



ALUMNI MISSION:

We exist to unite and grow our alumni family, and champion the dream and values of Father Flanagan through leadership.

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40

YEARS OF
GIRLS



This is the 40th Anniversary
of girls being admitted to Boys Town!
Read more in our next issue.



BTNAA
14057 Flanagan Blvd.
Boys Town, NE 68010
800-345-0458
www.boystownalumni.org

"Lack of gratitude has caused more heartaches, more sorrow, than perhaps any other failing in our nature. It has turned an aged father's or mother's hair white and sent them heartbroken to the grave; it has deprived friendships of their sweetest understandings; and it has robbed many a generous-hearted man or woman of faith in mankind."

– Servant of God Edward J. Flanagan



ALUMNI NEWS

Boys Town National Alumni Association®

Summer 2019 – Volume 58, Issue 2

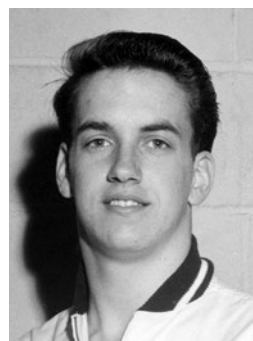
2019 Boys Town Alumni Sports Hall of Fame Inducts Five

This year's 2019 Boys Town Alumni Sports Hall of Fame class has five members. Two are living inductees, while three in the Legacy class are being honored posthumously (page 5).

The five were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the annual Booster Banquet on April 30, 2019. Their performances in competition at Boys Town have earned them the honor of joining a long list of athletes from the school's storied athletic teams. Sports have always been a major part of the program of opportunity for Boys Town youth and these inductees represent the best of the best.

James R. Rhudy, Class of 1961, was 13 when he arrived at Boys Town on September 19, 1956, from Augusta, Georgia, with his two brothers Albert ("Bo") and Edward. Arriving too late to join the grade school football team, Rhudy opted to join the swim team. He also immersed himself wholly into Boys Town's program of self-government, holding positions of Commissioner and Councilman, and serving as Mayor in his senior year. Rhudy was a member of the Pep Club and the Math Club. He was selected to attend the American Legion-sponsored Nebraska Cornhusker Boys State program, which is designed to help train future leaders for our state and country. Rhudy pursued an academic course of study in high school, garnering second place for the Nebraska Regent's Scholarship and the number two spot in academic standing in his class.

The Rhudy brothers were destined to blaze a record-setting trail in swimming while at Boys Town. Taking to the water naturally, James Rhudy earned varsity letters in swimming all four years of high school, was team captain as a senior and competed at the state swim meet, where the team earned an overall fourth-place finish. He was a member of the state championship 200-yard freestyle relay team along with his brothers Bo and Ed in his junior year as they captured the much-sought-after state gold medal. As a senior, Rhudy earned the Boys Town Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award for swimming and was a member of



Rhudy, '61



Aaron, '68

the Boys Town Varsity Lettermen's Club, the "B" Club, throughout his four years of high school. He was named the Omaha World-Herald "Teen of the Week" during his senior year for his outstanding leadership as a student and his performance as a swimmer. As a result of his swimming successes, Rhudy was awarded a swimming scholarship to the University of New Mexico, where he followed in the footsteps of his brother Bo, a previous Boys Town Alumni Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

James Rhudy continued his winning ways in the pool as part of the Western Athletic Conference championship team at New Mexico, and was named outstanding swimmer in his freshman year. Rising to a leadership position, he was named captain of the University of New Mexico swim team. Additionally, Rhudy competed as a member of the university's water polo team for four years and was Chairperson for the AAU Water Polo organization. Upon completing college with a degree in business, Rhudy began working for Chicago Bridge and Iron (a company that builds oil refineries, large oil and water tanks, and equipment that converts natural gas into liquid natural gas). Over his 40 years with the company, Rhudy traveled the world and rose to become Vice President of Corporate

See 'Inductees' page 6

34TH BIENNIAL ALUMNI FAMILY REUNION

JULY 25-28, 2019

It will be four days to remember!

Register now!



From the Executive Director

Dear Alumni,

In about six weeks, many of you will be home for the 34th Biennial Alumni Family Reunion! We look forward to you returning home, once again, to share memories, rekindle friendships and make new ones. It is this gathering of generations that keeps alive the spirit and the dream of our founder, Servant of God Father Edward J. Flanagan. I'm certain his heart would be gladdened to see so many of his "children" return home to the place where many found their first real family. It is with this certainty that I welcome you, one and all, back home to Boys Town.

