



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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**Reunion
Edition!**

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Boys Town, NE 68010
800-345-0458
www.boystownalumni.org

"We take stock of everything else. Why not take stock of our greatest assets, our boys and girls? It is a wise community, which... sets about solving its youth problems. Truly, with respect to youth, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The task may appear difficult, but it is not impossible. It can, in fact, it has been done."

— Servant of God Edward J. Flanagan



ALUMNI NEWS

Boys Town National Alumni Association*

Fall 2019 – Volume 58, Issue 3

34th Boys Town Biennial Alumni Family Reunion a Huge Success

Phil Dauterive, D'70, Elected to Second Term as BTNAA President

Phil Dauterive, D'70, was elected Boys Town National Alumni Association President for his second term during the recent Alumni Family Reunion in July. Officers and new board members were announced at the General Assembly on Saturday of the Reunion weekend.

Besides Dauterive, officers elected for the 2019-2021 term are: Secretary, Jennie Minnig-Soby, '94; and Treasurer, Richard Tapio, '67. Dennis Buckman, '72, was elected as Vice President, but passed away shortly after the reunion. The Vice President position will be filled at the next BTNAA® board meeting in mid-October.

The following alumni were elected as the newest members of the board. Nominations for the open positions on the board were held in May and elections were held by secret ballot throughout the months of June and July, with ballots being counted at the General Assembly.

For the 46+ year group, Larry Mulligan, '61, received the most votes and will serve the four-year term. Richard Tapio, '67, received the next most votes and will serve the two-year term. There were no nominations from the floor for the 36-to-45 year or 5-to-15 year groups, so the board appointed Jason Suibielski, '81, to the vacant 36-to-45 year group position, and Nicholas "Nick" Boes, '13, to the 5-to-15 year position. The At-Large position on the board went to Dauterive.

The reunion was a huge success. Many attendees arrived early, touring the campus on Wednesday and showing their families the home of their youth. Thursday brought a larger number of alumni as they gathered at the Hall of History for early registration. Many viewed old pictures and copies of the *Boys Town Times*. Alumni could be heard calling out to those they hadn't seen for years and reliving their childhood adventures at Boys Town.

Tony Jones, '88, Takes Over As Boys Town Alumni Director

When Tony Jones came to Boys Town from Detroit at the age of 13, he had no idea what life-changing path he was on.

But today, after graduating from Boys Town and coming back to work as part of a Family-Teaching Couple for 23 years, Jones has accepted the position of Alumni Director. He takes over for John Mollison, who is retiring after 21 years of service to Boys Town.

"Boys Town gave me the chance to stay alive," Jones said, "If I would have stayed in Detroit, I was either going to prison, or I was probably going to die. There isn't any doubt in my mind those were the two probable outcomes."

Tony was the youngest of three boys. His mother was addicted to drugs.

"When I was eight months old, my great-grandmother took us in," Tony said. "I called her 'Mom' because she was the only real mother I ever knew. Then she died of cancer when I was 11."

See Jones, page 8



Jones, '88

Thursday evening brought everyone together at the Great Hall as the BTNAA Auxiliary and the Alumni Association hosted an Appreciation Reception for former staff and faculty. This event gave alumni a chance to let staff and faculty, who had a great influence in their lives, know how much they appreciated their efforts.

An early Friday morning greeted golfers who joined Mike Trevino, '58, organizer of the tournament for many years, at the Pacific Springs Golf Club. Others headed for the Visitors Center Cafe to enjoy a "family" breakfast with classmates and friends who continued sharing stories and memories of Boys Town days. Registration continued throughout the day at the Great Hall, where alumni looked over the many items collected by the BTNAA

Auxiliary for their Silent Auction Fund Raiser.

Also Friday, the Alumni Choir met for the first of their three rehearsals prior to singing for the closing Mass on Sunday. The classes of 1968 and 1969 gathered at Oscar's, a local eatery, for an informal lunch and to get reacquainted, while the 25-year reunion classes of 1993 and 1994 joined at the Office West Lounge for homemade BBQ. Everyone headed to the Great Hall in the evening to kick off the reunion with the traditional Welcome Social. There, friends, classmates and housemates were reunited for an evening full of stories, laughter and friendship.

