



Elizabeth High School

WGI Class A Champions

40th Reunion

1982 - 2022

August 5, 2023 | Nazareth, Pennsylvania



Welcome...!



Welcome to our long awaited reunion!

It seems like it was only yesterday that we were all together practicing, sweating, competing, and traveling the coast. We are here to celebrate the lasting friendships we formed during our years with the EHS guard and marching band.

Thank you to those who traveled far to be here and for everyone who helped collecting addresses, gathering photographs and making this reunion possible.

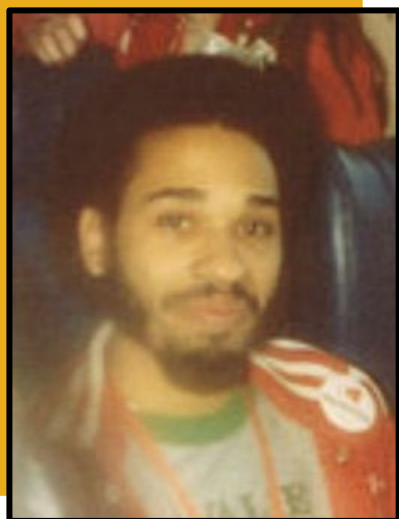
A Special thank you to Tim for hosting the reunion at his home and for cooking all the food. Thank you to Lisa and her daughter for making the pins and coming up with activities.

We hope everyone enjoys catching up with old friends and making some new ones.

August 5, 2023 | Nazareth, Pennsylvania

How it all began . . .

By Tony Hall



“In the late 70’s, I played trumpet in a cover band in Newark NJ and my former HS band director, Nelson White was the manager. One day Mr. White happened to see a DCI telecast on PBS and loved it. He asked if I would help him convert his HS band to corps style, and I agreed. Together we watched dozens of VHS tapes and read as many “how to” publications available to us. I wrote and taught the first drill with no idea of what I was doing. At the same time my friend Philip Norman and I taught ourselves how to maneuver rifles

and flags. The band got better and was now different than all the rest in the city and people took notice. So we took the next step and started a winter guard. 🙌

Someone saw our minority guard at a competition and offered to help us. He was a member of the New York Skyliners Senior Drum & Bugle Corps. A few weeks later, Nelson White, Philip and I joined the Skyliners too! The 3 of us took in as much as we could and brought it back to the band.



The next year Teddy Baker, a member of the marching band, moved to Elizabeth and joined their competition marching band. Soon after the move he called me and said both their drill & guard designer positions were open and that I should apply. I had never seen a competitive HS band before, but decided to apply and interview anyway. I guess the interview went well because I was hired the next day and Philip came with me.

There I met James Prime Jr, and the rest is history!”



Favorite Memories



“Too many to list - 1982 was a special year.”

Trent Smith

“Experiencing the excitement and cheers from the crowd during and after a performance.”

Selena “Yeoman” Dukes

“Loved watching you guys perform!”

Eileen “Stotzer” Warnock

“Band Camp and the friendships.”

Tony Mocerino

“The band camps are happy memories. I loved getting to know everyone during our meals. It was during those times that I was able to foster friendships.”

Antoinette “Napoli” Viana

“Band camp, Bus trips, Canada. First plane ride to Nashville with a good amount of girls reading Harlequin Romances. LOL”

Ellen “Hintenach” Duran



“My favorite memory is the time spent with the group. The various trips we took.”

Sharon Jackson

“The moments we awaited the posting of scores, huddled together in a cafeteria, our eyes fixated on a piece of paper taped to the wall. The excitement when we saw EHS ranked first after every prelims and every finals show was an indescribable feeling that I will never forget.”

Also, the flight back from Nashville when the pilot announced that we had won WGI and having everyone on the plane applaud for us. What an experience for teenagers. :)”

Elvie “Valdes” Krieger



Favorite Memories



“How hard we worked; whether it was band or winter guard practice. We, along with our parents, made sure we were at the early morning practices, evening practices and had us where we needed to be on the weekends. This dedication and my parents’ work ethic made me who I am today.”

