

# TYNER ALUMNI NEWS

Tyner Alumni Association

Summer 2023



## **We have exciting news to share!**

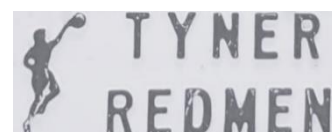
Due to a change of ownership at Christo's Banquet Center we asked for quotes from both Christo's and Swan Lake Resort Conference Center for our Alumni Banquet. Swan Lake gave us special pricing and agreed to have a family style dinner with our menu. Instead of paying \$30 per person, as was voted at our last banquet, we can keep this year's prices at \$28 per person. In addition to that, Swan Lake has offered special room rates for anyone that would like to stay overnight. The price is \$139, plus taxes. This includes breakfast the following morning.

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS BY CALLING 574-935-5680 AND MENTIONING TYNER ALUMNI. THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR RESERVING A ROOM IS JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>.**

## **SOME LASTS AT TYNER HIGH SCHOOL**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Rex Stull holds the high of 44 points scored in a basketball game
- The class of 1957 was the runner-up in the Sectional Tourney
- Steve Matz scored the last point for Tyner, at half court, with 3 seconds to go. The game was lost to North Liberty by 16 points.
- FUNNY STORY: It seems that some students went down the fire escape during a Tyner/Walkerton basketball game. Steve Matz was the first one down, followed by Dave Huff and Ann Clark Zumbaugh. Steve locked the door at the bottom so that Dave and Ann couldn't get out. Ann blamed Lee for it.



## THE STORY OF SWAN LAKE

It all started with a family from Tyner .....

The beautiful Swan Lake Golf Course and Convention Center was once the Swanson family chicken farm. It was in the early 1940s when Roy and Emily Waclaw Swanson started their poultry production on 100-acres of land along the Plymouth-LaPorte Trail in Polk Township. The chicken farm flourished. At its peak 15 poultry buildings and 8 incubators sat on 150 acres of land.

And then Roy had an idea. In the early 1960s while attending a convention in Illinois, Roy met another farmer who talked about building two holes of golf on his farm so the family could play golf together. That sounded good to Roy. In 1967 a local golf course architect was hired, a Par 3, nine-hole course was built and the public was invited! Turned out to be an even bigger idea! And now to find a name for the course, the hard work that the family had done digging the lakes on the farm helped with naming the golf course – Swan Lake.

And then more work. Coops were torn down and used to construct new buildings, but some coops stayed. One of the larger coops became the maintenance building. The 13th hole was designed around another. And some aspects of the chicken farm lingered on. As when it rained the smell was awful – Roy fertilized using his chicken manure. And one sand trap sat over a buried silo. When the wind blew your club might hit more than sand.

In a quote by Ida Chipman, “Roy tended the grounds, trimmed the bushes and moved boulders into position. He built many fieldstone structures and generally could be seen in his straw farmer’s hat all over the place, he did everything but play golf. “

In 1971 the US Golf Academy was established at Swan Lake. For the Academy the family built a dining hall, a recreation building and dorm cottages. The Academy was opened for both men and women and more than 4,000 golfers attended that year.

The golf course was a family affair and all the children, Lynette, Roger and Felicia were involved, as was Mark, Felicia’s husband. Swan Lake Resort, including the Academy was sold by the family in 2000. At present there are two 18-hole golf courses, a 90 room hotel, onsite banquet and conference center, four log cabins, eight fairway villas, six cottages, a restaurant, a bar/grille and a pro shop.

Emily Swanson passed away in 1979, Roy remarried Dorothy Powers and moved to Argos. He passed away in 2009 at the age of 91 years. Roger passed in 2003 and Lynette in 2010. What a legacy they have left behind. Swan Lake Golf Course and Convention Center is a beautiful resort enjoyed by many.

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### “SPREAD THE WORD”

Reach out to your classmates! Ask them to come and enjoy the Alumni Banquet.....  
Reconnect and Reminisce. Let’s keep the Tyner Alumni Banquet going!

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### ONE LAST TIME....