The first order of business on Saturday morning, in the Music Hall, was the final BTNAA meeting of the

See Elected Board, page 8



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Alumni,

The 34th Biennial Alumni Family Reunion came and went quickly, but what a great time was had by all! It was great to see familiar faces from reunions past and to meet and get to know many of you who were here for the first time. I commend your Board of Directors, the Reunion Committee and the Alumni Office for setting up a busy and fun weekend.

Everyone worked long and hard to make the weekend special and I hope you have a chance to let them know how much you appreciated their efforts. I was especially impressed with the turnout for those celebrating their 50-year reunion. It was one of the largest turnouts in recent memory. Congratulations to the organizers of each of the classes.

Congratulations to the new members of the Board of Directors. Larry Mulligan, '61, Richard Tapio, '67, Jason Suibielski, '81 and Nicholas Boes, '13 are the newest members, and returning in the At-Large position is Phil Dauterive, D'70. They join current board members, Steve Vogt, '94, Lisa Morehouse-Mabey, '89, Doug Courville, '87 and Bob Matthews, D'71. The new officers for the next two years are: Phil Dauterive, D'70, President; Jennie Minnig-Soby, '94, Secretary; and Richard Tapio, '67, Treasurer. I am sad to report that Dennis Buckman passed away shortly after the reunion. He was to be the new Vice President. He will be missed.

Be sure to reach out to any board member and let them know how you can help with the Association as it moves forward.

We welcomed your new Alumni Director, Tony Jones, '88, to the job and wish him well. Tony will bring a new and exciting perspective to the position and because of his experience as a Family-Teacher®, he will be reaching out to new and younger generations of alumni. Please congratulate Tony and let him know how you can help move the Alumni Association forward.

School has been in full swing since August and the boys and girls have settled in to the fall routine. The football, volleyball and cross country teams are carrying the Boys Town colors proudly and alumni have been attending the events to cheer on their Cowboys.

As with the beginning of every school year, we have a new group of youth who are adjusting to life at Boys Town. For many, this is the first time they have had to become an integral part of a family with the incumbent responsibilities and accountabilities associated with being a part of a greater whole. The transition is more difficult for some than for others. I ask for your prayers as these young citizens integrate into our program of care. Many of you will remember the difficult first days of transition to the Boys Town program, so I know you can appreciate what our kids have been going through.

We are working hard to advocate for better child care throughout our country and we are leading the charge to keep long-term residential care as a viable option for those who need it. There is a movement across the country to eliminate residential care in favor of less-effective means of caring for children. It is our position that residential care should remain as a necessary option in the care of children and families.

I am working on a book that will tell the story of Boys Town from the first-hand perspective of alumni, staff and others who have been associated with Boys Town. I've already interviewed several alumni and staff. I thank those who have spoken candidly about your heartfelt story. Each of you carries within you the heartbeat of Boys Town and your story makes up the fabric of who we are.

Please keep all of us in your prayers as we work to give today's youth opportunities in life. Prayer is a powerful tool and our founder, Servant of God Father Edward Flanagan, was a strong believer and practitioner of prayer... look what it got for all of us... Boys Town! Please pray to keep Boys Town strong for the generations to come!

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

Damian Gallegos, '98

For Damian Gallegos, being a young teenager in Espanola, New Mexico, was like being on a path to nowhere.

"I learned about this place in Nebraska that could provide a way out for someone like me," Gallegos said.



Gallegos, '98

"It was Boys Town. It was my only option if I was going to make it out of Espanola alive."

Gallegos told his mom he wanted to go, and although "it made her sad and made her feel she had failed me, she promised to help me," he said.

Espanola was a small community, ravaged by the heroine epidemic that started in the mid-70s. Gallegos' father left the family when he was just 3 years old. He was raised by his mom in a single-parent household.