Your BTNAA Reunion Committee and Board of Directors have planned a great weekend for you. There will be a special event at the Alumni Veterans' Memorial when the Village of Boys Town proclaims our village as a Purple Heart Community. We will proudly join thousands of other villages, towns and cities on the national Purple Heart Trail. Please find Mike Smith, '67, and thank him for all the work he has done to make this special recognition possible. The Class of 1967 is also dedicating a beautifully mounted statue of Father Flanagan to honor those Boys Town alumni who lost their lives in Vietnam. We are forever grateful for the thousands upon thousands of Boys Town alumni who have stepped up to defend our country by serving in the armed forces and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as I can during the weekend. I want to learn your story... how you came to be at Boys Town, what it did for you and how you remember your time and era while you were a student. Your memories and impressions are important pieces of our collective history. We learn so much from studying our past so we can continue to improve on the ways we help America's children and families. The Alumni Director, John Mollison, will be contacting many of you to arrange a time to sit down with me for a few minutes to share your story. You can reach him at alumni@boystown.org or 531-355-1150. Let him know you would like to participate in this effort. The stories and lessons we learn from this sharing experience will be part of the basis

for a book about Boys Town's history, including stories about our alumni, Boys Town programs and our future.

Our 2019 graduates were warmly welcomed into the Alumni Association with a steak luncheon on May 5. I thank the BTNAA, the BTNAA Omaha Chapter, the BTNAA Southern California Chapter and the BTNAA Auxiliary for the generous cash awards given out at the luncheon. A total of \$2,000 in cash and two Lifetime Memberships worth \$400 were presented to deserving seniors. Two days later, the BTNAA Scholarship Fund Board of Directors presented \$5,000 worth of scholarships during our honors convocation. What a wonderful way to help our seniors start their new lives as alumni. Thank you to the Alumni Association and the Scholarship Fund for your kind generosity.

You will be holding elections for new members of the board of directors of your BTNAA this summer. Be sure to cast your ballot. I can attest your BTNAA Board has worked diligently to enhance the partnership between the Alumni Association and Boys Town. This is significant and meaningful, and establishes a relationship that is beneficial to all of us. I thank your leadership for their efforts and commitment to represent you as a partner in our Boys Town mission.

This will be John Mollison's last reunion as Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters. He has represented you in an outstanding manner for over 11 years and we will certainly miss his great leadership and deep knowledge and understanding of Boys Town and the Alumni Association. Thankfully he won't go far as he will remain on the BTNAA Scholarship Fund Board of Directors and will be available to the incoming Alumni Director to assist in the transition. We wish John the very best in his upcoming retirement.

Please travel safely as you make your way to Boys Town for the reunion and I look forward to seeing you in July.

God's blessings upon you and your families,

Father Steven E. Boes
National Executive Director

Boys Town National Alumni Association®

ALUMNI NEWS

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Alumni Profile

Joe Ortiz, '69

As he approaches his 50th Class reunion this summer, Joe Ortiz recalls the fortunate intervention that brought him to Boys Town as a young boy in 1961.



Ortiz, '69

With his family in turmoil due to a divorce and his father having to work 12 to 14 hours a day, 9-year-old Joe and his older brother Paul (Class of 1964) found time to get into a lot of trouble. His father did his best to provide for the boys, but the lack of time to properly supervise them led to the boys getting involved with alcohol and getting in trouble with law enforcement. It was at this time that the elder Ortiz contacted his parish priest, Father James Brown, in order to get some help for the boys.

Suddenly, Ortiz and his brother were on their way in the famous "Father Brown's Kansas City pipeline" that stopped at Boys Town. (Father Brown was responsible for helping many, many boys from Kansas City get accepted at Boys Town.)

Upon arrival, Ortiz found that Boys Town was a place where he could thrive. Having passed his voice test with flying colors, he found himself singing

soprano in the famous Boys Town Concert Choir. During his eight years at Boys Town, Ortiz would end up touring most of the United States and Japan. He was also a very good athlete and competed at the highest levels in wrestling, while also on the tennis, track and cross-country teams.

Ortiz credits Boys Town staff members for providing him with the proper role modeling and instilling within him a deep and abiding work ethic.

"Monsignor Schmitt had a tremendous influence on me because of his dedication to perfection in music," Ortiz said. "He would not let you accept second best in yourself. That, I believe, is what made the choir so good. Frank "Moe" Szynskie, '47, Monsignor Schmitt's assistant director, was a tough task master and was well-respected for his musical skills. He too, was a Boys Town graduate and that made us respect him even more."

Wrestling was the sport where Ortiz truly shined. He competed in three Nebraska state championships and won the state championship in his weight class in 1968.

