

The RED & BLACK



COLONEL CARL C. JOHNSON, JR., CLASS OF 1944

2017 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

THE LAST GRADUATE OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMAN ACADEMY

After graduating in 1944, he was accepted to and attended The Ohio State University before being drafted into the Army in March of 1945. It was in the Army that he was assigned to Officer Pilot Training at the storied Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. He became the last man to join the famous Tuskegee Airmen.

Today, Johnson is 91 years old, living in the State of Virginia, but between now and then he served his country with distinction and went on to become an aviation expert.

He graduated from his pilot training in October 1946 as a multi-engine bomber pilot, but too late to fly in World War II. He was discharged from the Army in 1947. He returned to college and joined the 37th Division of the Ohio National Guard as an Air Defense Artillery Officer in 1949 before being recalled to active duty as an Artillery Battery Commander.

During the Korean War, he performed Army aviation duties and intelligence gathering and was an artillery pilot. After the war, he served in Japan before returning to the U.S. as an aviation staff officer at Fort Meade, Maryland. He

was in the Antilles Command in the Caribbean and attended Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

His military aviation career continued and from 1963 to 1965, he was the deputy aviation officer with the XVII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg and while there participated in operations in the Dominican Republic in 1965.

During the Vietnam War, Colonel Johnson commanded an aviation battalion consisting of seven companies and received a Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions at Nguy Hien. He was later awarded The Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces in October 1969 and was also awarded ten Air Medals during the war.

Later, he was assigned to the Inspector General Department of the Army Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and from 1973 until 1976 served as the Army Department of Defense representative to the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington. He retired from the military in June 1976, as a Colonel but

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COLONEL CARL C. JOHNSON, JR. Class of 1944, has been chosen the 2017 Outstanding Alumnus. Colonel Johnson graduated from Bellaire High School in 1944 and literally took off with careers in the military and private sector that epitomize the spirit of the Big Reds.

Johnson worked his way through the Bellaire school system via Indian Run School, Central School and Bellaire High School, where he lettered in football and track. He was also accomplished academically, graduating in the upper fourth in class standings.

Spring BANQUET 2017

The Annual Bellaire High School Alumni Association Spring Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017, at Undo's West in St. Clairsville, Ohio. We will be celebrating 112 years of Pride, Spirit & Tradition.

In addition to honoring the 2017 Outstanding Alumnus Carl Johnson, Jr., Alumni David K. Liberati, Class of 1975, Lucinda Johnston Maupin, Class of 1980, Tammy McCabe Crozier, Class of 1984, and Dr. Ronald D. Presutti, Class of 1969, will be honored for their achievements in the Arts, Civic, Business and Health and Medical Fields.

The Alumni Association will welcome new members of the Class of 2017 and will honor two of those members with Senior Service Awards. The BHS Endowment Board will also present various scholarships during the dinner ceremony. The 50 Year Class of 1967 will be honored.

Social and cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and must be purchased in advance either by mail or on our website at www.bellairebigredsalumni.com.

Message from the President



Your President,

Arleen (Brunori) Sabatino
Class of 1976

Hi Big Reds Alumni!

Happy Spring to everyone! Changes are coming your way. We all know, that in today's world most people survive with their iphones, ipads & laptops by their side. It seems to be the fastest and easiest way to go as far as communicating now days. Whether we like it or not, it is the 21st Century and times have changed. Please read carefully the "IMPORTANT" article about the Red & Black.

The Alumni Board has been doing good things for our

schools. We are very proud and committed to helping our schools and students of the district. The board voted recently to purchase a new sound system for the High School's Alumni Auditorium that still holds pep rallies, band concerts, Queen of Queen auditions, assemblies & Thespians' plays. The system was purchased from a company in Cleveland with a price tag of \$6500. We feel present and future students will benefit from this for years to come.

We have also been busy fundraising for the Education Assistance Fund to insure money is provided for the enhancement of learning for our students. Our annual Ohio Lottery ticket sale was held in February. In March we

held a Night at the Races. Both fundraisers were successful and profitable. All proceeds go towards the fund and are distributed equally to all three schools. Last Fall, the board donated two thousand dollars to each school toward development of technology and classroom projects that directly affect every day learning. Tax deductible donations to help support this fund can be made to BHS Alumni Association c/o Education Assistance Fund PO Box 307 Bellaire, Ohio 43906.

