

The Joliet Township High School  
Band Alumni Association  
Presents  
*A Century of Musical Excellence*



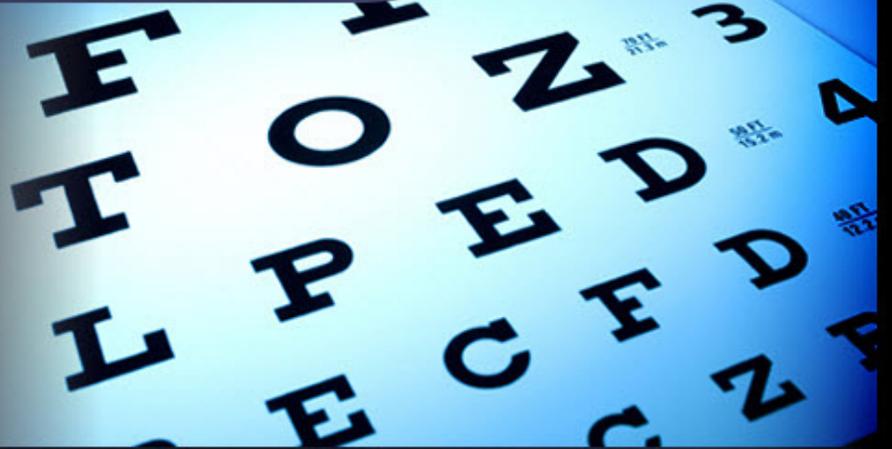
Sunday, July 29, 2012

Joliet Central High School Auditorium

3:00 p.m.

# KUHARVISION CARE

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### **We're Moving!**

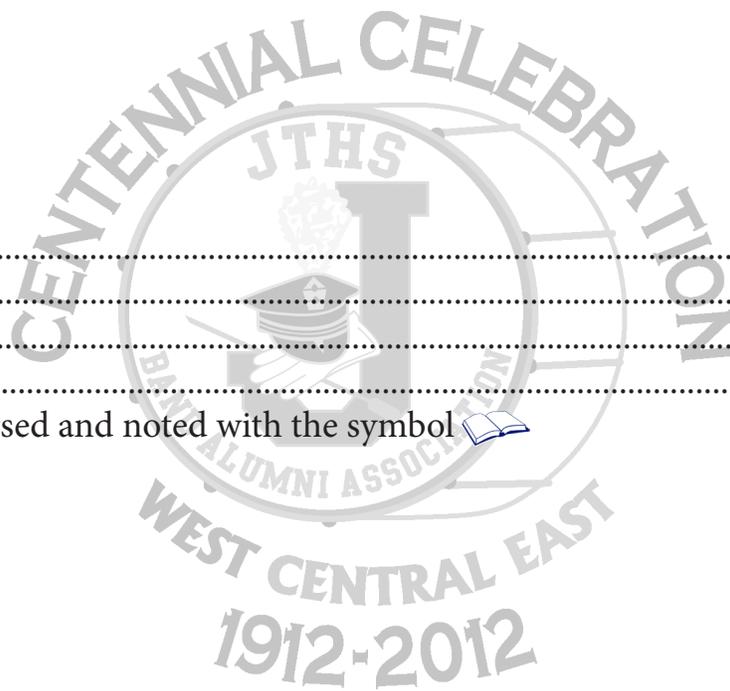
We'll be relocating to our new building at 4970 Theodore in Joliet in July of 2012!



[www.kuharvision.com](http://www.kuharvision.com)

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As you read through our souvenir program booklet you will see the good wishes of many sponsors. Their generosity has helped defray costs of today's concert. Please reciprocate by patronizing the businesses and services advertised.



"Joliet has the best high school band in the land."

**John Philip Sousa, American composer and also known as The March King.**



"Among the events in my life that have made a deep impression on me was the recent high school band contest given by the National Society for the Advancement of Music at Joliet. The playing of the Joliet Band was unusually good and showed that it had received excellent training."

**John Philip Sousa quoted in the Sept. 2, 1928 issue of Joliet Sunday Evening Herald News.**

The JTHS Band Alumni Association would like to thank the following individuals for their financial support of today's concert:

Patrick Allen  
Henry Bale  
Peggy Blaising  
Dave Blatti  
James Blood  
Paul Chabez  
Mead Clark  
Eugene DiVecchio  
James Egizio  
Janis FitzHenry  
Gregory Garrett  
Thomas Grewenig  
Robert Guenzler  
Keith Hendrix  
Ralph Hiatt  
Eugene Hicks  
Joe Jamerson  
Robert Jones  
Michael Jothen  
Rick Kuempel  
Leon Kuhs  
Richard Larson  
Frank Lumley