"Coach Scott Clark instilled in us a strong commitment to training and that helped to sharpen our competitive skills," Ortiz said. "His winning

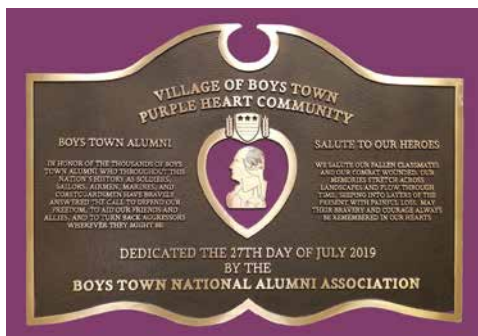
See 'Ortiz' page 6

Reunion Brings Special Recognition to Boys Town and Vietnam Veterans

Once again, we will celebrate our Boys Town journey together as we converge on Boys Town for the 34th Biennial Alumni Family Reunion at the end of July. Included with this newsletter is a detailed schedule and registration form. You can also get the same information by going to the BTNAA website, boystownalumni.org, and clicking on the reunion event announcement. Online registration is simple, easy and safe. Please complete your plans to attend the reunion as soon as possible so we can have everything prepared for your arrival.

A special event is slated for just after the General Assembly and the election of new board members on Saturday morning at 11:30 a.m. Mike Smith, '67, has worked closely with the Military Order of the Purple Heart to have Boys Town designated as a Purple Heart Community and added to the National Purple Heart Trail program.

As stated by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, "The purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this honorary goal by creating a visual reminder to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and live in a free society.



Signs placed at various locations annotate those roads and highways where legislation has been passed to designate parts of the national road system as the Purple Heart Trail."

The Village of Boys Town will issue a proclamation designating Boys Town as a Purple Heart Community and a large bronze plaque will be placed in front of the Veterans' Memorial on a new sign designating the location of the Veterans' Memorial. In addition, three designated Purple Heart Recipient reserved parking signs will be placed around the Village to recognize Purple Heart recipients who come to visit Boys Town.

We will also be adding over 40 new names to the Memorial recognizing our Boys Town alumni who were killed in action or died while serving in

uniform. The research to find all of these alumni was performed by Jason Subielski, '81, who has spent countless hours going through documents to verify and validate their service. If you see Jason, please thank him for his tremendous work and dedication to honoring our fallen fellow alumni.

Mike Smith, '67, and the Class of 1967 raised the funds to purchase a Father Flanagan Statue to create a suitable memorial to all Boys Town alumni who were killed in action or who died while physically serving in Vietnam. This statue, mounted on a pedestal, will list the names of all alumni we know of who died in Vietnam. There is space on the pedestal to add more names if we learn of them in the future. There are presently 19 names listed on the pedestal. The statue and pedestal will be displayed in the alumni section of the Hall of History for all visitors to see. Please thank Mike for his dedication to this project and the Purple Heart effort.



Lessons Learned at Boys Town Shaped Jim Anderson, '59, and Brothers

Jim Anderson will never forget the first time he laid eyes on the Boys Town campus.

"It was like looking at a Currier & Ives winter picture," Anderson said.

The Anderson boys — Jack, Class of 1956, Bob, Class of 1957, and Jim, Class of 1959 — arrived at Boys Town on a cold and snowy winter day in November of 1949 from Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The family had been abandoned by their father in the early 1940s, and their mother was unable to watch over and provide adequately for the three growing boys. It was at that time that a third party in the local community stepped in and recommended Boys Town as an alternative for the brothers. They were soon on their way to Boys Town.

Coming from eastern Oklahoma, the boys were quite taken with Boys Town as they arrived to see many, many boys bundled up in coats and mufflers, sledding down the hill toward Dodge Street in front of Dowd Chapel. That was Jim's first glimpse. The brothers found Boys Town to be a home where they could grow and thrive.

"I remember hiking through the wooded hills and cornfields around Boys Town," Jim said. "It was so very exciting for a 10-year-old boy. It let my imagination run wild. We got to sled down hills and ice skate on the lake in winter. It was tough for us to get into any mischief because if we weren't in school or working, we were involved in intramural sports in every season of the year. It sure was a lot of fun."

The summer trips to Lake Okoboji were a special treat for Anderson and his brothers as



The Anderson brothers (left to right), Bob, Jim and Jack, arrived at Boys Town in 1949.

they were introduced to swimming, fishing, archery, boating and a special Okoboji game, "Capture the Flag."

Anderson, who would become a varsity swimmer and state champion in the backstroke, spent several summers working at the camp at Lake Okoboji as a lifeguard.