"My mom worked long hours to make ends meet," Gallegos said. "I spent most of my days at home alone until late evening. At around the age of 12, instead of spending my evenings at home alone, I chose to start hanging with the local neighborhood kids. The common theme was gangs, drugs and violence. By the time I was 15, I had already lost 17 of my friends and classmates to drug overdoses, violence, suicide and drunk driving. I knew if I didn't change or escape the life I was currently living, my fate would be the same as theirs."

That's when he learned about Boys Town.

"My mom contacted Catholic Social Services and we started the process of me applying to come to Boys Town," he said.

Arriving at Boys Town in the summer of 1994, Gallegos was ready to embark on his new life.

"It was the summer between what should have been my freshman and sophomore year of high school," Gallegos said. "Instead, because I didn't attend school during my freshman year at home, I was to be enrolled as a freshman all over again."

Undaunted by having to repeat his freshman year, Gallegos began his journey to adulthood with a focus on creating an opportunity for himself through hard work and study. Like many who first arrive at Boys Town, he faced challenges and adjustments.

"The initial, most challenging thing was cultural difference," he said. "I came from a small, impoverished town surrounded by mountains whose population was 98% Hispanic. Boys Town and Nebraska was economically, geographically and demographically different. Another adjustment was being homesick. I missed my friends and family."

Gallegos, however, adapted quickly to Boys Town and has fond memories of his days as a youth.

"Some of my fondest memories were the time spent with my Boys Town brothers in my house," he said. "Basement Husker parties on Saturdays, Skateland outings on Saturday night, tackle football on Sunday, Okoboji in the summer months, listening

See Gallegos, page 7

Boys Town's Most Prestigious Awards Presented at Alumni Banquet

The Boys Town National Alumni Association® announced its most prestigious award winners for 2019 at the reunion's Saturday night banquet at the Embassy Suites in La Vista. A more complete biography of each of the award winners can be found on the BTNAA website.

FATHER FLANAGAN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Melvin R. Hamilton, '65, arrived at Boys Town on August 16, 1961, from Wilmington, North Carolina. He eagerly embraced sports at Boys Town as he excelled on the field of play in football, track and wrestling. He was a leader off the field, serving as Mayor of Boys Town, Councilman, Commissioner and Class Secretary in his senior year. He pursued a course of general studies, sang in the choir and was the Pep Club President and a cheerleader as a senior.

Hamilton and his wife, Carey, are the proud parents of five children and ten grandchildren. He is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD

Zack Blanchard, '05, represents the giving spirit instilled in Boys Town youth and has carried that attitude and kindness with him in his personal

and professional life. He is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Ron Fisher, D'57, has provided yeoman support, leadership and sustained performance for the Boys Town National Alumni Association and the Board of Directors for many years. Fisher has served as a member and an officer of the board, and when he finished his leadership role, he assumed the post of historian for the BTNAA.

Fisher and his wife, Ruby, a member and former officer of the BTNAA Auxiliary, are regular attendees at every Biennial-reunion and mini-reunion.

THE HONORARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Pierre Bossant arrived at Boys Town in 1963 and began a career that lasted more than 50 years. Bossant, a professionally trained French chef, was hired by Monsignor Wegner to cook at the summer camp at Lake Okoboji. Thus began his lifelong association with Boys Town and the youth that would become alumni.



Hamilton, '65



Blanchard, '05



Fisher, D'57,



Bossant

Bossant spent 10 years working at Okoboji, was a supervisor in the high school dining hall and did some work at the former grade school dining hall. In the late 1970s, Bossant became the manager of the Visitors Center Cafe, a position he held for 29 years. He also managed the kitchen that operated in the National Headquarters building during this time.

Because of his close relationship with so many alumni and his tremendous support for the BTNAA during the biennial reunions, Bossant was made an Honorary Lifetime Member of the BTNAA.

Bossant had a close and lifetime friendship with Knobby Meysenburg, our 2017-2019 Honorary National President. Sadly, Meysenburg passed away in January of 2018. Bossant and Meysenburg worked together at the camp at Okoboji for many years and it is fitting that Bossant will succeed Meysenburg as National Honorary President.