Bruce Mack  
Joseph Maielli  
William Malinowski  
Ben Miller  
Priscilla Roth Morse  
Dennis Murphy  
Jeremy Noe  
Charles Nordstrom  
Melissa Oxborrow  
Margaret & Joseph Pasteris  
Eve Buell Pellettiere  
Beverly Preston  
Alan Saxon  
Dale Schmeisser  
Lawrence Stoner Jr.  
Marc Taylor  
Deborah Toland  
Daniel Tunstall  
Dick Tunstall  
Bradley Uffelmann  
Janice Uffelmann  
Richard Wagner  
Harold Wilson

The Joliet Township High School Band Alumni Association wants to thank the following people for their contributions, insight and input into this souvenir 100th anniversary concert program.

A special thanks to: Heather Bigeck, Kevin Carroll, Tony Contos, Merwyn Dan, Marshall Erickson and his family, Michael Fiske, Phillip M. Hash, Dr. Jeff Kluball, Ted Lega, Lynne Lichtenauer, the Houseknecht family, Dean Sayles, Kristine Schlismann, Deborah Toland and Richard Wagner.

We appreciate all the band memories we received and we encourage you to add to the JTHS band timeline, the memories and photo gallery on our website at [www.jthsbaa.org](http://www.jthsbaa.org).



***Proclamation***

***WHEREAS***, The Joliet Township High School Band was established in 1912 and is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the year 2012;

***WHEREAS***, By 1913, the band students were first taught in the high school's woodworking shop using nail kegs for chairs;

***WHEREAS***, The Joliet Township High School Band Program has a legendary history, which began with JTHS Band Director A.R. McAllister, who led the band to numerous state and national titles;

***WHEREAS***, In 1928 the band was awarded permanent possession of the national trophy by the renowned John Phillip Sousa;

***WHEREAS***, Over the years, the band has traveled extensively and has impressed audiences from New York's Radio City Music Hall to California's Philharmonic Auditorium;

***WHEREAS***, Alumni of Joliet Central, East and West High Schools continue to perform in concert, demonstrating pride for their Alma Mater;

***WHEREAS***, The Joliet Central and West Band Programs remain strong to this day, empowering students to compete and contribute, therefore fulfilling the JTHS Mission;

***NOW THEREFORE***, I, Jeff Pierson, Joliet Township High School Board of Education President, on behalf of the Joliet Township High School Board of Education and Administration, do hereby recognize the exceptional accomplishments of the Joliet Township High School Band Program and the anniversary of its 100<sup>th</sup> year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Pierson".

Date: July 29, 2012

---

JTHS Board of Education President Jeff Pierson



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 W. RANDOLPH, SUITE 16-100  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

**PAT QUINN**  
GOVERNOR

July 2012

Joliet Township High School

Congratulations!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to congratulate Joliet Township High School on the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of your band program.

This is truly a momentous anniversary for any organization to celebrate. You should take great pride in this milestone, knowing that it speaks volumes to the excellence of your music program, students, and teachers.

I also wish to commend all of the educators who have supported the Joliet Township High School band program throughout the years. Over the past century, numerous teachers have dedicated themselves to instilling a love of music in their students, and the longevity of the band program is surely a testament to their success.

Congratulations again. On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for continued success for the Joliet Township High School band program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Quinn  
Governor



**SHEILA SIMON**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

March 5, 2012

JTHS Band Alumni Association  
PO Box 1261  
Joliet, IL 60434

To the Joliet Township High School Band Alumni Association:

I wish to offer you my heartiest congratulations on reaching your 100th anniversary! In that time, thousands of young people have reaped the benefits of being exposed to a rigorous musical curriculum. As a musician myself, I wish I could be present to partake in your celebration, though I doubt you have any ready arrangements for a banjo to join in!

We must never forget that music is academic, physical, emotional, and for life. I applaud your efforts and success in creating a vibrant and lasting musical culture in Joliet. Few gifts we give to our children will bring as much beauty and resonate throughout their lives as the gift of music.

I wish you the very best, and another 100 years of success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila Simon".

Sheila Simon

IDOT  
District 9 Headquarters  
Carbondale, IL 62903  
Phone: (618) 529-6452  
Fax: (618) 529-6455

214 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: (217) 558-3085  
Fax: (217) 558-3094  
TTY : 1-800-563-7110

JRTC, 15-200  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Phone: (312) 814-5240  
Fax: (312) 814-5228

## United States Senate

June 1, 2012

JTHS Band Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 1261  
Joliet, IL 60434

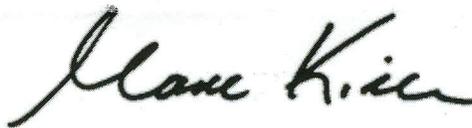
Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to offer the Joliet Township High School band program conductor and musicians my congratulations on celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Joliet Township High School band program.

