

# Bushy Tales

Dedicated to all who attended London Central High School  
at Bushy Park, London England from  
1952 to 1962



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Visit the Bushy Park Website at <http://www.bushypark.org/>

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVES



**1953 – Mariann (Walton)  
McCornack (d. 2022)**



**1954 – Betsy (Neff) Cote  
[betsycote@Atlanticbb.net](mailto:betsycote@Atlanticbb.net)**

**1955 – Nancie Anderson (d. 2016)**



**1956 – Edie (Williams) Wingate  
[WingW@aol.com](mailto:WingW@aol.com)**



**1957 – William Douglas  
[rwmDouglas@gmail.com](mailto:rwmDouglas@gmail.com)**



**1958 – Pat (Terpening) Owen  
[nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net)**



**1959 – John "Mike" Hall  
[MGHall446@gmail.com](mailto:MGHall446@gmail.com)**



**1960 – Ren Briggs  
[rpbjr@frontiernet.net](mailto:rpbjr@frontiernet.net)**



**1961 – Betsy (Schley) Slepetz  
[bslepetz@comcast.net](mailto:bslepetz@comcast.net)**



**1962 – Dona (Hale) Ritchie  
[Dona.Ritchie@att.net](mailto:Dona.Ritchie@att.net)**

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**A little reminder to all –if/when you change your email address, please let Pat Terpening (58) Owen [nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nemoamasa@sbcglobal.net) or me know, if you want to continue to receive the newsletter. Too many times we only find out when you send us an email saying you haven't received the newsletter in few months. Thanks, guys.**

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**Classmates Who  
Have Transferred to  
the Eternal Duty  
Station**



**Ruth Joann Lund (55) Bethea**

Ruth Joann Bethea, 83 of Springfield, VA passed away on February 10, 2021, after a long illness. She was born in Washington, DC and was the daughter of Rolland and Pearl (Farr) Lund. She leaves four children from her marriage to William Bethea: Lorraine Bethea (Francis Popecki); Wm Larry Bethea, Jr (Suzanne); Robert Bethea (Melissa); and Walter Bethea; six grandchildren (Ryan Whitmoyer, Br Louis “Robert” Bethea OP, Brian, Kristin, Diana, and Jordan Bethea); and two great grandchildren, Natalie and Nathan. She also leaves behind a loving sister Diane (James) McMahan, brother-in-law Richard Essex, her partner Dan Schwaner, and many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. She was predeceased by her sister Lois Essex and daughter-in-law Kathleen Weston Bethea.

Services are private due to pandemic restrictions.

I wondered why I didn't get a Christmas card from her last year, but thought she was not sending, as so many people were doing.

She was class of 1955.

Pat Terpening (58) Owen

## **Memories of Bushy Park**

**Robert Harrold (60) maintains a Bushy Park website at [BushyPark.org](http://BushyPark.org) Among the things you can see at this website is a “Guestbook”, in which many website visitors have left comments. There are many entries, dating back to April 2007.**

**Here is a direct link: [Bushy Park Guest Book](#)**



**From: Loren (Larry) Haatvedt (59)**

Before launching this memo, I too want to thank Bill and Pat for helping keep the memories of Bushy Park alive, even as some gaps in my memory are starting to appear. But hey, what's left is outstanding!

I was born in Decorah, Iowa on October 27, 1941. I was a big baby and my dad told me that several ladies looking through the window at us newbies in our bassinets remarked when spotting me-“he must be back for a checkup!”

My dad was a professor at Luther College in Decorah when WWII broke out. He joined the navy and was assigned to Intelligence and saw action in India and Sweden where he worked with the Norwegian underground. My mom and I sailed to Oslo, Norway in 1946 to join him and stayed for a year.