Terry “Faver” Kurywczak

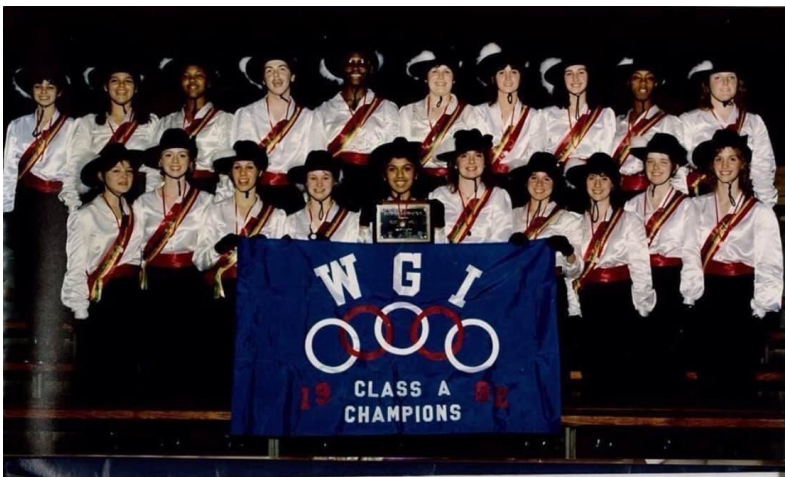
WINTER GUARD NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!

“Of course Nashville but all of my years in the band and Winter Guard were the best. From Band Camp to competitions to parades in New York. A great experience.”

Denise “Dembeck” Lavin

“I just remember the feeling of closeness of all the members.”

Roxy Valdes



“Of course the obvious answer would be standing on the floor at Nationals and hearing our name announced in first place. Maybe not a memory but what is most important is that being in band and color Guard changed my life for the better in so many ways! It brought me out of my shell and introduced me to many wonderful people!”

Lisa “Ruscansky” O’Leary

Favorite Memories

“1. When I received a letter from Tony Hall asking me to join the guard permanently. 2. Our stone cold marching out of an auditorium as if we were the biggest snobs ever, only to break out in utter laughter once away from others., 3. Tony’s “preaching” pep talks right before we performed showing we could cut up and turn off/on our laser focus as needed, 4. Standing in a single line on the floor of Vanderbilt University gymnasium holding hands front to back as we heard our school name announced as the 1982 Class A Champions (knowing no group had ever placed first in prelims AND also won their Championship!!”

Tim Bernier

“Band camp, shaving cream fights, friends, competitions, winning and our determination to work together as a team.”

Karen “Lieb” Kragh

“Beside all the hard work and fun we had together. When Heny answered the group looking for The Maine Attraction, that we were the main attraction!!!!”

Susan Farrar Peterson



“There are just sooo many. I’m not sure I could pick just one but it was so cool to see our color guard in the newspaper for weeks! Some of us even got on the front page! Imagine that and we got a police escort from the airport! When I tell that story about winning and the photographers waiting outside the plane, it still gives me goosebumps!”

Ann Marie Gianetti

wca		COLOR GUARD
1982 INDEPENDENT A		
Unit	Score	
Elizabeth HS	81.43	
Maine Attraction	77.83	
Jamestown Express	77.60	
St. Therese	75.20	
Menagerie	74.76	
Banderas	73.46	
Woonsocket HS	72.93	

Winter Guard is hard at work

Where are we now?

Antoinette “Napoli” Viana

“I went to nursing school right after high school. I graduated when I was 20. One of my first RN jobs was being a labor and delivery nurse at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. I worked there for 10 years, where I then worked with nurse midwives opening the very first in hospital freestanding birth Center. I continued to work as a clinical practitioner for the next 10 years. I married my husband Cesar and had two children. My daughter Nicole in 1994, my son Matthew in 1999. They are my greatest achievements. I transferred from labor and delivery to pediatric home care for children on ventilators. I continued to care for them in the comfort of their home. I worked 12 hr shifts with primarily three families for the next 10 years. It allowed for a flexible schedule while raising my children. We moved to Sugar Land, Texas in 2009. My husband is in retail and we knew the economy in NJ would take a hit, so we researched and concluded that a move would benefit our family. We absolutely love Sugar Land. My daughter Nicole graduated from Mary Hardin Baylor university with a bachelor of science. She continued her education and became a licensed paramedic, rising to the ranks of captain. My son Matthew has graduated from the University of Houston from the Bauer School of business. He is working in marketing and digital media. Fast forward to today, I am now not practicing nursing. I have had some health issues therefore I’ve needed to go on disability. So I’ve retired from nursing. I am enjoying my “retirement “. My daughter Nicole has married the love of her life Chloe this May. I have been truly blessed. My husband and I are definitely going through empty nesters. Excited to see where this stage of our life brings us. Looking forward to catching up with everyone. I know that I wouldn’t be as determined and confident had it not been for the friendships and experience of the guard. It gave me a sense of acceptance and feeling of belonging. We worked hard and achieved our goal. I used that formula to succeed and propel my life forward. Thank you 🙏”