Anderson especially remembers Monsignor Wegner as a role model.

"Monsignor Wegner, the successor to Father Flanagan, was a great friend to the boys," he said. "I was in Dowd Chapel one day and was given a message that Monsignor Wegner wanted to see me. I gathered myself up, with some trepidation, and headed to his office. When I got there, he was so nice. He commended me for a good essay that I had written. You can only imagine how important that was in the life of a young boy."

Anderson cites a former counselor, Frank Hart, as a man with a big heart. Returning to

Boys Town after 40 years, Anderson walked into the Hall of History and there was Frank Hart. The first words out of Hart's mouth were, "Hey, it's one of the Anderson boys." Anderson said Hart was a truly genuine and caring man.

Religion at Boys Town was an aspect of Anderson's life that remains with him to the present. As a 10-year-old, Anderson was drawn to the Catholic faith and was baptized at Boys Town.

"I became an altar boy and began serving the beautiful Latin Mass shortly after baptism," he said. "I continue to serve Mass to this very day. Faith and church is a big part of my life and it started at Boys Town."

Jim entered the Boys Town Trade School in his freshman year and studied the trade of welding.

The lessons learned at Boys Town contributed to the success Anderson has enjoyed throughout his life. He went into sales after graduation, at first selling Encyclopedia Britannica and eventually selling home improvement products.

Anderson has some advice for today's youth that still resonates with being successful in life.

"Be courteous and attentive to other people's needs and focus on what interests you," Anderson said. "Be persistent in striving to do your best."

Anderson and his wife, Agnes, enjoy traveling and have been to Europe a half-dozen times.

"Camping used to be high on our list of fun things to do but the old bones are having a hard time keeping up these days," Anderson said. He is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.



From the BTNAA President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Boys Town's 2019 Athletic Booster Banquet was held on April 30. Current Boys Town student-athletes were recognized and five of our fellow alumni were inducted into the Alumni Sports Hall of Fame. You can read about them in this issue of the Alumni News. It was a sold-out crowd of 1,500 in attendance to support Boys Town's athletic programs and honor all the athletes, young and old.

Following that event, we had the Senior Welcome Luncheon on May 5. The Boys Town Class of 2019 was welcomed into our Alumni Family with a great steak lunch served by the staff at Boys Town's Great Hall. Deserving seniors received cash awards from the BTNAA, the BTNAA Auxiliary and the Omaha and California Chapters of the BTNAA. Many alumni and Boys Town staff were in attendance as stories were shared between today's new alumni and many older alumni.

The Classes of 1968 and 1969 will be celebrating their Golden Anniversary Reunion and catching up on the last 50 years while the Classes of 1993 and 1994 celebrate their 25-year anniversary. Let's all congratulate these classes for getting back together at our Biennial Alumni Family Reunion.

Your Reunion Committee has put the final touches on our 2019 Biennial Alumni Family Reunion. We have planned some new events and brought back some old. Now would be a great time to make your reservations to join us July 25-28. This can be done securely at boystownalumni.org. When you register, don't forget to sign up for the softball game. You'll have a chance to show off those old athletic moves you had back when you were at the Home!!

Many new things have happened this year within the Alumni Association. We raised money to update the Veterans' Memorial and to dedicate a plaque designating Boys Town as a Purple Heart Community that will be unveiled at the Veterans' Memorial Ceremony on July 27. We had a great time as we gathered at the Boys Town Cowboy Homecoming football game to support our Cowboys and enjoyed a very tasty tailgate party before the game.

We are gearing up for board member elections this summer. Nominations for the three year-groups that are up for election have been completed. You will receive ballots in the mail in the next few days. Please be sure to vote for the person you want to represent your year-group. We have open positions in the 5-15 (1), 36-45 (1) and 46+ (2) year-groups.

I would like to say "Thank You" to John Mollison. John, who is retiring after serving the Alumni Association for the last 11 years, has helped guide the Association through reorganizing the Board, and helped foster a great relationship between Boys Town and the Alumni Association. On a personal note, I would like to thank John for the friendship we have developed and the help and guidance he provided during my years on the board. John definitely bleeds Boys Town BLUE!!

I hope to see all of you at the reunion this year!!

Take Care and God Bless,

Phil Dauterive, D'70
BTNAA President



From the Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters

Dear Brother and Sister Alumni,

I hope many of you have already made your plans and reservations to attend the 34th Biennial Alumni Family Reunion in July. If not, we have conveniently included a registration form and schedule with this issue of the Alumni News. You can also register safely and securely online at boystownalumni.org.