Hall of History Announcement Highlights General Assembly Meeting

Three Hall of History inductees highlighted the announcement of award winners at the Boys Town National Alumni Association's General Assembly on Saturday morning, July 27, 2019.

A complete write-up for each winner can be found on the BTNAA website.

HALL OF HISTORY INDUCTEES

William M. "Bill" Bryant, '74, arrived at Boys Town in February of 1971. After a successful transition to Boys Town and being a standout football athlete for the Cowboys, Bryant attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1974 to 1978 as a member of the Husker football team. He then served as an assistant coach for the team from 1979 through 1981. He later served his country before returning to complete a degree in political science at UNL in 1992. Today, Bryant is a student advocate for Lincoln Public Schools.

Bryant was elected to the Boys Town National Board of Trustees in 2017. He is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

Robert S. "Bob" Schmit, '69, and his brother John arrived at Boys Town in July of 1963. An Omaha native, Schmit excelled in athletics at Boys Town. Schmit was a Commissioner in Boys Town's program of self-government and served as Class Secretary. He played on an undefeated Boys Town team, was the team captain and was named outstanding player on the team. He also received a scholarship to play football at the University of Nebraska.

Schmit and his wife, Brenda, live on a small ranch in rural Littleton, Colorado. He is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

William C. (Kriss) Andrews, '70, and his brother Jerry arrived at Boys Town in 1968 from Boise, Idaho. After Boys Town, Andrews graduated from

Bradley University with a degree in accounting. He also earned an MBA degree from Northwestern University, graduating with distinction.

Andrews went on to a successful business career and, respecting his roots, serves on the Board of the Father Flanagan League Society of Devotion as an Alumni Association-appointed member. Andrews and his wife, Joanne, celebrated their 45th anniversary in 2019. They have five children and three grandsons. He is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

W. Mike Smith, '67, has a long and dedicated commitment to Boys Town and the Boys Town National Alumni Association. He has served as a member of the BTNAA Board of Directors, is presently on the Board of Directors of the BTNAA Scholarship Fund and has served as the first alumnus to be a board member at one of Boys Town's national campuses in Washington, D.C. As a member of the BTNAA board, Smith was instrumental in raising funds for the expansion of the Alumni Veteran's Memorial in 2011 and spearheaded the effort to have the Village of Boys Town named a Purple Heart Community by the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

ALUMNI APPRECIATION AWARDS

Mrs. Ruby Fisher has contributed greatly to the success of the BTNAA Auxiliary and the Alumni Association. During reunions, Fisher can be found helping in the Alumni Office. She has held leadership positions within the BTNAA Auxiliary, providing guidance and direction in arranging for the Silent Auction. She, along with her husband, Ron, have long been loyal and dedicated supporters of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.



Bryant, '74



Schmit, '69



Andrews, '70



Smith, '67



Fisher

The Boys Town Maintenance Department can always be counted on to provide support and assistance during the Biennial Reunions. It works diligently behind the scenes to make our Boys Town home beautiful for our reunions and provides direct support for many of our functions.

The BTNAA Auxiliary has long been a partner with the Alumni Association. It has supported every reunion with volunteers to help the Alumni Office staff, collected items for use in the Biennial Silent Auction and has championed the mission of the BTNAA through its efforts. More recently, the Auxiliary published an alumni cookbook with favorite recipes gathered from alumni, their spouses and even from the Boys Town Dining Hall. This year, the Auxiliary provided funding for the former staff and faculty reception. Additionally, the Auxiliary has presented cash awards to graduating seniors, along with a fully paid-up Lifetime Membership in the BTNAA, during the annual Senior Welcome Lunch.

ALUMNI REUNION 2019

What a WEEKEND!







FROM THE BTNAA PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Another successful reunion is in the books! We had a great showing from the classes of 1968 and 1969 celebrating their 50th class reunion. Their stories have been told many times over the years, but listening to them again is a reminder of how we became brothers and of the special bond that holds us all together.

