might not be so lucky. And now today, we are further expanding that hope to young adults who have completed their high school years but might need a little extra help getting started.

Just a few months ago, we formally opened our new Hilltop Apartments for graduates entering our Aftercare program. It is still a work in progress, but in late October we held an official open house to show off the remodeled building. I couldn't be more excited in this new endeavor. It is a challenge, but one I think we are up for.

This holiday season figures to be a special one for a lot of reasons. Things are beginning to look a little more normal. And, while Covid is still among us, and still making people sick and taking lives, there does appear to be some improvement. Some hope.

And that is exactly what we hope the Aftercare program will do for some of our graduating seniors.

I was a Boys Town graduate just like many of you. I didn't have all the answers when I graduated. I still don't have all the answers. Graduating and entering the real world can be a very scary thought, especially for a 17- or 18-year-old. Hopefully, we are putting the pieces in place to help our young adults — our Boys Town grads — get a real start, a fresh start.



Taking part in the ribbon-cutting for Boys Town's new Aftercare program at the Hilltop Apartments are (L to R) Boys Town CEO Rod Kempkes, Alumni Director Tony Jones and President and Executive Director Father Steven Boes.

I hope this Christmas you will take a moment to reflect on what Boys Town has done for you. I hope you remember a wonderful Thanksgiving meal, or the lighting of the Christmas tree by the Fieldhouse, or Santa arriving on the fire truck.

I hope you will spend time with your families and show them the love that you possibly experienced for the first time at Boys Town.

This time of the year is a special time for sharing and reflecting, but it can also be a lonely time for those that don't have a family to turn to. Reach out to those that might not have someone. Do something for those that might be a little down on their luck. Even the smallest acts of kindness around the holidays seem to go the farthest.

If you haven't had a chance to get out in the past year, please consider joining us in July for the Alumni Reunion. We would love to see you back on campus. After being postponed last year, we are making plans for the delayed Biennial Alumni Family Reunion. It has been scheduled for July 29-31, 2022.

Please keep our boys and girls in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season. They truly are appreciated. I wish you a Merry Christmas and happiest of holidays.

Your Boys Town Brother,

Tony E. Jones

Tony Jones, '88, Alumni Director



FROM RICH TAPIO

BTNAA PRESIDENT

DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER ALUMNI,

The BTNAA Board of Directors is happy to announce that planning is under way for the delayed 2021 Biennial Alumni Family Reunion scheduled for July 29-31, 2022 at Boys Town.

The Reunion Committee has been hard at work this fall. The board has approved a change of venue and date for the banquet. The banquet will be held at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha on Friday July 29. We have reduced the cost of the banquet meals making it more affordable for everyone.

The committee is working on fun and exciting activities for the rest of the weekend. On Saturday night, an outdoor barbecue and dance at the newly designed "Alumni Sports Pavilion" next to the football field is being planned. This should be lots of fun!

Mark your calendars, make your travel plans and be ready for a great alumni family weekend. Look for details and registration for the reunion in early January in the mail and online. Hope to see you next July!

Your Brother Alumni,

Rich Tapio

Rich Tapio, D'67, President