Looking ahead to Spring, the Bellaire Local School District will be asking residents for their support on May 2nd to approve a 2.5 mill emergency operating levy. The Alumni Board supports this endeavor so future students will benefit and excel with more educational opportunities. Please consider voting YES for our students.

Next on our agenda is the 112th Annual Spring Banquet which is being held on May 20th at Undo's in St. Clairsville. We will honor the 50 year class of '67, Mr. Carl Johnson as the Outstanding Alumnus, Achievement Award winners and announce two students from the Class of 2017 for the Senior Service Award. Also, the Endowment Board will announce scholarship winners from the senior class. Make plans now to attend this event where many past and present Big Reds will be honored.

Last, if you have not paid your 2017 membership dues please do so now. These dues are necessary to continue the Spirit, Pride & Tradition that all alumni have experienced at BHS!!!

In closing, I want to wish everyone a safe Summer...See you in the Fall! GO BIG REDS!!!

IMPORTANT!



THE RED & BLACK NEWSLETTER WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED

THE RED & BLACK NEWSLETTER of the BHS Alumni Association is produced and has been mailed to all paid members of the Association twice a year, in the spring and fall. Additionally, all members of reunion classes have received the newsletter in the spring.

Because of the increasing costs of production and mailing and after careful thought and discussion, the Alumni Board Members have voted to discontinue the mailing of this

newsletter. The Red & Black will continue to be produced twice a year and will be emailed to all paid members of the Alumni Association, so long as you provide your email address. We will also publish the newsletter on our website, www.bellairebigredsalumni.com. Our website is a great resource to stay up to date on BHS Alumni happenings. You can also pay dues, buy memorabilia and register and purchase banquet tickets through the website.

Please subscribe to the newsletter through bellairebigredsalumni@gmail.com. Your dues can be paid on the website, too. **If you are a paid dues member and wish to continue to receive the newsletter by mail, please send a written**

request to BHS Alumni Association, Attention: Newsletter Committee, P.O. Box 307, Bellaire, Ohio 43906. The written request must include your name and address.

By foregoing the postage costs, we will better be able to use our limited resources to continue the mission of the Bellaire High School Alumni Association, to promote the interests of Bellaire Local School District, the students thereof, and all alumni of said high school! Thank you for your continued support.

Coach Lucille Fitch Reunion - Sept. 2016

During the 2016 Homecoming festivities, the Alumni Association hosted a reunion, which honored esteemed Head Girls' Basketball Coach Lucille Fitch. The event,

held at the Sons of Italy Lodge in Bellaire, Ohio the Friday before Homecoming, was a great success. Coach Fitch was reunited with over fifty former players. She, then led

the Homecoming Parade through town and to Nelson Field, where the Big Reds were victorious!



Coach Fitch, escorted by Kathy Wallace ('70), led the Homecoming Parade through town and to Nelson Field.



Darlene Shaw, Coach Lucille Fitch, and Rosalie Snyder Wenckoski ('56) enjoyed the reunion festivities.



Cindy Decker ('68), Meg Gianangelli Bizzarri ('68), Toni Brunori Sechrest ('68), Ruth Snell ('68) and Jeanie Wade ('68), enjoyed reminiscing with Coach Fitch and remembering their winning season.

Bellaire Alumni Give Back



The Board of Trustees of the Bellaire Alumni Association established the Education Assistance Fund. This fund supports development and promotes other classroom projects that directly affect the day-to-day learning of the students in the Bellaire Local School District.

Through fundraising events, donations from the association's membership and our community business friends, the Alumni Association recently presented each school with \$2,000.

Presenting checks were Alumni Board members, Cheryl Wallace, Bob Koteles and Cindy Badia. Principals receiving the checks were Derick Ault, Elementary School Principal, Cassie Anderson, High School Principal and Derrick McAfee, Middle School Principal.

Tax deductible donations to help support this fund can be made to BHS Alumni Association c/o Education Assistance Fund, P.O. Box 307 Bellaire, OH 43906.

Give Back to BHS...

SUPPORT YOUR ALMA MATER

All donations to the BHS Association are tax deductible.