The Classes of 1993 and 1994 celebrated their 25th reunion, and their stories, while a little bit different from the old guys, still resonated with the camaraderie of long-lost brothers and sisters.

At the General Assembly on Saturday, you voted new members on to the BTNAA Board of Directors. We would like to congratulate Larry Mulligan, '61, and Richard Tapio, '67, (46+ Year Group) on their election, and Jason Suibielski, '81, (36-45 Year Group), and Nick Boes, '13, (5-15 Year Group) for their appointment to the board. We want to thank out-going board members Sam Vargas, '65, Steve Postert, '69, Larry Adams, '68, and Kim McGiffin-Warner, '04, for their years of service to the BTNAA and its board. We also welcome Pierre Bossant as our Honorary National President for the next two years.

A special thanks goes out to Lisa Morehouse-Mabey, '89, who served as our secretary for many years. She remains on the board but has passed those duties on to our new secretary, Jennie

Minnig-Soby, '94. You can find all the board members in this issue and on the alumni website.

It is with a heavy heart that we share with you the news of the passing of Dennis Buckman, '72. Dennis was a board member and had just been elected Vice-President of the board prior to his death. Many of his friends gathered at the Dowd Chapel to say goodbye and show support to his wife and family. I grew up with Dennis at Boys Town. Dennis was a friend to everyone and was there to help anyone in need. We pray for Dennis and all our alumni brothers and sisters who have gone before us to join Father Flanagan.

The alumni gathered at the Corral to cheer on our Cowboys at Homecoming. A tailgate party prior to the game was hosted by the alumni.

The BTNAA board's priority in the next year is to increase membership. We need to invite our younger members to get involved now so they can become the leaders of the BTNAA in the future.

We received some great news this summer. The cause for Father Flanagan's canonization has moved a step closer in the journey toward sainthood. Please continue praying for his eventual canonization.

Be safe and God Bless,

Phil Dauterive, D'70
BTNAA President



FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Dear Brother and Sister Alumni,

I am looking forward to getting to know many of you as I assume this new role at

Boys Town as your Alumni Director. After being a Family-Teacher® for 23 years, this will certainly be a new and exciting challenge. I believe that, together, we can take the Alumni Association forward by growing our membership, building on the foundation of those that have gone before us and finding new and innovative ways to bring more value to membership in the BTNAA.

When asked to serve as the new National Alumni Director, I was thrilled and honored. During the past several months, I have had the opportunity to meet a host of wonderful people and learn more about the BTNAA. In the coming years, it is important we increase the membership of the Alumni Association. As we look to the future, we must ask all our brothers and sisters to consider joining the Boys Town National Alumni Association as a lifetime member, or an annual dues-paying member. We need your support and engagement to continue our growth and prosperity.

I would like to personally thank John Mollison, '64, for his dedication and leadership over the past 11+ years. He has worked extremely hard to make this Alumni Association what it is today.

I would like to thank everyone who attended this year's 34th Biennial reunion, and for coming home to renew your connection with classmates and friends, making new acquaintances of

fellow alumni and making this one of the best conventions in recent memory. You made it a reunion to remember!

The sense of warmth and happiness present during the weekend reflects the common bond we all share. I want to give a special thanks to Gail Page, our administrative assistant in the Alumni Office, for making the convention run so smoothly through her hard work, dedication and welcoming personality. Please find the time to call Gail and express your personal gratitude for her hard work, as I know she will appreciate your thanks. The many volunteers who helped with the preparation for the reunion did a great job! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Let's Go Cowboys! The football season is underway. The Alumni Association hosted a tailgate cookout to support our team during their Homecoming game.

The BTNAA and the Alumni Office has a renewed energy for bringing you the best support it has to offer. As we continue to reach out to our younger brothers and sisters, we must not forget those who have been the foundation of our Association. To the generations that came before us, we thank you for your guidance and continued support.