The 100-year history of your band program's practicing and performing for others across the nation is a testament that the JTHS band program has certainly been comprised of highly qualified conductors and musicians in the United States of America. Formed in 1912 beginning in the school's woodworking shop and growing to earning numerous awards, the Joliet Township High School band program has left an indispensable impact on the community and military soldiers.

Again, congratulations on the celebration of your band program's anniversary. Best of luck to the Joliet Township High School band program for all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Mark Steven Kirk  
United States Senator

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

## Senate Recognition

*The Illinois Senate  
of the 97th General Assembly of the State of Illinois  
acknowledges*

### *Joliet Township High School Band*

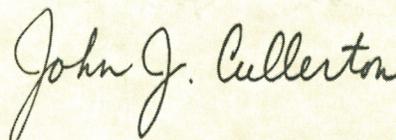
*In Recognition of  
its 100th Anniversary,  
celebrating a century of musical excellence,  
1912 - 2012,*

*and extends its congratulations and best wishes  
to its directors, members and over 6,000 alumni  
on this momentous occasion.*

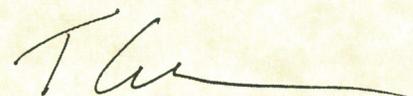
*Offered by: Senator Pat McGuire*



*State Senator*



*John J. Cullerton  
Senate President*



*Tim Anderson  
Secretary of the Senate*





OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Springfield, Illinois 62756

Jesse White  
Secretary of State

May 15, 2012

Joliet Township High School  
Band Alumni Association  
Mr. Brad Uffelmann, President  
P.O. Box 1261  
Joliet, Illinois 60434

Greetings,

Please accept my warmest welcome as you gather in celebration of the Joliet Township High School band program's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

This centennial celebration is truly a milestone worthy of praise and admiration. The Joliet band program has enjoyed a rich tradition of success, garnered national accolades and fostered some of the world's most accomplished musicians. These results have not only been a product of dedicated students, but also outstanding leadership that started with Director A.R. McAllister. Over the past 100 years, it is equally impressive that the Joliet band program has only had four full time directors.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my thanks to the students, teachers, alumni and volunteers who have helped to build the Joliet Township High School band program into the great institution that it is. I also want to offer my best wishes to the 150 musicians who will help usher in this momentous occasion by performing in the "Concert of the Century."

Again, best wishes on an amazing achievement and for continued success.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse White".

JESSE WHITE  
Secretary of State



STATE OF ILLINOIS • OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER  
JUDY BAAR TOPINKA

*Congratulations*

*To The*

*Joliet Township High School Band  
Program*

*On Your*

*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*My heartiest congratulations go out to the Joliet Township High School Band Program on your 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For the past 100 years, the Joliet Township High School Band Program has portrayed musical and educational excellence. The history and continued success of your upstanding band program continues to enlighten fellow high schools, faculty, and students on the importance of musical education. May you continue this tradition for many years to come.*

*On behalf of the Illinois Office of the Comptroller, I wish you many congratulations and continued success in your future endeavors.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand  
And caused the Seal of the State Comptroller to be affixed,  
On this thirtieth day of April in the Year of Our Lord  
Two thousand and twelve.*

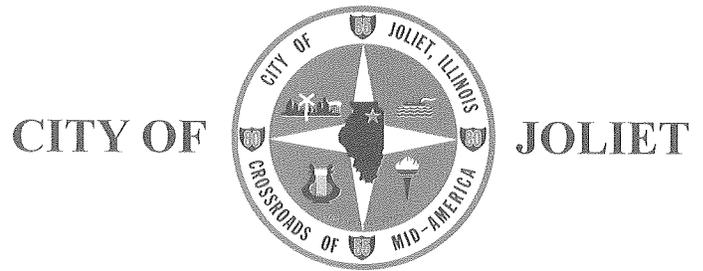
*Judy Baar Topinka*

*State of Illinois Comptroller*

*Judy Baar Topinka*



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
**THOMAS C. "TOM" GIARRANTE**  
**MAYOR**  
815/724-3700  
FAX 815/724-3715



150 WEST JEFFERSON STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60432-4158

July 29, 2012

Dr. Cheryl McCarthy  
Superintendent  
Joliet Township High Schools  
300 Caterpillar Drive  
Joliet, Illinois 60436

Dear Dr. McCarthy,

I wish to extend my personal congratulations to you as well as all current and past members of the Joliet Township High School Band on your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

To say JTHS Band has been a success would be an understatement. Your decades of achievements, awards and deep community involvement are only surpassed by the countless hours of enjoyment and entertainment you have provided to audiences over five generations.