It looks to be a fun reunion! You will see the return of the alumni softball game on the schedule. Start practicing now and get those muscles stretched out. We don't want any hamstring injuries to slow you down at the reunion.

This will be my last letter as your Senior Alumni Advisor and I'd like to reflect on the amazing journey we have taken over these past 11-plus years. Your Alumni Association has been hard at work building upon the legacy of those who went before them. A significant accomplishment of our Association includes the fundamental change of the board structure from a regional structure to one based on years after graduation. It has expanded the make-up of the board to ensure all generations of alumni have a voice at the table.

Another effort, perhaps not as visible, was nurturing our partnership with Boys Town, providing support to its mission using alumni experience and outreach to validate what is done to help children and families. This effort pays dividends for the Alumni Association and Boys Town. We, as alumni, have an obligation to our Boys Town "family" to give back in a way that others cannot. We are the validation of the tremendous work done at Boys Town.

The transition to our new website was a tremendous leap in both technology and information accessibility. It was a terrific team effort and will serve us for years to come.

I've been fortunate to work with a number of outstanding alumni on the board of directors and have found that they, who give their

time freely, have one goal and one goal only at the forefront of their efforts — to represent you in the best way possible. I can tell you, firsthand, that they do work for you and they work hard.

I'm grateful for the many people at Boys Town who have opened their doors to welcome alumni into the discussion and dialogue in a meaningful and productive way and value our alumni input. We have alumni in a wide range of positions in several departments at Boys Town and an alumni on the National Board of Trustees. This says a lot about how Boys Town values the alumni experience.

These newsletters don't happen by accident and I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to Brent Robinson, our Publisher/Editor, the Boys Town Print Shop and the Direct Mailing Shop in Donor Services for making these quarterly newsletters all come together. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

As I ride off into the sunset, I must also give a big thank you to Gail Page, without whom I could not have done this job. She is a truly valuable part of our alumni family and I know she will continue to be your friendly voice on the other end of the phone for years to come.

I thank every one of you for the trust you have put in me to work for you as the Senior Alumni Advisor. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and will forever cherish the many new and old friendships I've made along the way. I look forward to seeing many of you this summer and at future reunions as we "Celebrate our Journey Together."

Thanks for the memories!

Your Boys Town brother,

John Mollison, '64
Senior Advisor for Alumni Matters

Three Legacy Inductees Join Boys Town Alumni Sports Hall of Fame

The following Boys Town student-athletes have been inducted posthumously to the Alumni Sports Hall of Fame.

Raymond L. Keele, Class of 1959, arrived at Boys Town on August 30, 1950, from Manhattan, Kansas. He pursued an academic course of study and was elected Mayor of Boys Town as a senior. He also was a Councilman and a Commissioner, and served as Class President his junior year and Class Vice President as a senior. Keele was a member of the touring Boys Town Concert Choir and traveled around the United States and to Cuba with the choir.

Taking easily to basketball, Keele earned three varsity letters in the sport and was on the 1957 state championship team. He was a member of the varsity football team as a senior and earned a varsity letter that year. An all-around athlete, Keele also found time to play on the Boys Town baseball team his sophomore year.

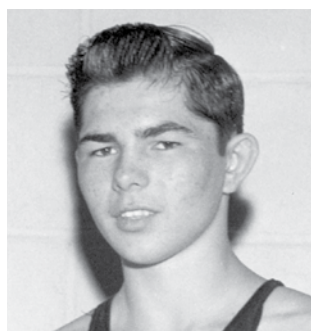
After graduating from high school, Keele settled in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where he worked and where he and his wife raised a family of four sons and two daughters. He was active in his local church and was known as a gifted pianist.

Keele passed away on January 5, 1980, at age 38 in Pittsfield. He is buried in his family's cemetery in Manhattan, Kansas.

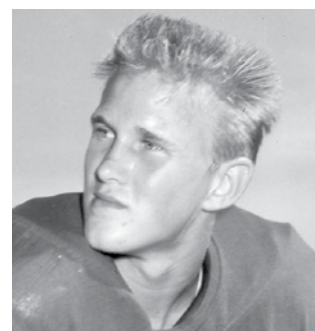
James F. McGovern, Class of 1959, arrived at Boys Town on January 29, 1953, from Cut Bank, Montana. McGovern found wrestling to be his forte and was a standout all through high school. He studied the trade of barbering at Boys Town's Trade School and was a Commissioner in Boys Town's program of self-government as a senior. McGovern was a member of the Knights of the Altar as a freshman and a member of the Army Reserve unit at Boys Town as a senior.