FEBRUARY RAFFLE WINNERS

The Alumni Association has been actively fundraising over the last few months for our Education Assistance Committee. The money raised for this Committee is used to help meet the needs of all the students in the Bellaire Local District. As part of the fundraising efforts, a February Lottery Raffle took place. The following are February's winners:

Dan Frizzi, Jr.	Ed Good	Kellie Albright
Sharon Kinder	Shauna Walker	Catherine Tuttle
Andy Baricklow	Kathy Wallace	Kim Hart

Special thanks to Catherine Tuttle and Kim Hart who donated their winnings to the Committee! In addition to the Raffle, a Night at the Races was held on March 4th. Special thanks to all of the sponsors:

Avon - Barb and Jason Ayers	Bev's Floral & Gifts	Tri-Son Concrete
Bauknecht-Altmeier Funeral Home	Chirp's Auto Body	Turn It Out Dance Academy
Bellaire Dairy Queen	Denny's Blue Angel	Vivid Graphix
Bellaire EMS	Frizzi Law Office	West Texas Roadhouse
Bellaire Touchdown Club	ICR Equipment Rental & Supply	Amy Busic
Bellaire Volunteer Fire Department	LaRoche Tree Service	Dr. Erica Booth, DDS
Belmont Savings Bank	New Cut Tool	State Rep. Jack Cera
	Sons of Italy	

Class
REUNION
B o o k l e t s

Class reunion committees are reminded to submit their class reunion books/ mailing list to the alumni association so we can keep our mailing list up-to-date!

Send to: Shauna Walker
BHS Alumni Association
PO Box 307
Bellaire, OH 43906



Visit Us

ONLINE

bellairebigredsalumni.com



LEVY NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

ON ELECTION DAY May 2, 2017, the Bellaire Local School District will once again be on the ballot requesting emergency operating money. We are only requesting 2.5 mill in new taxes.

The main priority is the restoration of the academic programs that will allow our students the same opportunities as similar districts. These include: music education by specialists in grades k-8, art education by specialists in k-8, physical education by specialists in k-8. We now have students who reside in our district exiting to attend neighboring districts because of the availability of these specialist programs. If this levy passes, the Board of Education is committed

to bring back music next year and potentially art. With new money generated, other programs would follow. This will give our students the benefit to excel with more opportunities.

In November 1998, the voters in the Bellaire Local School District voted in favor of a bond issue to support the construction of a new elementary and middle school and to remodel the current high school. This initial voted millage, through a process outlined by Ohio Revised Code and administered by the County Auditor, has been reduced to an effective millage rate of 2.65 mill. Based on current collection estimates there will be enough money in Bellaire Schools' Bond Retirement Fund to retire those Bonds (pay them

off) following December 2017 collections; not 2021 as was originally planned. In other words, the bond issue for the construction of the schools will come off voter's tax bills.

Additionally, should the voters in the Bellaire Local School District approve the 2.5 mill proposed emergency operating levy on May 2, collections will begin January 2018. Under this scenario, based on current collection estimates, the millage for the bond issue would come off the tax duplicate when the new millage for the emergency operating levy is added on.

Bellaire STEM Academy is up and running

CREATIVITY, innovation, and self-belief are must-have skills in the ever-changing economic and higher education landscape. These are some skills that students learn by studying science, technology, engineering, and math- collectively known as STEM.

Our world craves a population who can ask great questions, critically analyze information, form independent opinions, and be good and happy people. With this in mind, Bellaire Local School District has launched their STEM Academy.

A 2002 Bellaire High School graduate has returned to the school district, through the East Central Ohio ESC, as the Supervisor of STEM Academy and 21st Century Learning.

Ben Doyle's career in education has spanned from working at a prestigious, private elementary school in Manhattan's Upper East Side to most recently in higher education as Chief of Staff for JesuitNET Global of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities where he led design and production of online college programs.

"Bellaire is home. I am invested in this community and thrilled for the opportunity to help our school district," said Doyle.

Initially, the STEM start-up was launched through the State University of New York's National Education Foundation STEM+ Program. An individualized, incentivized reading and math online program has been implemented

at the Elementary and Middle Schools. Online courses for credit recovery and test preparation are available for the High School, while over 2,000 free professional development courses are available to Bellaire community members.

"The incentive program rewards student improvement, not just the highest scores, but the highest gains," said Doyle. "It fits nicely with the values and traditions of hard work and perseverance for which Bellaire is known."

"I think it is great that there are prizes that we can earn by working hard to do better in school," lamented Middle School student Allie Ault.

The availability of a large catalog of online courses and the student incentive program also allows the district to be more involved in the community. The incentive program includes many gift certificates from Bellaire businesses along with t-shirts, headphones, and tablets.

Although still in its early stages, students and faculty have bought in. "It is great to have so much to offer the students that will allow them to grow without boundaries. The self-confidence and pride that they are showing in their academic performances and projects, have truly sparked excitement and interest that they are actually carrying home," said Middle School teacher Kellie Cusick.