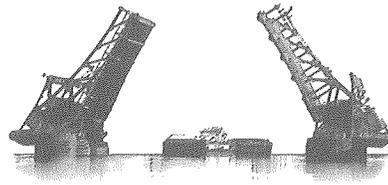
Every JTHS Band member has been guided down this path to success by the immensely talented Band Leaders we have been blessed with over the years. It is because of their leadership that you are better musicians and better people.

Today's Centennial Concert is a community celebration of the JTHS Band's incredible success story.

Your history is legendary. Your talents are great. So let's strike up the band and begin to celebrate your next 100 years.

Regards,

Tom Giarrante  
Mayor



## RESOLUTION OF JOLIET TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS HONORING JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL BAND CENTENNIAL

**WHEREAS**, it is the intention of the Joliet Township Officials to honor and recognize the Joliet Township High School Band on the occasion of it's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Joliet Township High School Band has a legendary history, dating to 1912, that few high school band programs can boast of; and,

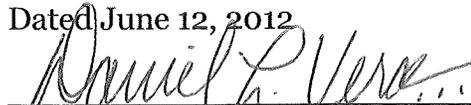
**WHEREAS**, in 1912 the Joliet Township High School Band started under the leadership of Director A. R. McAllister who's motto was "Results no alibis."; and,

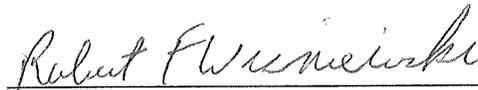
**WHEREAS**, the Joliet Township High School Band has earned numerous state and national championship titles which has earned Joliet the title of "City of Champions"; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Joliet Township High School Band was awarded permanent possession of the national trophy by "The March King", John Phillip Sousa.

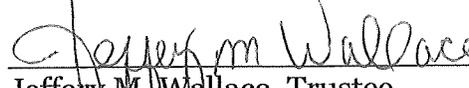
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that special recognition is extended to the Joliet Township High School Band on the celebration of its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we hereby declare July 29, 2012 – Joliet Township High School Band Day.

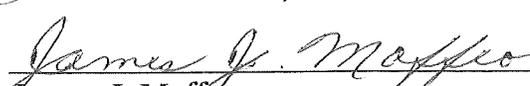
Dated June 12, 2012

  
Daniel L. Vera, Supervisor

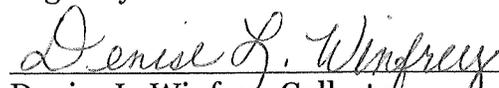
  
Robert F. Wisniewski, Trustee

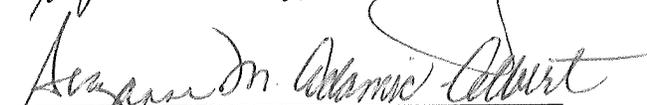
  
James Brenzewski, Assessor

  
Jeffery M. Wallace, Trustee

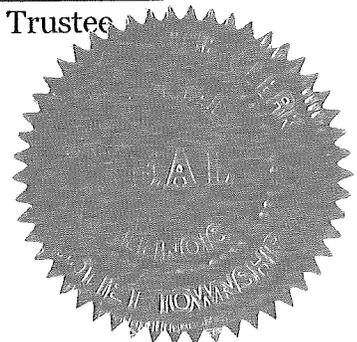
  
James J. Maffeo,  
Highway Commissioner

  
Raymond F. Slattery, Trustee

  
Denise L. Winfrey, Collector

  
Suzanne M. Adamic-Albert, Trustee

Attest   
Beth Ann May, Town Clerk





PROCLAMATION

**RECOGNIZING 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Joliet Township High School Band Program will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, and

WHEREAS, the JTHS band program was established in 1912 and became the epitome of band organization and discipline under Director A. R. McAllister's instruction, and

WHEREAS, in 1927 the band was awarded permanent possession of the national trophy by the renowned March King, John Phillip Sousa, and

WHEREAS, the band has earned numerous state and national championship titles and many instrumental organizations, including the United States military bands, have emulated the Joliet instrumental program, and

WHEREAS, Director McAllister's motto "Results no alibis" established a unique sense of pride among students to work hard and persevere under strict discipline which resulted in many students going on to serve our country proudly and with honor, and

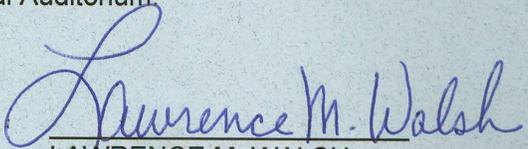
WHEREAS, during WWI, WWII and the Korean War, the band played every time inductees left from Joliet's Union Station, no matter the weather, and

WHEREAS, the JTHS band has only had 4 full time directors at the main, original JTHS campus and alumni number well over 6,000 students when combined from all three JTHS campuses.