As the song from “Hamilton” goes, 2024 may be the last time Tyner, Teegarden, Polk Township, Walkerton, North Liberty and Greene Township will gather at Homer’s in Sebring!

On Monday, February 6, 2023, 13 people gathered at Homer’s for the annual get-together. Don Knowlton welcomed everyone to the event. Shirley Freeman Beamer offered the prayer before lunch. After lunch Don entertained with some humorous stories before a discussion was held about the future of the event. It was agreed that there would be a 2024 event with Don as chairman. It will be on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 11:00 am EST at Homer’s in Sebring.

The 13 in attendance represented seven high schools: 1 from Aubbeenaubee, 1 from Angola, 1 from Concord, 4 from North Liberty, 1 from Tyner, 4 from Walkerton and 1 from Washington. One of the guests from Walkerton was Sherill Smith Kickbush. Sherri is the widow of Dick Kickbush who was a principal and teacher in the Polk-Lincoln-Johnson School Corporation/John Glenn School Corporation.

If you want to see this gathering continue, please put the 2024 date on your calendar! Lori Mullet Jacob, Class of 1966

## Tyner Alumni Banquet Minutes 2022

The 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Banquet, held at Christo's Banquet Hall Plymouth, Indiana on August 6, 2022, had 127 people attending. This marks another year of a wonderful gathering of "good times and good food."

Videos on overhead screens featuring Tyner memorabilia and old photographs were organized by Susie Lowry Litchfield. Numerous Tyner memorabilia to view were displayed.

Linda Drews Benjamin started the evening, welcoming everyone. Next the Color Guard from the Plymouth American Legion Post 27 presented the colors. Larry Mueller led us with the invocation. For the first time the meal was served buffet style, not served to the tables. Although it was a less timely process, it ran smoothly. No mishaps reported.

The meeting was opened by Linda Drews Benjamin, then Larry Mueller introduced the Legacy Classes of 1952 and 1962.

By table, each person was asked to stand and introduce themselves and the year they graduated/attended Tyner High School. As the introductions began, Gil Snyder told the years he attended Teegarden and the years or grades he attended Tyner. That idea quickly caught on and more and more people told their history prior to graduating from Tyner High School (or John Glenn High School.)

Then a change in the program, Linda Drews Benjamin asked Susie Lowry Litchfield to introduce the Alumni of the Year. This award had been a well kept secret by the Tyner Alumni Committee. Susie announced guests and family members of Gene and Marsha Reese. Jennifer, their daughter, then spoke about her father and awarded him the Alumni of the Year Plaque. Gene took the podium and thanked family and friends. Gene's parting words: "I love Tyner, there is something in the Polk Township water."

Linda Drews Benjamin announced the Tyner Banquet Minutes of 2021. It was quickly motioned to dispense the reading of the minutes by Gene Reese, seconded by John McGee and accepted by all. Motion by Lori Mullet Jacob to accept minutes, seconded by Mickey Replogle and approved.

Gene Reese spoke thanking everyone for their generous donations to the Tyner Alumni Fund. He stated the Treasurer's Report had a balance of \$4,641.00.

The other item of business was the increase in the Christo's meal price from \$28.00 to \$30.00 for the next year. John McGee motioned to accept the increase and Steve Matz seconded the motion. All accepted. Linda Drews Benjamin then started a discussion concerning a change of venue for the 2023 banquet. Norma Hillborn Cheery motioned to stay with Christo's Banquet Hall. It was quickly seconded by Bill Smith. The motion carried.

The LaMunion family was recognized as the largest number of family members attending, they were Beverly, Joy, Norman, Dennis, Diana and Roger. A voice from the crowd was heard to say, "...not fair, they have twins!"

Tom Biggins spoke about the IOOF's 2022 Tyner Tractor Show. It was a great success, larger than the previous year and invited everyone to come. The next IOOF's Tyner Tractor Show will be the last weekend of July 2023.

And again the evening ended with the past Tyner cheerleaders leading the Tyner Fight Song.