Denise “Dembeck” Lavin

“I have been a dog groomer for 40 years. I own my own shop. My husband and I have 4 dogs and keep adding to them. I am involved in animal rescue and volunteer with Puppy Love Pet Rescue. All of our dogs have been adopted, coming from the Elizabeth Shelter, Montclair Animal Shelter and a little girl from North Carolina. We are always looking for foster homes in NJ either near Elizabeth or the Brick or Toms River area.”

Winter Guard is hard at work

Where are we now?

Ellen “Hintenach” Duran

“Carlos and I have been married for 35 years. We have 3 grown children, one red headed granddaughter and a grandson on the way. I did not March anywhere after high school but I do like to pick up my rifle every once in a while.”

Elvie “Valdes” Krieger

“I am a Junior H.S.Math Teacher. This will be my last year in the classroom and next year I will be an Administrator for our School District. After I graduated from EHS I attended college and taught several high school Marching Band and Indoor guards. In 1987 “My age out year” I marched with Conquest and the Garfield Cadets. My husband Rick, (who is a Product Manager for a software company) and I have been married for 30 years and met while marching in the 87 Garfield Cadets. He was a drummer for the Cadets 1985, 1986, and 1987. We both marched for the Bushwackers Senior Drum Corps in 1989, 1990 (Rick), 1992, and 1993. We moved to Arizona in 1994 and taught High School marching band. In 1995 I was the color guard “auxiliary” judge for the AZ State Marching Band Championships as well as AZ State Winter Guard Championships. At the end of the season in 1995 we decided to focus on our careers and starting a family. We have two amazing daughters (24/23), but we continue to support the marching activity we both love so much.”

Eileen “Stotzer” Warnock

“Retired from Department of Homeland Security/TSA. Married with two Beautiful daughters.”

Lisa “Ruscansky” O’Leary

“I’ve been married to Mike for 33 years. We have 3 children, Meghan is 32 and works for Marvel Comics, Tara is 28 and is a special education teacher and Michael is 23 and is a Blue Seal boiler operator. I am a bookkeeper for a company that manufactures dispensing tools and I work weekends at a local winery. I never marched after high school and always regretted that. My husband is a drummer and also marched in high school and in a junior drum corp in upstate New York.”

Roxy Valdes

“I have been a dental hygienist for 35 years. I have 2 children. A daughter Alyssa and a son Brandon.”

Winter Guard is hard at work

Where are we now?

Sharon Jackson

"I am a Sr. Manager of software engineering. Celebrating 35 years on the job. I am a widow. No children but a loving aunt and great aunt to my nieces and nephews."

Selena "Yeoman" Dukes

"Actress/fit model and voiceover artist. Married w/2 boys(25/21) Marched in NY Royal Guardsmen(83-86) /Garfield Cadets.(83-85)."

Terry "Faver" Kurywczak

"After working in public school education for 35 years, I recently retired. I proudly served the Elizabeth Public Schools for 3 years before heading to Ocean County for the next 32 years. Presently, I'm working part-time in a private school. My proudest and most honored title is being the mother to Tyler, Grace and Faith. They have grown into wonderful adults!"

Tony Mocerino

"Living my dreams. I retired from the Army National Guard after 20 years back in 2002 my last 14 years of which I flew Apache Helicopters. Been at my current job with Flexjet 25 years flying lots of different kinds of corporate jets all around the world. Married 35 years to the girl of my dreams who I met my second year of college and we have 2 boys 28 and 34. The younger one does Cyber Security work and lives close to me in Orlando and the older one is an ICU doctor in Miami. I feel truly blessed and very thankful and I give a lot of the credit to all of you great friends from high school that showed me there was a better way. No one else in my family had even graduated high school and through those friendships and my association with this group you made me believe I could do so much more. So Thank You!"