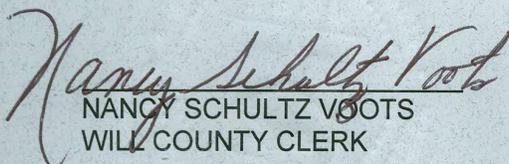
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Will County Board and the Will County Executive hereby congratulate the Joliet Township High School Band Program on their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and express their appreciation for the contributions made to the citizens of Will County.

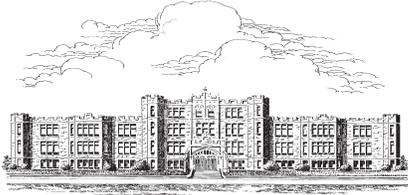
BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the celebration "A Century of Musical Excellence" will be held on July 29, 2012 at 3 p.m. at the Joliet Central Auditorium.

DATED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

  
LAWRENCE M. WALSH  
WILL COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:

  
NANCY SCHULTZ VOETS  
WILL COUNTY CLERK



## **Joliet Central High School**

201 E. Jefferson Street

Joliet, Illinois 60432

Phone: (815) 727-6740 or 727-6789

Fax: (815) 727-6824 or (815) 727-6825

---

John Randich, Principal

Brian Shaw, Assistant Principal

Dr. Jennifer Webb-Rea, Assistant Principal

Thanks to the JTHS Alumni Band Organization for your dedication to keeping the tradition alive!

Congratulations from the Joliet Central staff, families and students.

Members of the Central Building Leadership Team:

John Randich, Principal

Brian Shaw, Assistant Principal

Dr. Jennifer Rea, Assistant Principal

Jenine Barnes, PPS Coordinator

Lynn Benson, BMIS/STEM Academy Coordinator

Angel Hauert, Applied Life/Health and Medicine Academy Coordinator

Rebecca Kemp, AVAC Coordinator

Mike Lutz, Human Services and Arts and Communication Academy Coordinator

Vicky Soliman, Special Services Coordinator

**Go Steelemen!**

*The mission of Joliet Township High School, a diverse and unified learning community of choice, is to empower every student to acquire and apply the necessary attributes to compete and contribute positively in our community and global society by providing a rigorous, relevant and innovative education in a safe, supportive, academy environment through a quality, caring and dedicated staff working in partnership with family and community.*

## Congratulations to all JTHS band members!



*In loving memory of:*  
Donald A. Krause  
Clarinet, Class of '48

Robert G. Krause  
Clarinet, Class of '52

by their mother, Marie Krause-FitzHenry

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“Band members sold tickets for the evening concerts and we had sold-out crowds at almost every concert. My fellow band members and I had a competitive spirit when it came time to acquire tickets for these concerts.

Tickets were distributed to us on a first- come, first-served basis so it was a challenge to be first in line when tickets were given out. We wanted the very best seats in the auditorium for our own families and friends, as well as for those of the general public to whom we would be selling tickets. It was sort of a tradition, even a game, that the day before the distribution of the tickets, many band members would stay after school and throughout the night hiding in the halls and even in the auditorium so they could be first in line for tickets when they were given out starting at 6 a.m. the next morning. Part of the challenge was to not get caught by the night watchman as he made his several rounds during the night. I do not remember how it happened, but somehow, I had become acquainted with the watchman. On one such pre-ticket night, I went with him making the rounds instead of hiding with the others. Thus, I did succeed in being first in line that time, as the others did not dare show up at the ticket office until the watchman dropped me off there. Oh yes, as we went through the school and in the auditorium that night, we heard the hidiers moving about and even talking to each other, but the watchman knew what was going on and made no attempt to intercede, which made it even more fun for us.”

Norman F. Hyatt, Class of 1944.

# Kudos JTHS Band!

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- Checking accounts for 16-25 year olds
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CREDIT UNION



Your deposits are insured up to \$250,000 per account. By member choice, this institution is not federally insured.

[WWW.IDMYWAY.COM](http://WWW.IDMYWAY.COM)



“Our high school is so large, I keep getting myself lost! There are over 3,000 enrolled. Each department is so beautifully organized and equipped that I should think it would be a pleasure to go to school. Each department helps the other, and it is a city unto itself. If any of my sound equipment goes bad, I call the radio department. And they send boys down who fix it in a jiffy. If I want the car simonized, I can send it to the auto mechanics school, who are glad to do it for the experience. The printing department takes care of such things as newspapers, tickets, programs, etc., and there is a splendidly-equipped dispensary with two trained nurses on duty all the time. It is a distinct pleasure and honor to be a part of this tremendous institution.”