Back to Decorah in 1947 until 1950 when dad was recalled and we moved to Maryland where he joined naval intelligence until that war ended. He stayed in that field and joined the CIA. That association moved us to Iceland in 1957 where he was the Second Secretary at the American Embassy in Reykjavik aka CIA station chief. Iceland had a legal Communist Party at that time and he was busy. I remember men coming to our house at 0200 hours for meetings with my dad downstairs in the study. Very hush-hush. I spent my junior year of high school attending class at the NATO airfield at Keflavik. There were only about 45 kids in the school and we all took correspondence courses, under the supervision of a proctor, from the University of Maryland. Then in 1958 I was off to Bushy Park.

I stayed in the dorm with Charlie Besancon, Lloyd Bess and I think it was John Malin who was the fourth. Riding the Tube into London on weekends was unforgettable and occasional raids of the cafeteria for some milk made life interesting! I played sports and the basketball bus ride to and from practice at a nearby gym was made even more memorable due to the famous London fog. Our assistant coach stood in the stairwell at the front door to alert the driver of a parked car ahead as we inched along the curb on the way back to Bushy . Our trip to Munich for the Armed Forces H.S. basketball tournament was a blast. Even better was the senior class trip to Rome. A bunch of us rented motor scooters and drove to the Med for some sand and sun fun.

After graduation we moved back to the States, this time to Alexandria, Virginia and I was off to Luther College in the Fall. I graduated in 1963 with a degree in Business Administration and after not finding a good job, joined the Navy’s flight program, and then off to Pensacola, Florida. I got jets after primary training and went to Meridian, MS and Kingsville, TX where I got my wings in 1965. Then to NAS Boca Chica in Florida (next to Key West) for training in the F-4 Phantom and in 1966 joined Fighter Squadron 32 (VF-32) and deployed aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVAS-42) and headed to Viet Nam. After a second cruise to the Med, I extended my tour of duty to go to California and joined VF-121, home of Top Gun, as an F-4 instructor and Landing Signal Officer. I Departed the Navy in 1969 and began my airline career at Eastern Airlines in 1970. Got married and have 2 sons.

I stayed at Eastern for 18 years and left in 1989 during the strike that ultimately ended the airline. I did some flight instructing for several carriers and flew freight for both Gemini Air Cargo(DC-10-30F and MD-11F) and FedEx Express(B-727) until 2013 when I joined the FAA as an Air Safety Inspector. I’m still there today, not sure why? Oh yes, the paycheck!

My mother told me once that she and my dad wondered if they had been unfair to me by pulling me out of high school in Virginia to go to Iceland. I told her that what I gained, especially at Central High School in Bushy Park, England, was a gift beyond measure and without it I may never have developed my love of travel and adventure. I am fortunate to have had that experience and I’m sure many of my classmates who went to Bushy would agree!

## Letters to the Editor



**From: Pat Terpening (58) Owen**

Bill - received the following from Sean Kelly . He'd like us to put it in the next newsletter.

Are there any classmates who went into the ministry besides Sheldon (Fr. Aaron) Peters (57) Rev. Dennis D. Schurter (60)? If so, Sean would like to get your input on how or if high school had any impact or bearing on your going into the ministry.

Bushy Park was an HQ. There was always a rumour, and it seemed to have been borne out in part - maybe!!!! - that there was a room or two on the base that was underground.

It's unlikely that any students would have known about it...but when I wrote "Home Bases" a GI mentioned he thought there was (I have heard this about many bases). Of course BP has been demolished and is back to parkland - but maybe - just maybe someone will get interested in ground scanning it.

So, could you ask the following question on my behalf:



"Sean Kelly (LCHS '78 and author of "From the Faculty Lounge" and "Home Bases: Memories & Stories of US Military Bases Around London" has written to us to ask if any early days Bushy Park Bobcats may recollect anything about the headquarters building of the base. While he thinks it's probably unlikely, he asks the following: "Specifically - do any of you have any evidence of there being a part of the Bushy Park HQ that was underground? It would have been a particular area and there would have been guards standing in front of a door.

Anybody?"

Sean says he continues to love the memories we have - and that he also hopes to pursue this a little more later this year. While he's thinks it's unlikely that there was an underground area - a GI who served there mentioned it in Home Bases. He wants to tie up what for him is a 'loose end'.

**--FINIS--**