Tony Jones, '88
Alumni Director



FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

The 34th Biennial Alumni

Reunion is behind us and we are already planning for the 35th Edition in 2021.

The events that took place in July allowed Alumni and Auxiliary to come together for four fun-filled days of reconnecting with longtime friends, as well as making new ones.

We partnered with the Alumni for a Staff Appreciation event on Thursday evening. It allowed us to support an Alumni event and was free to the alums and their guests. It also gave us an extra day to display our auction items.

The Auxiliary auction had over 120 items in addition to small cash-and-carry surprise bags and BTNAA license plate frames. We raised over \$5,500 — a record-breaking year! Thank you to everyone who donated, supported and helped. I'd especially like to thank Shannon Greene for all her work on the auction. License plate frames were very popular and are still available on the Auxiliary website.

We were able to welcome some new lifetime members at the reunion. The Auxiliary was very busy sponsoring the Okoboji Blue Water Bash the past two years. We also were able to give out four cash awards to graduating seniors, along with paying for their Alumni Lifetime memberships.

Our new officers for 2019–2021 are:

President: Mary Kuhn

Vice President: Shannon Greene

Secretary/Treasurer: Rita Berthelsen

Many of the Auxiliary attended the reunion's Alumni Awards Ceremony on Saturday morning, where our very own Ruby Fisher received the Alumni Appreciation Award for her many years of dedication and work to the Auxiliary and Alumni. Also, the Auxiliary received a separate Alumni Appreciation Award.

We look forward to new and longtime members connecting with your officers to provide ideas for the next two years.

All can be reached through our Facebook page at [btnauxiliary@gmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/btnauxiliary@gmail.com) or feel free to call any of us.

Mary Kuhn: 402-305-7372
Shannon Greene: 712-898-7646
Rita Berthelsen: 402-659-9720

Mary Kuhn
BTNAA Auxiliary President

Dennis Lee Buckman, '72



Buckman, '72

Dennis Lee Buckman, '72, passed away on August 8, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska. He was a Lifetime Member and Vice President of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

Survived by loving and devoted wife, Sherry Buckman; father of Ashley Buckman; grandfather of Elijah Buckman and special friend Aaron Meyers; cherished stepdaughter, Christy (Matt) Kriegler; grandchildren, Greg and

Abby Kriegler; a great brother-in-law to Mike Jones; a special father-in-law to Chuck (Majorie) Jones.

Dennis was a friend to all. One of his loves was to be involved in the BTNAA. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 2017, representing the year group of alumni that spanned the 36- to 45-year period for graduation or departure from Boys Town, and was recently elected Vice-President of the BTNAA on July 27. Dennis not only represented his constituents, but also provided mentorship and support to a number of alumni over the years. He was a multi-talented man and enjoyed photography and woodworking.

Dennis requested that any contributions in his memory be made to the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

Gallegos (continued from page 2)

to Casey Kasem's Top 40 on Sunday after church and listening to Sweet 98 on Friday nights on our way to Skateland — we sure had a great time!"

Gallegos cited his Family-Teachers® as special people who motivated him to set and reach for his goals, along with his teachers and coaches at the high school.

"My Boys Town friends were there to guide me and help me to grow," he said. "Boys Town taught me the social skills I needed to navigate the world and positively exposed me to a broader and more diverse community."

Upon graduation from Boys Town, Gallegos was awarded a full-ride scholarship.

"I initially went to Creighton, but eventually transferred to UNO where I got a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration," Gallegos said. "I have had an extremely diverse career. I've been a dishwasher, a cook, sold books door-to-door, worked in telemarketing, sold furniture, was a union electrician, was a recruiter, worked as a buyer for John

Deere, a manufacturer in wind energy, worked in Goldman's Corporate office, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and now I'm a senior capital buyer for Cargill North America. The message is, I never quit trying to grow in my career and I was never afraid to take a chance and to try new things."

Gallegos' future plans are to remain with Cargill and continue to grow with them with an eye toward having a role in their global business. He would eventually like to move back to the Southwest to be closer to his family and the mountains.