Keele, '59



McGovern, '59



Hodge, '61

On the wrestling mat, McGovern was relentless. He earned varsity letters in the sport as a sophomore, junior and senior, and became one of just three Boys Town wrestlers to ever capture two state titles. McGovern was undefeated and garnered 27 straight victories in dual meets that covered seasons from 1956-1958 as he moved from the 112-pound class to the 120-pound class. This run included one of his two state championships. He also was a member of the Varsity Lettermen's Club, the "B" Club, during his last three years of high school.

Upon graduation, McGovern reported for active duty with the United States Army and served a four-year enlistment before returning to civilian life in 1963. After his service with the Army, McGovern was employed as a miner in Montana.

McGovern passed away tragically in a car accident on October 21, 1967, at age 27. He is buried in Butte, Montana.

Gary G. Hodge, Class of 1961, arrived at Boys Town on July 10, 1956, from Grand Forks, North Dakota. He quickly immersed himself in the many sports opportunities Boys Town offered. He was a leader in Boys Town's program of self-

government, serving as the City Clerk during his senior year. He also was Class Vice President as a senior and Class Secretary as a junior. Hodge pursued the machine shop trade at Boys Town's Trade School.

Finding his niche in football and basketball, Hodge earned minor letters in both sports as a freshman, and then earned two varsity letters in football and three varsity letters in basketball. As a senior, he was a member of Boys Town's district championship basketball team, which went on to lose a close game in the state tournament that year. His prowess as an offensive end on the football field earned him a spot on the South Squad of the Nebraska Shrine Bowl football team and a football scholarship to Peru State College. While at Peru, Hodge was Vice President of his freshmen class and was named an NAIA All-American for his play as an end on the Peru football team.

Hodge served his country in the United States Navy for three years and was a Vietnam veteran. He raised a family and lived and worked in the Omaha, Nebraska, area.

He passed away on October 31, 1993, at age 51 and is buried in Omaha.

Alumni Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

2005

George Pfeifer, '44
Lavern Bush, '47

2006

Leonard Kroll, '47
James Mitchell, '47
Charles "Deacon" Jones, '54
Wilburn Hollis, '58

2007

Ed Novotny, '43
Tom Carodine, '48
David Nelson, '51
Bill Maddux, '53

2008

Larry Kennedy, '37
Nicholas Loncarich, '40
Jerrod "Jake" Williams, '49
James Cook, '55

2009

Charles Mitchell, '43
Kenneth Morris, '46
Frank Kerns, '48
Robert Hicks, '54

2010

Leo Magers, '48
Robert Mitchell, '48
John Medlock, '54
Robert Maddux, '56

2011

Jim Swaim, '55
Glen Hepburn, '56
John Sterner, '57
Robert Cross, '58

2011-Legacy

Charles Bicknell, '39
Johnny Lockmer, '41
Frank Johnson, '42
James Gunnell, '50

2012

Edward Twohey, '43
Cecil Schirtzinger, '50
Michael Sterner, '57
Duane McAndrews, '62

2012-Legacy

Robert Rose, '49
Donald King, '50
John Wreath, '53
Eugene Becker, '53

2013

Richard Thomas, '45
Ernest Keahy, '54
Bill Grill, '54
Curtis Devers, '60

2013-Legacy

Harold Popp, '47
Joseph Grabowski, '48
Jim Tucker, '50
Manny Fierro, '61

2014

Albert M. "Bo" Rhudy, '60
George L. Buckler, '64
Kenneth L. Geddes, '66
Robert S. Schmit, '69

2014-Legacy

Marlyn "Whitey" Myers, '52
Raymond G. Broy, '54
Roy Burns, '61
James A. Johnson, '61

2015

John Slobodnik, '59
Melvin Hamilton, '65

2015-Legacy

Thomas E. Render, '54
Robert D. Rutledge, '55
Larry M. Watt, '55
David H. Dirx, '63

2016

Patrick L. Fitzgerald, '56
Kenneth B. Gilchrist, '65

2016-Legacy

J. Frank Curry, '55
Richard Badillo, '56
Richard J. Girouard, '56
Gerald T. Schulte, '60

2017

H. Dean Ward, '50
Dr. Cornelius "Neal" Arnold, '61

2017-Legacy

John R. Brogan, D'45
William H. Eichelberger, '61
John W. Chesire, '62
Byron E. McCane, '64

2018

Ronald J. White, '66
Nathaniel L. McKinney, '68

2018-Legacy

Thomas C. Robbins, '64
David L. McGuire, '65
Percy L. Kight, '68

2019

James R. Rhudy, '61
David L. Aaron, '68

2019-Legacy

Raymond L. Keele, '59
James F. McGovern, '59
Gary G. Hodge, '61

Safety, a position he held for the six years prior to his retirement. In 2007, Rhudy was awarded the National Safety Council's prestigious Distinguished Service to Safety Award in 2007, and was named to the Hall of Fame of his industry association for his outstanding contributions to the success of the association.