Trent Smith

"Currently: computer systems administrator. Taught numerous Marching band, Indoor Guards, and Drum corps Judged for 25 years."

Winter Guard is hard at work

Where are we now?

Tim Bernier

“The summer immediately following graduation, several of us taught Metuchen HS band for their upcoming band season. I then marched for one year with the New York Royal Guardsmen and although I was only an alternate, it was a great experience. I then worked in the ambulance transportation industry for roughly 25 years as an EMT then in administration and billing and eventually IT. At that point I finally completed my education and got a BS degree in IT and now have worked in the workforce management IT consulting business for the last 17 years. But my passion is cooking and hope to semi-retire soon and open a food truck business with my partner Jojo of 26 years. We settled 17 years ago in Nazareth, PA”

Karen “Lieb” Kragh

“I earned two master’s degrees in Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology and School Counseling and am a high school counselor in Elizabeth. I have my band jacket hanging in my office for all of my students to see.”

Susan “Farrar” Peterson

“After high school, attended Fairfield University in CT. Worked for my family business which was production woodworking and trucking. Married Lou in 1989. Spent the bulk of my career in interior design, renovation and build. I loved working on model homes. For the last 10 years I have been managing a hair salon. Sometimes stressful, but very entertaining.”

Ann Marie “Kutyla” Gianetti

“I live in Rhode Island (yes, next town is Woonsocket). I am married with 4 beautiful girls. My oldest is married and just had a baby girl! I'm a grandma!! The others are doing great. I was a systems analyst for many years and then got my degree to teach. I have been teaching first grade inclusion for 11 years. I did not march after high school but I still have my rifle and my girls have seen me twirl! I meet my husband in college after my speech and video (that Mrs. Farrar sent me) about winning WGI and then going outside to do quads!”

1982 WGI Regionals

Eastern Regional Gibbsboro, New Jersey

Photo by M.J. Harry Heidelmark



NY Royal Guardsmen
Eastern Champions
Open Class

Photo by U.S. Music Photo



Elizabeth HS
Eastern Champions
Class A

February 20-21, 1982

Sponsors: Eastern Vikings Color Guard
and National Judges Assn.

Open Class Finals

1. Royal Guardsmen, NY (.9)84.93
2. Emerald Marquis, MA (.5)84.30
3. Miller's Blackhawks, OH ... (.6)80.80
4. Conquest, NJ (.7)73.80
5. Top Hats, PA (.8)71.07
6. Gold Guard, MA (1.4)70.83
7. Fusiliers, NJ (.9)70.03
8. Hamilton Squires, MD (.7)67.53
9. Black Watch, NJ (1.6)63.17
10. Pegasus, NJ (.8)62.43
11. Phoenix, CT (1.2)61.57
12. Rising Star, PA..... (.9)61.20
13. A Touch of Class, NJ (.5)60.70
14. Light Brigade, PA (1.0)58.00
15. Royales, NJ..... (1.4)57.97

Class A Finals

1. Elizabeth HS, NJ (.8)67.23
2. L'Esprit, NJ (.2)64.23
3. Blue Demons, NJ (.6)61.63
4. Jersey Devils, NJ..... (.3)59.70
5. Silver Falcons, CT (.9)59.67
6. Guardsmen, MA..... (.7)56.27
7. Fantasy, PA (.8)55.77
8. Headliners, NY (.7)53.13
9. Eastern Vikings, NJ (1.0)52.03
10. Verona Vanguard, NJ..... (2.3)49.87

1982 WGI Regionals

Eastern Seaboard Regional Long Beach, Long Island, New York

March 20-21, 1982

Sponsor: NY Royal Guardsmen Color Guard

Open Class Finals

1. Royal Guardsmen, NY (.2)90.46
2. Skylarks, CT (.5)88.76
3. Emerald Marquis, MA (.2)87.9
4. Conquest, NJ (.4)83.3
5. Top Hats, PA (.5)81.1
6. Hamilton Squires, MD (.2)77.83
7. Liverpool HS, NY (.8)75.76
8. Pegasus, NJ (.6)75.6
9. Conquest, MA (.5)70.26
10. Victorian Vanguard, NJ (1.2)68.76
11. St. Ann's, MA (.4)61.66
12. Images, NJ (1.2)55.56