Teacher Chris Arno agreed, "I can see the growth in each individual student's performance. They are becoming more independent. I believe

the Academy is a huge plus to our district, which has already been flourishing in the past years with state performance."

Technology and infrastructure upgrades have been key to the Academy's launch. The district is moving closer to one-to-one technology with Chromebooks and tablets being distributed among grade levels.

"The most important relationship in education is between teacher and student. We have great students and committed teachers," Doyle said. "We will remain focused on nurturing the natural talents and curiosity that exist in all children. Students need an environment where they want to learn. The STEM Academy helps students find and pursue interests that may not have been available to them before."

Students are already realizing the benefits and seeing results. As fifth grade student Cameron Ferguson noted "I love the STEM Academy and using the Chromebooks. It has been awesome, it helps me see new things so that when I do them in class, it makes it a lot easier. It really helps me to do well with my math."

The district continues to look for ways to expand opportunities for students. Some examples are the introduction of Lego Education and the newly formed After Hours Academy. For more information, you can contact Ben Doyle at ben.doyle@bellairesd.org.

Do you have BHS memorabilia?

Do you have BHS memorabilia, like a game ball or band uniform? Or perhaps you have come across your high school graduation program? Don't throw it away! The Alumni Association maintains the Archives Room and displays BHS memorabilia on the third floor of the High School. Please contact Bob Koteles at 740-676-5490, if you have items you wish to donate.

Also, if you are having a Class Reunion and would like to tour the Archives Room and high school, please contact Bob in advance to make arrangements. The Alumni Association wants to keep you connected to BHS.

BHS Class of 1949: "Joyous and Ever Loyal"

For almost seventy years, The BHS Class of 1949 has been a "Joyous and ever Loyal" group. Their affection for dedication to Bellaire High School has remained strong.

Nearly twenty years ago, the class established, through the Alumni Association, The Class of '49 Fund. Over the years, the Class of '49 has raised and donated thousands of dollars to their beloved BHS and her students.

For the past several years, the Class of '49 has directed their money to support the arts by being a major sponsor of the Thespians Spring Musical.

Unfortunately, age is taking a toll on the Class of '49's numbers. They fear the good works they started nearly twenty years ago will end soon without the help of others.

Anyone who has a happy memory of or a soft spot for the arts, especially The Thespians, can help The Class of '49 keep their good works for the arts available by making a donation to the Alumni Association earmarked "Class of '49 Fund."

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK SALE

Since the half-price brick sale was such a success, we have decided to keep the sale going for a while longer. If you have not purchased a brick for yourself or for a family member, now is a great time to do so. Personalize it with a name, date, in honor of or in memory of or whatever you wish it to say. The bricks also make a great gift for that hard to buy for person. The 4" x 8" brick is \$50, the 8" x 8" brick is \$125. If you ever get a chance, stop by the school and check out this beautiful project on Alumni Way.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ 4" x 8" Brick @ \$50⁰⁰ (3 lines, 15 characters each)

_____ 8" x 8" Brick @ \$125⁰⁰ (6 lines, 15 characters each)

Please call for pricing on 16 x 16 and 32 x 32 granite pavers.

Please print clearly in the boxes below. 4" x 8" bricks can have up to 3 lines of type. 8" x 8" bricks can have up to 6 lines. Each line can have up to 15 characters, including spaces and punctuation. If ordering more than one brick, please make copies of this form.

All purchase are tax deductible. Make check payable to the Bellaire High School Alumni Association and mail to: Commemorative Brick Project, P.O. Box 307, Bellaire OH 43906.

TO PURCHASE BRICKS, USE THE ATTACHED ORDER FORM OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BELLAIREBIGREDSALUMNI.COM

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **BELLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND MAIL TO P.O. BOX 307, BELLAIRE, OH 43906**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT **BOB KOTELES AT (740) 676-5490**

HOMECOMING 2017



Friday, September 29th
Alumni Social Sons of Italy Lodge

Saturday, September 30th
Parade, Football Game, Reverse Raffle

2017 Distinguished Alumnus continued from page 1

continued to work in aviation as a civilian, first as commissioner of airports for the City of Cleveland. Later, he moved to Pittsburgh and was Allegheny County Deputy Director of Aviation at Pittsburgh International Airport

He received two international awards for airport snow removal and retired from the airport in 1981. He then became a litigation expert regarding snow and ice removal on airport runways.