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Also, the cheerleaders will NOT be called up to lead us in the Tyner HS Fight song. I'm sure there are many of you that are breathing a sigh of relief! We hope this encourages those of you who didn't feel comfortable attending.

## MACKINAC BRIDGE ANTIQUE TRACTOR CROSSING & SHOW

On September 10, 2022 Mickey Replogle, with wife LaVerne on a "side seat" and Tom Biggins drove their restored antique tractors across the Mackinac Bridge. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> year for the event. 1401 antique tractors from 24 states traveled the 5 miles on the "Mighty Mac" from Mckinaw City to St. Ignace, Michigan. Way to go!!!

### TYNER I.O.O.F. TRACTOR SHOW FRIDAY, JULY 28<sup>TH</sup> 2 PM – 8 PM SATURDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> 10 AM – 4 PM TYNER COMMUNITY BUILDING 4836 FRENCH STREET, TYNER, INDIANA COME ENJOY THE SHOW

#### TYNER INDIANA ALUMNI FACEBOOK PAGE

You are invited to join the Tyner Alumni Facebook Page. This group is for any person that attended Tyner High School whether they graduated or not. Also this site is open to include spouses of Tyner Alumni and Tyner Community friends. Come share in school memories, photos and be made aware of upcoming events. There are approximately 476 members and perhaps there is someone here that you have had a desire to connect with, but haven't been successful up to this point - you may find them today.

Joining this Facebook page is very easy. As noted in the following 3 steps:

1. Search for "Tyner Indiana Alumni" on Facebook
2. Click on the "Join" button (beneath the photo of the school)
3. Respond to the questions asked in the space provided, then submit.
  - a. Did you ever attend Tyner School?
  - b. What year would you or did you graduate?
  - c. What is your connection to Tyner High School?
  - d. If you are a son or a daughter of an alumni please give the name of your parent that attended Tyner. If it's your mother, please provide her maiden name.

NOTE: The Group Administrator, Linda Drews Benjamin will review your answers and respond soon. Please consider this invitation now while it is fresh in your mind.

Check out the Tyner Website: [www.tyner.org](http://www.tyner.org) (Alan Burkholder - class of 1964)

#### TYNER ALUMNI FINANCES 2022

2021 Balance Forwarded	\$4641.87
Revenues	\$6065.66
In/Out (Donations)	\$ 770.00
Tyner Alumni Donation	\$ 971.08
Expenses	\$4000.00 (CD)
Christos	\$3364.29
Donna Wood Flowers	\$ 100.00
Tyner Alumni of Year	\$ 82.88
Perpetual Plaque	\$ 126.00
Camera	\$ 256.43
Bank Charges	\$ 15.00
Newsletter	\$ 380.06
2022 Bank Balance Forward	\$1612.74
Certificate of Deposit	\$4000.00
Total	\$5612.74

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#### Tyner Alumni Fund

Dear Tyner Alum,

We enjoyed our memories at Tyner High School. We get together once a year to enjoy a wonderful dinner and relive those experiences. Whether you come to the Tyner Alumni Banquet every year or on occasion, we think it is important to keep this tradition alive. It costs more to plan, arrange and carry out than what our meals cost. Please consider a donation to the Tyner Alumni Fund to keep our unique banquet going. Together we will keep the "Memories" alive!!! Thank you in advance.

Gene Reese (class of 1965)

128 Gemini Lane, Walkerton, IN 46574

Tyner Alumni Financial Secretary

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~ ALUMNI OF THE YEAR 2022~

Most of you know this years Distinguished Tyner Alumni as a friend, colleague, teammate, or neighbor. You knew him in school at Tyner High School. Over the years he has been many, many things: teacher, coach, salesman, athletic director, Christian financial counselor, Koontz Lake Missionary Church Board member or Deacon, and Walkerton Town Council member and now President. But to me, he has just been dad.

Robert (Gene) Reese was born May 14, 1947 to Robert (Bob) and Melba Lupton Reese. He was raised in Tyner Indiana where as a young man he had a paper route through Tyner and as he was older worked at the Tyner elevator which his father owned. He graduated from Tyner High School and attended Florida State University and received his education degree. He married the love of his life, Marsha Dare Reese, in 1969 while still at Florida State. The union resulted in three children; Scott, Jennifer, and Ryan and six grandchildren, who are now the light of his life: Emma, Mattie, Maygan, Addison, Calleigh, and Lincoln.