Class A Finals

1. Elizabeth HS, NJ (.2)75.83
2. Maine Attraction, ME (1.6)72.13
3. Blue Demons, NJ (.3)69.5
4. Silver Falcons, CT (.3)68.36
5. L'Esprit, NJ (.8)66.23
6. Guardsmen, MA (1.0)64.8
7. Eastern Vikings, NJ (.2)64.5
8. Challengers, NJ (.8)63.66
9. Jersey Devils, NJ (.5)63.56
10. Verona Vanguard, NJ (1.1)61.2
11. Syndicate, NJ (.7)59.03
12. Colonial Brigade, NJ (.6)57.7
13. Emerald Sabres, CT (.6)56.46
14. Woodsiders, NJ (1.0)55.9

Photo by Ed Ferguson



NY Royal Guardsmen
Eastern Seaboard Champions
Open Class

Photo by Elizabeth HS



Elizabeth HS
Eastern Seaboard Champions
Class A

1982 Winter Guard International Olympics

Vanderbilt U. Memorial Gymnasium Nashville, Tennessee

Preliminary Competition Class A Friday, April 16, 1982 - 4:00 P.M.

	Prelim Score		Prelim Score
4:00 Rainbow Regiment - Elk Grove Village, IL		8:00 Thunderbolts - Cedarburg, WI	
4:09 Murder, Inc. - Salamanca, NY		8:10 Cicero-N. Syracuse Jayvees-N. Syr, NY	
4:18 Challengers - Kenvil, NJ		8:20 Headliners - Hinsdale, NY	
4:27 Woonsocket HS - Woonsocket, RI		8:30 South Shore Drill Team - Chicago, IL	
4:36 Illiana Lancers - Chicago, IL		8:40 Prairie Fire - Waukomis, OK	
4:45 Bloomington South HS - Bloomington, IN		8:50 The Alliance - North Miami Beach, FL	
4:54 Accent Cadets - Sheboygan, WI		9:00 Clarkston HS - Clarkston, MI	
5:03 Homewood Patriots - Birmingham, AL		9:10 Fantasy - DuBois, PA	
5:12 St. Rita's Ritanettes - Chicago, IL		9:20 Menagerie - Salem, IN	
5:21 Trojan Regiment - Jenks, OK			
		9:30 BREAK	
5:30 BREAK		9:50 Elizabeth HS - Elizabeth, NJ	
5:50 Eastern Vikings - Gibbsboro, NJ		10:00 Spartan Guard - Connersville, IN	
5:59 Blue Nights - Winterboro, AL		10:10 Maine Attraction - Old Orchard Beach, ME	
6:08 Chaparral Cadets - Gonzalez, FL		10:20 St. Mary's Panthers - Sandusky, OH	
6:17 Floewood - Greenwood, MS		10:30 Korkoma - Gulfport, MS	
6:26 Choctaw - Ft. Walton Beach, FL		10:40 Ace Color Guard - DeRidder, LA	
6:35 Lake Highlands HS - Dallas, TX		10:50 Blue Demons - Maywood, NJ	
6:44 Golden Lancers - Ottawa, IL		11:00 St. Mary's - Brookline, MA	
6:53 Jersey Devils - Springfield, NJ		11:10 Saints - Churchville-Chili, NY	
7:02 Sentinel - Villa Rica, GA		11:20 Southern HS Belles - Oakland, MD	
7:11 Bluecoats - Canton, OH		11:30 Argonne Rebels - Great Bend, KS	
		11:40 Jamestown Express - Jamestown, NY	
7:20 BREAK		11:50 St. Therese Little Flowers - Everett, MA	
7:40 St. Theresa Avilaros - West Roxbury, MA		12:00 Nova - Lakewood, CO	
7:50 Blue Horizon - Rolling Meadows, IL		12:10 Banderas - Pensacola, FL	

*In Memory of
Erica Stotzer & Lisa Kuchera*

*So many things have happened
Since they were called away.
So many things to share with them
Had they been left to stay.
And now on this reunion day,
Memories do come our way.
Though absent, they are ever near,
Still missed, remembered, always dear.*

Author Unknown--