Gallegos and his wife, Arien, are the proud parents of five children, three boys and two girls. They enjoy bike riding as a family, fishing and anything that involves being outdoors.

Damian Gallegos had the inner strength as a young boy to make a difficult choice to come to Boys Town. With his desire to succeed and the life skills he received there, he is achieving success with his family and as a professional in the business world.

IN LOVING MEMORY

DAVID J. BLACKBURN, D'46, passed away on May 12, 2019, in St. Charles, Missouri.

LAVERN LOUIS "VERN" BUSH, '47, passed away on August 20, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska. Bush was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association. He was an inaugural inductee of the Boys Town Alumni Sports Hall of Fame.

DANIEL W. KENT, '49, passed away on February 16, 2019, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Kent was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

MARCUS BADILLO, D'53, passed away on May 26, 2019, in El Paso, Texas.

CHARLES WALLACE CRAWFORD, '54, passed away on March 22, 2019, in Rome City, Indiana.

EUGENE PAUL "PETE" BUETTNER, '55, passed away on May 30, 2019, in Grand Island, Nebraska. Buettner was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

CLAUDE EUGENE DEAN, '56, passed away on March 12, 2019, in Pacifica, California.

JOHN FRANCIS BUCKLEY, '57, passed away on February 16, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska.

VERLYN BRADLEY DAVIS, D'58, passed away on June 19, 2019, in Keokuk, Iowa. Davis was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

FREDERICK R. CRAFT, '60, passed away on August 18, 2019, in Gastonia, North Carolina. Craft was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

WILLIAM A. "TONY" MARTINEZ, SR., D'60, passed away on June 17, 2019, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

ROGER DEAN LAMBERT, '68, passed away on September 26, 2016, in Kankakee, Illinois.

RONALD DALE MILLER, '68, passed away on April 30, 2019, in Mesa, Arizona. Miller was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

WILLIAM E. STEPP, '68, passed away on July 24, 2016, in Columbus, Georgia. Stepp was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.

DENNIS LEE BUCKMAN, '72, passed away on August 8, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska. Buckman was a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association and was Vice President of the BTNAA.

LONNIE B. SMITH, III, D'74, passed away on July 6, 2019, in Denver, Colorado.

SCOTT BUCKLER, '85, passed away on June 29, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska.

JOEL ROBERT JAMIESON, D'91, passed away on October 19, 2009, in Levittown, Pennsylvania.

ANTHONY ALLEN GUTIERREZ, D'92, passed away on December 8, 2018, in Omaha, Nebraska.

EDWARD LEO HAUSNER, D'95, passed away on August 22, 2019, in Gallup, New Mexico.

TRAVIS MICHAEL KULA, '98, passed away on June 9, 2019, in Columbus, Nebraska.

MARLENE K. BOLITA, wife of James Bolita, '57, passed away on May 15, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska.

**2017
TO
2021**

**ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS**

OFFICERS

Phil Dauterive, D'70
President | At-Large
phillyd502@yahoo.com
Term Expires - 2023

Dennis Buckman, '72
Vice President | 36-45 Year Group
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Term Expires - 2021

Jennie Minnig-Soby, '94
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Term Expires - 2021

Richard Tapio, '67,
Treasurer | 46+ Year Group
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Term Expires - 2023

MEMBERS

5-15 YEAR GROUP
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Term Expires - 2023

16-25 YEAR GROUP
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26-35 YEAR GROUP
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36-45 YEAR GROUP

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Jason Suibielski, '81
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46+ YEAR GROUP
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EX-OFFICIO

Pierre Bossant
Honorary National President
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Term Expires - 2021

Michael Trevino, '58

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Father Steven E. Boes
National Executive Director
Honorary President

Tony Jones, '88
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Jones (continued from page 1)

Tony's oldest brother went off on his own, leaving Tony and his other brother, Tyrone, to fend for themselves. They lived on the tough streets of Detroit, dodging gang violence while surrounded by drugs and prostitution. They quit going to school and did what they had to do to get by. They borrowed. They begged. And yes, Tony admitted, they stole.