I have had the distinct pleasure of growing up in a Christian home with two amazing parents, who met at Tyner High School, dated, fell in love, married, and raised a family while both working hard and supporting Scott, Ryan, and I.

I am so thankful to be here today to be able to tell you about the many things that my dad, Gene Reese, has done and continues to do in the Walkerton area.

He is the longest standing elected Town Council member with 37 years of dedicated service. During his time with the Town Council he helped establish Dogwood Estates, build a new library, implement new water treatment services and a new plant, build and open a new Town Hall, a Waste Water plant, Senior Housing, Veteran's Park, new sidewalks and trees uptown, a new EMS station and signs establishing entrances on all sides of Walkerton.

He has been a Deacon at Koontz Lake Missionary Church, Christian Financial Planner for those in need of assistance, and former Church Treasurer.

Dad spent the last 20 years of his career as the Athletic Director at Ancilla College where he not only started athletics for the college and created an amazing educational opportunity for many athletes that may not have been able to participate in college athletics without the Junior College option at Ancilla but coached basketball, baseball, and softball as they were starting out at the school. He brought Ancilla into this century assisting with scholarships and options to help kids grow academically and athletically.

But, I think his greatest accomplishment in life is being an amazing person. He is the most honest person I have ever met. He would give the shirt off his back to help any human being, whether he knows you or not. He puts his faith into action. It's not just words to him. When you hear my dad say or tell you something you know that he will follow through every single time. My dad is proud of coming from Tyner, Indiana. He is proud of coming back to the area where he grew up and helping to make a difference in the lives of individuals and the Town of Walkerton. Although my dad has done many amazing things for this community and its people. I think his most important titles are husband, father, and Papa.

Congratulations Dad on this well deserved honor.

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2022 – 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Vera Klinedinst .....Preston Richard  
Mary Ellen Hission .....Mia Hooten  
Wilma Martin .....Mariyah Higbee

Excerpt from  
 “Scenes from My Life: A Memoir”  
 William L. Killian  
 Class of 1957

While at the Tyner School, it was fun walking the couple of minutes it took to get there. The four of us Killian Kids loved the school (George, Patricia, Chuck, Bill). One day, I drove my '46 Ford to school – it took about a minute to get there. I parked out front of the Campbell House, directly across from the school. Speaking of my '46 Ford, I remember one day Dave Jacobson was in town with his '46 V-8 Ford, and we raced over some county roads – it was quite a race, but I don't remember who won. I always said that I did but who knows. I liked going to the Plymouth Motor Raceway, especially to see Paulie Pontius (a relative) who was racing at the time. There was a famous driver at the Raceway, Chuck Engle.

Tyner was a great school, great teachers and wonderful students. I really liked Jarde's letter in the last Alumni Newsletter. Jarde and I have kept in touch over the years. She was my Senior prom date at Tyner so we share lots of memories.

In conclusion, I want to ask, does anyone of the four friends who were with me one night when we went to the Plymouth outdoors Tri Way Theatre in my '49 Studebaker convertible with the top down?

As we left the theater, it started to rain and then some more rain. I was embarrassed to stop and put the roof up because it didn't work! Finally, my friends begged me to stop so I did. We wrestled with the top and hoped it would stay fastened. The car was beautiful, but it had lots of problems, like drinking more oil than gas. We Tyner kids knew we had the perfect teenage life possible – you can't beat the 50s for fun, for sure. And, to add to the fun, the Killian House was a hangout for many of the youth in Tyner and Polk Township – music, food, and laughter went on past my bedtime many nights. Perfect. Of course, my three siblings would have different reflections on our childhood years. I've always said that the four of us grew up in different homes together.