**Bruce H. Houseknecht, band director, 1945-1969** (written in 1945 to Milton High School Band and Faculty).



815-725-1231

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“In 1937, the 25th anniversary of the band was celebrated. The celebration took place in the school cafeteria on the night of the occasion. The band members were there as well as many other guests. The room was full of people helping to honor the band as well as Mr. McAllister. I remember it and where I sat with other members of the band. I was on the east end of the room and we had a very good evening. The festivities were on for several hours and it was a memorable night. Of course, Mr. McAllister was the center of attraction as one would expect. Being honest, I don't remember much more than that except it was the first time I ever had a hearts of lettuce salad.”

**Bernard H. Baher, Class of 1938.**

# MUSIC WAR COUNCIL OF AMERICA



*For distinguished service to our country through the patriotic and inspiring use of music to aid the national effort this citation is awarded to*

**Joliet Township High School Band**

*Dated at Chicago, this 5th day of November 1943*

*Howard Fischer*  
Administrative Secretary



*Max Long*  
President



"I remember that as part of the war effort, our band participated in sending off recruits and draftees as they departed for military service. About every two weeks or so, at 6:30 a.m. we would assemble in uniform outside the south door of the school on Jefferson Street and march downtown to the U.S. Post Office. Upon arrival alongside the four to seven buses that were going to Fort Sheridan, we played patriotic music, mostly John P. Sousa's marches, until after the buses pulled out. Obviously, during winter time these send-offs were a real challenge. On some subfreezing, even subzero mornings, some of the brass instruments froze up between numbers and had to be thawed out before being able to be played again."

**Norman F. Hyatt, Class of 1944.**



"It's a shame that the long-standing Memorial Day tradition is gone. But us, old timers from the '60s remember. I remember Below Zero in a blizzard playing for the Vietnam draftees at Joliet's Union Station at 6 a.m. At least the Red Cross had coffee and donuts."

**Stu Brown, Class of 1965 - Joliet Central**



"I remember when we used to march down the highway on Memorial Day to A.R. McAllister's grave to honor our veterans. I will remember playing at Union Station for draftees in all kinds of weather. Our whole band was there at 6 a.m. and we would play until that young man left. We didn't need music. We memorized everything we played outdoors. How did those families feel when a whole band came out to honor their son? I know how I felt being there."

**John C. Hall, Class of 1966 - Joliet Central.**



"Underneath all the shenanigans, we were aware that we were an important part of an important aspect of our nation, at the very nitty-gritty grassroots level. These individuals were putting their lives on the line so that we high school kids could walk off to class. The weeping mothers and girlfriends were a sober reminder that not all of their loved ones would return. Leaving a piece of your lip stuck frozen on a mouthpiece (this happened - didn't hurt or bleed until later thawing) didn't seem like much of a sacrifice."

**Roland Garton, Class of 1971 - Joliet Central**



## Musical send-off touches soldier's heart

*March of Steel Men* send-off supports soldiers

“One of the band traditions under Mr. Bruce Houseknecht, our director, was something called ‘draftees.’ Whenever a young man was drafted or enlisted in the United States military, his last step as a civilian was to take an early morning train from Joliet’s Union Station to Chicago, where he would report to an induction center to begin his life in the military. On the morning of departure, family members and girlfriends and other friends would be at the station for their good-byes. The USO and Red Cross would be there with donuts and coffee and going-away packages. And the Joliet Township High School Band would be there to provide a musical send-off. Whenever the Joliet draft board or recruiting office had anyone scheduled to leave for military service, it would contact the band secretary several days before, and notice of the event would be given in the band room. All those in the band program were divided into a Blue Band and a Gold Band, each band having full instrumentation. Blue and Gold bandsmen would

take turns appearing at the station in school clothes, well before classes began at the high school right down the street, to provide a musical send-off for all young men of Joliet entering military service. Whether for one or ten, the Joliet Township High School Band was there.

During my freshman year, 1960-1961, as not that many young men were drafted or enlisted, the intrusion of these early morning performances at Union Station seemed minimal. However, by my senior year, 1963-1964, with the U.S. involvement in Vietnam growing, it seemed as if every week either the Blue Band or the Gold Band would have to report to Union Station for ‘draftees.’ As the school year wore on, many of us were complaining amongst ourselves about having to get up early and go out into the cold, down to the train station, well ahead of the start of school.

