

Messick High School (MHS) Class Of 1970 | 40-Year Reunion - Recap!

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, Aug 16, 2010 -- *"Been There, Done That, Got The T-Shirt" and other "stuff!"* Saturday, **August 7, 2010** was an exciting date for more than **160** classmates, friends, family members and spouses of Messick High School (Class Of 1970) as we enjoyed an evening of fun, friendship and fellowship! For some it was the **FIRST TIME** in 40 years of seeing so many classmates! For "all" it was a time (re)connect, reflect on various eventful days at Messick along with sharing individual/collective life's passages!

The **Lichterman Nature Center** was an ideal location and allowed the *Reunion Committee* to provide a warm/inviting environment to enjoy a superbly catered meal (Neely's Interstate Bar-B-Q), audio/visual presentations, gifts, along with professional photography services (M. Susan Wilson - www.WilsonVisualMemories.com). ** Photographs still available for purchase!

Gifts included bricks from the original building, framed Messick History posters ("Swiped/Modified" from the Class Of 1969 ... shhh! 😊), official State Of Tennessee/House Of Representatives Proclamation(s) which reads in part ... ***"Whereas, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary educational institutions that have strengthened our society by producing graduates of the highest caliber who have gone on to excel as responsible and productive citizens"*** ... additionally, ***"commemorating the 102nd Anniversary of Messick, a special place that served as a home away from home for its students and a neighborhood school where quality education was often commingled with musical excellence."*** Thanks to (Representative/97th House District) Jim Coley - MHS Class Of 1970. Speaking of ***"musical excellence,"*** one of the gifts was a treasured favorite from my personal 8-Track collection - B.J. Thomas's Greatest Hits which includes the song ***"Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head."*** **WARNING:** Per the 8-Track's Label: ***"Unauthorized duplication/recording of songs are strictly prohibited and punishable to the fullest extent of the law."*** (Or similar wording) **Translation:** Don't be making no "bootleg" copies of the 8-Track! 😞

Of special recognition was an official Messick High School Class Of 1970 (Reunion Committee) Diploma for **Sherri Green Stephens!** Sherri has the distinct honor of having a MHS 1970 Yearbook photograph as both a **Senior** (Class Of 1970) and **Junior** (Class Of 1971)! Is that cool or what!? 😊 Anyway, Sherri - as a Junior - had enough school credits (not sure if from **remedial** or **voluntary** summer classes - **wink**) that she received a **Certificate Of Credit** which allowed her to "graduate" in 1970! **BUT** ... she never received a Diploma 🙄 Well Sherri, we're all proud of you and honor you with your (long overdue) Diploma!

For **Connie Leonard Devine** this was her **FIRST** reunion since 1970! Representing Messick's *"Administrative Elite"* was **Coach Neil Cordell** ... still "blending in" as a student! The youngest attendee was **Martine Kelly Hobson's** *"20 something"* son who was "very impressed" with (his) mom's class reunion! The oldest attendee (and my **"personal favorite"**) was **Miss Alberta Davis** - my 82-year young mother ... **representing all our "moms and pops"** who nurtured/guided/supported us to be the best! I think we turned out pretty good ... professionals, lawyers, administrators, accountants, self-employed, retired, blue collar, white collar, clergy/ministry-related, doctors, (rocket) scientists, educators, grandparents ... we done good! 😊

We also took time to recognize and reflect on the memories of our deceased classmates ... some as recent as the last two months. 😞 NOTE: I'll provide an UPDATED "memorial" page as I gather new information about other deceased classmates.

Besides the “traditional” trivia questions about Messick and/or 1970, the Class Of 1970 can “claim” a few **FIRSTS/ONLY** accomplishments! In 1970 the Messick Volleyball Team – Coached by Mrs. Varnadoe and Mrs. Bailey [Both the Junior-Senior and Sophomore Teams] won **FIRST PLACE IN THE DISTRICT AND MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE!**

Additionally, the **“Unofficial Research Department”** (me) has revealed – unless/until someone can prove otherwise – that the **Class Of 1970** was the **FIRST** class in the history of Messick High School to graduate her **FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH** and **FIFTH** African American students ... **Greg Davis, Herb Hart, Foristene Hobbs, Bertha Lee Maxwell** and **Fred Story!** Although I was the **FIRST** ... last name “Davis” ... we **ALL** were **Messick’s FIRST African-American Graduates** ... all from the **Class Of 1970!** ✨

We (Reunion Committee) Need Your Feedback! We don't know all the “special moments” from the 40-Year Reunion ... so we need YOU to tell us!

Recent e-mail feedback has revealed information on other deceased classmates along with updated address information for other “missing” classmates. In addition to individual/personal Facebook pages/pokes **PLEASE USE OUR WEBSITE MESSAGE BOARD TO POST YOUR COMMENTS/FEEDBACK!** If you’ve uploaded photographs to your Facebook page please make them “public” to allow anyone to view them.

I’ll ultimately link everyone’s photographs to/from our www.Facebook.Messick1970.com “connection,” create a centralized slide show AND create – for those who would want one – a 40-Year Reunion photobook.

Again, **PLEASE USE OUR WEBSITE MESSAGE BOARD TO POST YOUR COMMENTS/FEEDBACK!** If you have photographs – and don’t know how to “showcase” them ... e-mail them to me and I’ll post them! **Mike Hood** (MHS '69) - Thanks for the radio/WKNO “exposure!” **Bert Lord** - Thanks for the Band Reunion/MHS70 Reunion “exposure!” **Sherry Novak Doan** - Thanks for the Classmates.com “exposure!” **Carol Moore Lovelady** (www.LoveLadyConsulting.com) - Thanks for the yearbook photos scanning! **David Garrett** - Thanks for the link exchange at [www.Messick1969.net!](http://www.Messick1969.net)

For everyone that attended ... **THANK YOU** for making our (first) 40-Year Reunion an overwhelming success! As we gear up for our next reunion (possibly a 45th versus a 50th) we’ll need your continued support to keep our directory/contact information current.

“The Older I Get – The Better I Was!” 🍷

Messick High School – Class Of 1970 | 40-Year Reunion Committee

Jerry Daniel, Nick Carter, Marshall Cummings, Lynn Bennett Doyle, Greg Davis, Connie Caldwell McIntyre, Sherry Novak Doan, Vicki Ray Robertson, Stephanie Rush Brigman, Sam Tune, Robyn West McFall and Cindy Williams Land.

“I Love You All And There’s Absolutely Nothing You Can Do About It!”

Greg 😊

478/318-0471 | administrator@messick1970.com
www.Messick1970.com
www.Facebook.Messick1970.com