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*It is with sadness we note the passing of our fellow Alumni*

**DECEASED ALUMNI 2022 – 2023**

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>DOD</b>
1944	Pauline Matz Klopfenstein	06/06/26	09/04/22
1947	Don Hayn	10/12/28	10/13/22
1947	Paul Haag	02/25/29	10/29/22
1951	Claire Inman Kneisler	02/28/33	04/13/22
1952	Earl Smith	11/06/34	11/23/22
1953	Robert Pontius	10/29/35	10/10/22
1954	Bill Smith	09/06/36	11/29/22
1961	Lou Ann Creech Steinhofner	07/30/43	02/26/23
1963	Nilas Miller	07/15/45	01/27/23
1963	Sharon Lowry Betz	07/14/43	02/22/23
1964	Donna Schmeltz Wood	02/19/46	01/19/23
1969	Jack Huffer	08/02/50	10/08/22
1970	Dan Smith	10/17/51	12/04/22
1973	Randy Hamann	01/16/55	08/12/22
Teacher	Bruce Keiser Sr.	03/06/31	11/16/22

## MEMORIES FROM TYNER

Noral Baughman

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I've been thinking lately about what occupied our minds and time while growing up in a small town in the Midwest in the forties and fifties. Tyner didn't have the amenities that larger towns had such as a library, swimming pool, community center and usually a movie theater or two and multiple restaurants. Tyner lacked all of that so we had to be resourceful.

Like most things, Tyner has changed in the last seventy or eighty years. Perhaps I should start this off with "as I recall" just to make sure that I acknowledge my memory is not flawless. Although, as I was telling my wife the other day, "I think my memory is getting better because I can remember things that I never remembered before."

The last time I was in Tyner I was disappointed to see that most of the large maple trees that had lined our street were gone. Lots of other things had changed or, more probably, simply disappeared. But the missing trees seemed to take away some of the 'coziness' that I felt growing up there.

I remember there being three grocery stores in Tyner; Karn's store and Walsh's store. My earliest memories of Walsh's store are when Firm and Maude Myers ran it. The third store, which didn't seem to last long, was in the house on the corner where Keith Drake later lived. Lest I forget, there was also the post office which was located in the lower floor of the IOOF lodge hall. The post office was in the rear with the front portion dedicated to an ice cream 'parlor' on one side and tobacco, crackers, other everyday items and a big glass display case of various kinds of chocolate candy on the other side. My grandfather, Jesse Keller, was postmaster and store proprietor but I don't remember that fact gaining me any points in the candy department.

There were two churches, a lumber/hardware store, garage, post office/lodge hall, the school and the grain elevator. Tyner had its own Doctor, Dr. Thompson who served the community for several decades. Almost forgot about the barbershop/print shop on the corner at the end of our street.

Bicycles were a big part of young life in Tyner and Santa brought me a bicycle one year for Christmas. It was a full sized bicycle but I wasn't a full sized kid yet so I couldn't get onto it unless I did so while standing on a wooden box or a tree stump that we had in our back yard. I would launch myself down the driveway and out onto the street. Our house was on a curve so the street would take me around to the front yard where I would rather unceremoniously fall off of it and then push it to the back yard where I would repeat the whole process. It didn't take long for me to grow into the bicycle and it was a means to freedom that walking couldn't provide.

My dad and uncle ran the garage in Tyner and it was one of my favorite hangouts. There was a scrap pile behind the garage and I would always investigate that for any treasures. My favorites were old ignition coils and ball/roller bearing assemblies, especially the larger ones which might yield some large ball bearings. I even found a Model A horn which I discovered was driven by a little 12-volt motor and which I kept for years, although I have no idea why. Ignition coils were another story. One could peel off the outer housing and get to two coils of wire. The primary coil was fairly easy to extract and came in useful on many occasions. The secondary winding was very fine wire and was usually buried in some kind of tar which made it impossible to salvage.

Walking along the railroad was something we did frequently. One of our regular destinations was the 'duck pond' which straddled the railroad near the Rose Road crossing. Once a couple of us walked to Plymouth which was a good hike, especially both ways.