Band rehearsals with Mr. Houseknecht began about 11:40am every day. One day - I believe it was in the early winter - the bell rang to begin rehearsal. As usual, band members were all seated on the stage of the band room. As usual, Mr. Houseknecht came out of his office, walked over to and stepped onto his podium. And this is what I remember he said:

‘Before we begin rehearsal, there is something I want to say to you. I understand that there has been a good deal of complaining from you about having to go down to the station for draftees so often. I am very disappointed with this and it must stop. The citizens of Joliet have been very generous and supportive of this band over the years, and we - and each of you - should be thankful. It seems to me that when their young men leave home to begin their military service for our country, the very least that we can do is be there and show them our support by sending them off with our music. So I want you to understand: There will be no more complaining about this.’ And there was no more complaining about this.

Little did I realize at the time that, almost five years later, in August 1969, it would be my turn to appear early in the morning at Union Station, a draftee going off to the Army in the midst of the Vietnam War. It was a very difficult day for me. I cannot begin to find the words to express how much it meant to me to have the band there on that morning, and to hear it play *The March of the Steel Men* (Steelmen) before I had to get on that train and leave - or how much it has meant to me in the years since to know that I was a member of the Joliet Township High School Band.

**Richard R. Wagner, Class of 1964, Joliet Central.**

## CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL BAND ON THEIR 100<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

FROM THE MACDONALD FAMILY

NORMAN A. MACDONALD JR.

CLASS OF 1933

JOHN J. MACDONALD JR.

CLASS OF 1939

ROBERT L. MACDONALD

CLASS OF 1939

NORMAN A. MACDONALD III

CLASS OF 1961

ROSS E. MACDONALD

CLASS OF 1963

*Congratulations on the 100th  
anniversary of the band!*

Beth Starasinich, Joliet Central  
Class of 1978

*Dave ('57), Dan ('59), and  
Dick ('61) Tunstall support and  
celebrate the 100 year anniver-  
sary of the JTHS Band.*

*We congratulate the JTHS Band  
Alumni Association for all the  
work they have done to make  
this event a success.*



“Speaking of Mr. Sousa reminds me of the concert band performance at the annual concert. The last number was The Stars and Stripes Forever. The band member playing the special instruments for the special part of the piece came center stage and a movie screen came down from above the stage and Mr. Sousa was shown conducting the band. It was a thrill for everyone in the auditorium. It was always a thrill for me playing that march!”

**Bernard H. Baher, Class of 1938.**

*We look forward to sharing mu-  
sic,  
fellowship, and a lot of laughs  
and good stories with friends.*

*In Loving Memory*

*of*

***ROBERT EDWIN HAMILTON***

*Joliet Township High School*

*Class of 1940*

*From  
His Family*

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Sign in the grade school band room

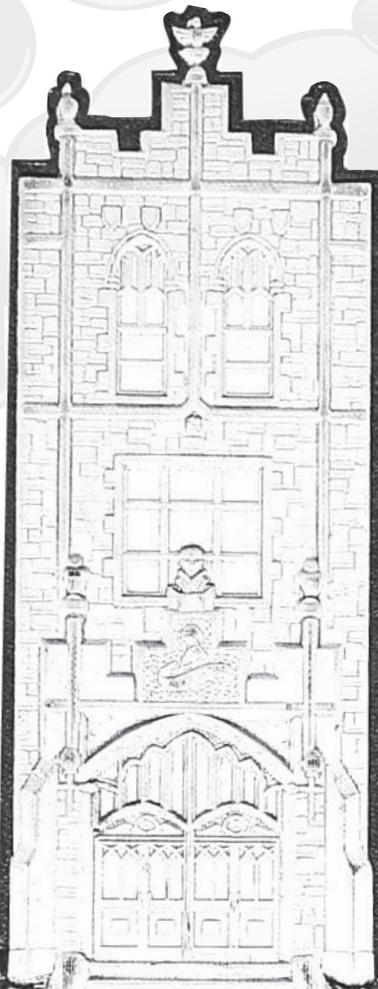
Flo Daniels, our Music Librarian

A certain individual left nearly nude in the harp case in the hallway.

Playing my piccolo solo in the wrong key in Scheherazade at the state contest concert.

## MY MENTORS:

- Bruce Houseknecht
- Chuck Peters
- Roy Ziegler  
*flute instructor*
- Roy Hicks  
*flute instructor*



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Kathy Young '56  
Henry Bale '55