After a year, Tyrone, tired and worn out from taking care of himself and his brother, remembered his great-grandma's Catholic church. He took Tony there and a priest contacted Boys Town.

Tony admits life at Boys Town was a culture shock at first.

"I had to adjust to the quiet," he said. "I didn't believe that people could be so good — that they didn't want something from me. Boys Town gave me the love and guidance that only a family could provide. With the support of my new family, I was inspired to do well in school and focus on my future."

After graduating from Boys Town High School, Tony went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Bellevue University.

He met his wife, Simone, and the couple married in 1994. Two years later, they were hired as Boys Town Family-Teachers®.

The Joneses touched the lives of between 150 and 200 kids who lived in their Family Home at Boys Town. With Tony's involvement with other youth on campus, that number grows even larger.

Tony says he is forever thankful for what Boys Town has done for him.

"I consider myself lucky," he said. "Without Boys Town, I'd probably be in prison like my oldest brother. Instead, I spent 23 years working as a Family-Teacher at Boys Town. Everyday, I see myself in these kids, and I'm inspired to get through to them."

And, he still uses what he has learned to teach others.

Jones said he looks forward to the challenges facing the Alumni Office and the Alumni Association in bringing new generations of alumni into active participation in the Association. He plans on developing new means of outreach and ways to introduce current Boys Town youth to the Alumni Association. Additionally, he will continue to grow the Association's partnership with Boys Town so they can work together to share the experiences and successes of alumni and the wonderful story of the work being done at Boys Town.

Jones is a Lifetime Member of the Boys Town National Alumni Association.



We're excited to announce that an official "Boys Town" license plate has been approved by the state of Nebraska and is available to order! The specialty license plate design features Boys Town's historic pylon statue that served as a landmark for so many youth making their way to the famous home. Boys Town needs 250 individuals to complete the Department of Motor Vehicles application and pre-pay before the plates will be made and be available to the public through the DMV as a specialty plate option. The cost is \$70. Go to the Alumni website for more information.

Elected Board (continued from page 1)

old board of directors, the BTNAA Auxiliary Board meeting and election of officers. This was followed by the presentation of Annual Awards. (Award winners are listed on page 3.)

After the General Assembly, everyone reconvened at the Veteran's Memorial where Boys Town was proclaimed a Purple Heart Community. A bronze plaque affirming the designation was unveiled. There was also an unveiling of a memorial statue of Father Flanagan dedicated to Boys Town alumni who lost their lives serving in Vietnam. This recognition was spearheaded by Mike Smith, '67, and he read a heartfelt poem he had written to honor those fallen heroes. The names of 39 additional Boys Town alumni who were either killed in action or died while serving in uniform were unveiled on the Memorial Wall. Following the playing of Taps and the closing benediction by Father Boes, all alumni veterans gathered for a group picture.

The Reunion Committee reintroduced for the first time in decades a softball game and tailgate picnic at the Boys Town baseball field. Choir rehearsal and facility tours filled the remainder of the afternoon.

Saturday evening was the recognition banquet held at the Embassy Suites-La Vista. The evening began with a social hour and final bidding on the silent auction items. The 25-, 50- and 60-year reunion classes posed for photographs with Father Boes. Keynote speaker for the banquet was William "Bill" Bryant, '74, a member of the Boys Town National Board of Trustees.

A surprise of the evening was when retiring Alumni Director, John Mollison, '64, was interrupted during his closing remarks and presented with a beautiful statue of an eagle in flight as a going-away gift.

Sunday morning dawned as alumni headed to church services at Chamber's Chapel and Dowd Chapel. The Alumni Choir sang as part of the Dowd Chapel service. Following Mass, the choir



Dauterive, D'70



Minnig-Soby, '94



Tapio, '67



Mulligan, '61



Suibielski, '81



Boes, '13

presented a short concert of patriotic music. Everyone then headed to the picnic grounds for the farewell picnic and a final "family picture."