In retirement, Rhudy travels and enjoys his family. He is the proud father of two daughters, has nine grandchildren and lives in "The Woodlands," just north of Houston, Texas. Rhudy is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

David L. Aaron, Class of 1968, arrived at Boys Town on February 6, 1963, from Franklin, Kentucky. That day, there was a dual wrestling meet underway at the Boys Town grade school gym, and as Aaron looked at all the grapplers in the contest, he told himself that was something he could do. No more prophetic words were

ever uttered by a young man of 13. Aaron put his nose to the grindstone and became a leader in Boys Town's program of self-government as a Commissioner and Councilman in his senior year. In his studies, he focused on the trade of heating and air conditioning at Boys Town's Trade School.

In sports, Aaron excelled on the wrestling mat, earning four varsity letters. As a junior, he captured the state championship gold medal in the 120-pound class. It was Boys Town's first state championship in that weight class since 1959. Aaron became a fixture at the Nebraska state wrestling tournaments, competing in three different weight classes in his sophomore, junior and senior years. He was fourth in the 112-pound class as a sophomore, and placed second at 127 pounds as a senior. Aaron was named as Boys Town's Outstanding Wrestler in his junior and senior years, and won the coveted Tom Clark Trophy each of those years.

After graduating high school, Aaron joined the workforce and was employed by the Hormel Company in Fremont, Nebraska, for 25 years. During this time, he stayed involved with wrestling, serving for four years as a coach with the Bellevue, Nebraska, Junior Sports Association (BJSA) and volunteering as a wrestling coach at Bellevue East High School for four years. Aaron also coached softball for six years. He taught Bible study at his church for 15 years, and after retiring from Hormel, went on to become his church's pastor. Today, he remains active with his church community.

Aaron and his wife Marie have been married for 50 years and are the proud parents of a daughter and a son, and the happy grandparents of two grandchildren. In his leisure time, Aaron likes to play golf, take walks and work in his yard. He is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

Ortiz (continued from page 2)

attitude and disciplined example was critical in keeping us motivated to be the best."

Ortiz also cites coach and teacher Jim Mitchell, '47, and guidance counselor Pat McGinnis as staff members who had a strong influence on him.

"I came a long way from the little boy who was in trouble, to a responsible young man, because of the caring staff," he said. "Boys Town had the right people at the right time for me."

As a senior, Ortiz was recognized as one of the top four athletes of the year at the annual Sports Banquet and was presented a watch by the keynote speaker, famous boxer Rocky Marciano.

Ortiz enrolled in Boys Town's Trade School program in the trade of tailoring. His plan was to eventually become a clothing buyer for a major department store. He attended college, but ended up joining the U.S. Army in 1970. After his stint in the service, Ortiz set out to make a career for himself in the retail clothing business. It turned out to not be what he thought it might and that led him to try a number of careers before he settled on the transportation industry. He worked in a

"I truly believe it was a miracle that I came to Boys Town and the growth in my faith and belief in God was nurtured there."

—Joe Ortiz '69

number of different areas, including driving semis, before getting into the limousine transportation business, where he enjoyed a successful 30+ years. Today, he is still a much sought-after driver for a limousine service in Kansas City.

Ortiz remains active with the Boys Town National Alumni Association and has attended more than 12 biennial reunions.

"I truly believe it was a miracle that I came to Boys Town and the growth in my faith and belief in God was nurtured there," Ortiz said. "Singing in the choir in Dowd Chapel was a privilege I look to with a great amount of pride. We contributed to making everyone's religious experience just a little bit better because of the beauty of the music.

"I have so many good memories of my time at Boys Town and those memories sustain me as I grow into old age. The friendships made, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences, such as meeting President Kennedy's mother and father while on a choir tour, have filled my life in a way that many people can only imagine. I can't even think what my life would have been like if I hadn't gone to Boys Town."