His retirement was short-lived, and in 1985, he was part of a two year expansion project at

Fort Lauderdale International Airport, while commuting back and forth to Boston as a litigation expert witness before officially retiring in 1987.

Johnson is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and has acquired credits towards a master's degree in systems management. He holds 24 decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 27 clusters and the Bronze Star.

In 2007, he and the other Tuskegee Airmen were collectively awarded the Congressional Gold Medal at the U.S. Capitol.

In September 2016, he was featured in an

article in the Washington Post recognizing his service as the last man to be given the title of Tuskegee Airman.

He is a charter member of the Army Aviation Association of America, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

Johnson is married to Nancy Johnson and has two children, Michael G. Johnson of Port Richey, FL and Karen M. Johnson of Hamilton, VA.

Colonel Johnson will be presented with the 2017 Outstanding Alumnus Award at the Annual Spring Banquet on May 20, 2017.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT -- Levi Crozier

Levi Crozier is preparing for his second season as the head varsity baseball coach at Bedford High School, a Division I school near Cleveland, Ohio. The Bedford High School Bearcats finished the 2016 season with a long overdue winning record of 11-10. Coach Crozier has high expectations for his 2017 squad, boasting a record high 55 student athletes vying for the roster.

Crozier is a 2010 graduate of Bellaire High School, where he maintained a 3.5 GPA and participated in three sports. At the 2010 Alumni Banquet, he was awarded the Diane Ledder Scholarship, a \$10,000.00 award presented by the BHS Endowment Board.

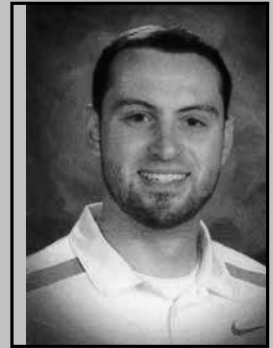
Crozier received his Bachelor of Science degree in 2014, when he graduated Cum Laude from Kent State University. He was hired just after graduation at Bedford City School District, a district educating over 3,000 students per year. He is the physical education teacher for over 400 students in grades four through six.

In addition to PE classes, he organizes and develops intramural activities for his students before and after school.

After completing his first year of teaching, he was honored when he received the "Rookie of the Year" award given to first year teachers.

In addition to coaching baseball, Crozier was named the head varsity golf coach in the fall of 2016.

He resides in Westlake, Ohio with his longtime girlfriend, Tru Reisberger. He is the son of Bill and Tammy ('84) Crozier of Bellaire and brother to Cari ('14) and Maci who is currently a sophomore at BHS. Congratulations Coach Crozier!



GIFT DONORS

Thank you to the following individuals for your gifts to the Alumni Association. Your continuing support is appreciated.

The Special Gift Fund:

Kate Simon (*In memory of Ron LeMasters*)

Connie & Skip Robinson (*In memory of Ervin "Skip" Robinson, Class of '48*)

Bert Piatt (*In memory of George Sechrest '70, Loren Porter '65 & Mary Lou Erazmus Zimbico '68*)

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Gmeindl (*In memory of Fred Seidel '53*)

Jane Heathcote

Bob, & Andrea Koteles, Matt Koteles, Julie & Girls (*In memory of*

Monica DeLong Thompson)

Frank, Arleen & Andrew Sabatino (*In Memory of Ron LeMasters*)

Kathy Wallace (*In Memory of Ron LeMasters*)

Gary & Toni Sechrest (*In memory of Ron LeMasters*)

The Education Assistance Fund:

Ruth Hanson

Frank Sabatino ('73)

Rosemary Derry Durant ('66)

Connie Crozier Bobo ('68)

Cheryl Brinkley

Gary & Toni Sechrest (*In memory of*

The Bell Tower Fund:

Nicholas Blake

John Pozzini, Jr.

Sharon Putinsky ('74)

The Class of 1949 Fund:

Marian Corbett Clark

Seniors Nominated for

SENIOR SERVICE AWARDS

A male and female graduating senior will receive the Alumni Senior Service Award at the Spring Banquet. Graduating seniors are nominated for the award by the high school teachers. Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, then, interviews the students receiving the most recommendations. The male and female winner is chosen by the entire Board, based on their nomination, interview and service. Good luck to the following nominees:

Female Nominees

Abbie Cusick

Sarah McAninch

Megan McCarthy

Sloan Porter

Male Nominees

De'Ondra Burney

Tyson Camsky

Jordon Mehlman

Todd Morris