Again, as I recall, Spring would bring out the marbles and the kites. I was never very good at either. While some kids managed to acquire quite a sack of marbles, I don't think I ever wound up with more than I started with.

I never had much luck at building a kite so had to purchase them. It seems they cost a dime but I could be wrong. At some point, I had built a 'cigar box radio' which, as the name implies, was a radio built in a cigar box. It was a single tube radio with all the necessary batteries, which being before transistors, was most of the radio. I discovered that using some of the wire from a salvaged ignition coil and flying my kite on the end of it made a heck of an antenna. I just had to make sure to avoid power lines and thunder storms.











Roland "Red" Goheen, who lived across the railroad tracks from us, flew a kite about every spring. I don't know how much string he used but it would be so high that one had to look carefully to see it and he would leave it flying all night.

Plymouth had two movie theaters and my friend Paul and I would spend a lot of Sunday afternoons at the Rialto Theater. Our parents would drop us off about 1:00 pm and pick us up around 6:00 pm. The movies were always a double feature of Westerns, comedies, gangster and war movies. We each would buy a big box of popcorn for thirty cents when we went in. When we turned twelve, the price of admission went from twenty cents to a half dollar. Just another cost of growing up, I guess.

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We are starting something new this year. If you would like to make a suggestion for the next Alumni of the year, please bring your suggestion to the Alumni Banquet, along with a paragraph explaining why you are nominating this individual. If you will not be attending the banquet please Mail your suggestion to:

Gene Reese, 128 Gemini Lane, Walkerton, Indiana 46574

		<b>TYNER HIGH SCHOOL</b>		<b>CLASS OF 1963</b>			
SHARON LOWRY	JANET BAUGHMAN		CLAUDE YORK PRINCIPAL		TOM BIGGINS	BOB JACOBSON	
							
JERRY ERNSBERGER	RICHARD BERGLUND	BILL NORRIS	WAYNE PONTIUS	LINDA JONES	SHARRY TRUAX	ROY ALLEN	JOE HOEFFER
							
ELWOOD RENZ	HELEN LONG	JOANNA HUFFMAN	BILL BIGGINS	DARCIA BATES	JEAN VANES	WINDY CURTIS	SHERYL STILES
							
NORMAN LONG	BECKY DIPERT	NILAS MILLER	BEN BURGER	LARRY BRANER	CAROL WILLIAMS	LEROY CRUM	LOREN BERKSHIRE

Tompsett PHOTOS.

**1963 LEGACY GRADUATING CLASS  
OF TYNER HIGH SCHOOL**



# TYNER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BANQUET

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE 105th ANNUAL  
TYNER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BANQUET  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023  
SWAN LAKE RESORT CONFERENCE CENTER  
5203 PLYMOUTH-LAPORTE TRAIL, PLYMOUTH, INDIANA  
REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL HOUR BEGINS AT 4:30 P.M.  
DINNER BEGINS AT 5:45 P.M.

## DINNER MENU SERVED FAMILY STYLE

Roast chicken, Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, butter egg noodles, green bean w/caramelized onions or California blend vegetables, rolls & butter, salad w/ranch/French/balsamic vinaigrette dressing, coffee, water, iced tea or lemonade, assorted dessert bar

We hope you enjoyed the 2023 edition of the Tyner Newsletter  
and hope to see you at the "Banquet."

Linda – Gene – Larry – Rose (Rosalie) – Susie – Connie – Pat

Please Return This Form To

Gene Reese  
128 Gemini Lane  
Walkerton, IN 46574  
Email: [genereese@yahoo.com](mailto:genereese@yahoo.com)  
Cell: (574) 952-0616

**Please Return Reservations by  
July 22, 2023  
Make Checks Payable to  
Tyner Alumni Association**

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if your mailing address or email has changed

Total Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$28.00/person      Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Class \_\_\_\_\_

Your Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Land Line \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you and your guest want to be seated with another class? If so, which class? \_\_\_\_\_

Alumni of the Year 2024 suggestion \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Mueller  
(email) [Mueller11035@comcast.com](mailto:Mueller11035@comcast.com)  
11035 Cougar Drive  
Granger, IN 46530