Ortiz is the proud father of a daughter and has five grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with them and watching professional and college sports. He is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

IN LOVING MEMORY

DUANE LEIGH SVETC, '52, passed away on July 23, 2015, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Svetc was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

EDWARD DEAN SVETC, '54, passed away on September 21, 2016, in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Svetc was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

JOHN G. ATKINS, '55, passed away on June 12, 2012, in Corona,

California. Atkins was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

BOYD H. FULMER, '55, passed away on April 17, 2019, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Fulmer was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

RONALD F. MORAN, '56, passed away on April 18, 2019, in Guilderland, New York. Moran was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

ROBERT L. SLOBODNIK, D'57, passed away on July 15, 2017, in Omaha, Nebraska.

THOMAS ALBERT BREWSTER, D'61, passed away on March 4, 2019, in Monroe, Michigan.

ROLLIE M. LEE, '63, passed away on March 27, 2019, in Ankeny, Iowa.

WILLIAM DON DUNN, '66, passed away on February 15, 2019, in Rockford, Minnesota.

JOHN GENE MORRO, '70, passed away on February 13, 2019, in Bemidji, Minnesota. Morro was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

CLAUDE L. BRINSON, '71, passed away on March 27, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska.

CRYSTAL L. OLIVER, '93, passed away on March 15, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska. Oliver was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

First-Car Purchase Puts Former Boys Town Youth in the Driver's Seat

Driving toward success recently took on a new – and literal – meaning for Shaelyn Nielsen.

And it's all thanks to a Honda named "Honey" and a group of people dedicated to helping former Boys Town youth achieve their dreams.

Shaelyn, a 2017 Boys Town graduate, received her Certified Nursing Assistant training at Boys Town's Career Readiness Center. That helped her land a job at Elk Ridge Retirement Community in Elkhorn, Nebraska, where her duties include helping residents with their daily routines and, often, just being a friend they can talk to and lean on.

"We're basically their family when their family can't be there," Shaelyn said.

Having supportive relationships has been a big part of Shaelyn's life, both during and after her time at Boys Town. Her Family-Teachers® continue to provide encouragement and guidance, as does a family that began mentoring Shaelyn when she was receiving care in a Boys Town Family Home.

In addition, Shaelyn benefits from Boys Town's Trade Life® program, which provides ongoing support to former youth who completed a course in a trade or skilled labor field at the Career Readiness Center. The program helps these now-young adults find safe housing, stay on track at work (or in school) and meet many of the other challenges of independent living.

Shaelyn has an apartment she shares with a roommate. She loves going to work every day, and she's working on obtaining a medication aide certification, which could help her move forward in her career.

But even with all the good things that were happening in her life, Shaelyn was still missing one basic necessity – her own car.

That meant depending on a Boys Town van for a ride to work, or asking friends for a lift to the grocery store or to run errands.

"It was hard because I had to ask someone who was already busy with their day to take me somewhere to get toilet paper," Shaelyn said. "And that was super frustrating."

That all changed earlier this year when Boys Town contacted Shaelyn and told her about an opportunity to buy her own car. The vehicle was one of two cars being repaired by students and



Boys Town's Trade Life® program helped Alum Shaelyn Nielsen, '17, buy her own car.

their instructor in the Career Center's automotive course. If Shaelyn could come up with \$1,000 and get the car insured and licensed, it was hers.

"It was so cool," Shaelyn said. "The first time I went to see the car, it had been sitting outside in the cold and wouldn't start. But it was still my car. The automotive course instructor went out of his way, fixing the car on his own time to get it running."

On February 27, Shaelyn slid behind the wheel of HER car – a 2004 Honda CRV with all-wheel drive – outside the Career Center and drove it off the Boys Town campus.

"That was the day I bought my steering wheel cover and I was very excited about that," she said.

Shaelyn even named the car "Honey."

"Having a car to drive myself to work and listen to my own music means so much more than I can put into words," she said. "I just never thought I would be a car owner. I can go to the store and not feel like a burden when asking other people for rides. And I can help out other people who were helping me. It's such an amazing feeling."

Shaelyn's story is just one of many wonderful examples of how Boys Town's staff, mentors and generous donors continue to support our former youth long after they leave our care. It's also a testament to how many people can come together to ensure our former youth have every opportunity to make the most of their talents and skills and experience success.

"I've had a lot of battles in my life and Boys Town has helped me overcome a lot of them," Shaelyn said. "My Family-Teachers taught me that sometimes you just have to chin up and accept things and work with what you have. That's what I've been doing and it's turned out great."

"Even after Boys Town, the people there are willing to go out of their way, and it makes me feel so loved and wanted."

Our kids may leave Boys Town, but Boys Town never leaves our kids.

For more information about how you can support Boys Town's Career Readiness Center and Trade Life program, visit www.boystown.org/tradelife.

2017
to
2021

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REUNION MEMORIES



THROUGH THE YEARS