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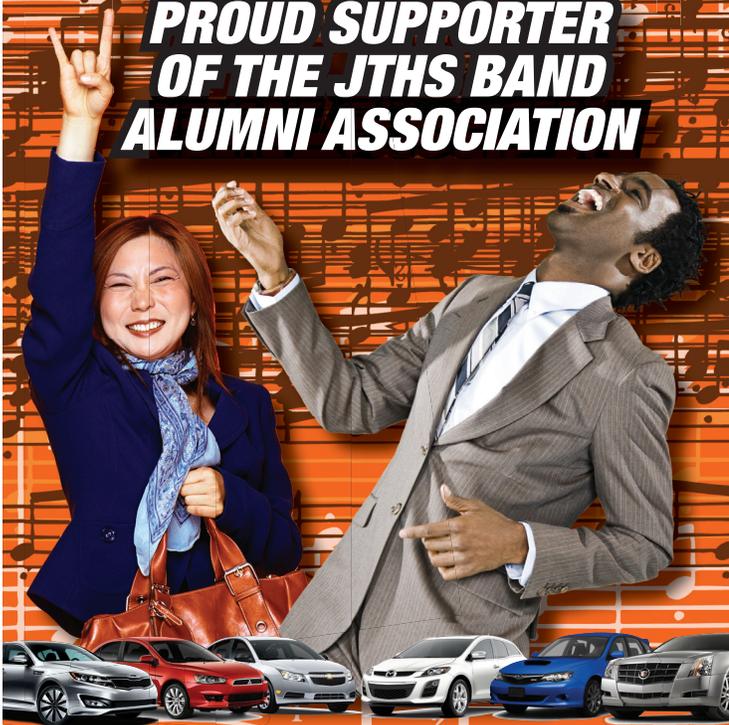
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fantastic performances  
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*Janice Hacker Uffelmann  
Marimba 1958-1962*



"My husband (deceased) Duane A. Paul, a member of the Class of 1959, held first chair - clarinet in the band his senior year and was a member of the newly organized, first ever, Singing Steelmen - a group of band boys who not only excelled in their chosen instruments, but, could sing as well. They came in first at State - their very first year of existence! Another musical honor for JTHS!"

Joan E. Paul

## JT Band Alumni Award Inaugural Scholarships

JOLIET - To celebrate 100 years of music at Joliet Township High School District, the band alumni association awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. Joliet Central graduate Cynthia Stacy and Joliet West graduate Michael Holwey received the JTHS Band Alumni Centennial Scholarship Award. Holwey and Stacy will be recognized at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary band alumni concert at 3 p.m. July 29 in the auditorium at Joliet Central High School, 201 E. Jefferson St.

“As JT band alumni, we know that JT band students represent an exceptional group who are among the finest students,” said Gene DiVecchio, vice president of the JTHS Band Alumni Association. “Most importantly, we are proud to sponsor the Centennial Scholarship Award to help our newest band alumni achieve their educational goals. Their success is one with ours,” DiVecchio said.



Cynthia Stacy, 18, will attend DePaul University's School of Music to study bassoon performance, jazz and journalism. Stacy, the daughter of Timothy and Anna Stacy, started playing piano when she was 7 years old before learning clarinet in grade school. “In junior high, I picked up the saxophone family for jazz and bari led me to bassoon! I played clarinet, alto, and tenor in the pep band the past three years and led the pep band my senior year with two other student conductors,” she said. “I focus on bassoon now, but have been active in the Big Band on piano for all four years at JT.”



Michael Holwey, 18, will be attending Bradley University, majoring in computer science with a concentration in game technology. Michael, the son of Charissa and Christopher Holwey, plays a variety of percussion instruments, including marching snare, bass drums, xylophone, marimba, timpani, concert snare and bass. “The scholarship and honor of receiving this award means a great deal to me because of the amount of time and effort I have dedicated to the band program all four years while attending Joliet West High School,” Holwey said. “The money will help pay for my first year of college at Bradley University. Since it is a private school, the expenses are steeper than at other schools, and this scholarship, in addition to other scholarships I have received, is helping to reduce the overall cost of my college education.”

Stacy plans to use the money to either help pay for her first quarter at DePaul or to buy bassoon supplies before she leaves for college. “This scholarship is fantastic. I couldn't thank the alumni enough!” Stacy said. “Of course, it is a great honor and accomplishment to win scholarship awards in general, but that this money is from my band and all of the Joliet bands before mine to help support my future musical endeavors is just great.” “I have always felt like a part of the band, but to be this first recipient of this Centennial scholarship definitely makes me feel like I've impacted the traditions and ideals of the JT Band. That means more to me than any amount of money. Really, truly,” Cynthia said.

To compete for the scholarship, Class of 2012 band students had to play their instruments in front of three judges and attend an interview in front of a panel. The judges were Charles Morgan, an assistant professor of music at Joliet Junior College; George Pierard, former director of graduate admissions for VanderCook College of Music and Jerry E. Lewis, a retired music professor, who served as chairman of the music and fine arts department at Joliet Junior College. The interview team included JTHS BAA board members, DiVecchio, Mary Beth Bjekich, and Megan Gonzalez. “I was very impressed by Cynthia's desire to continue to seek a degree in music. Michael said he would always keep music in his life even though he was going to major in a non-music program in college,” DiVecchio said. “Both Michael and Cynthia represented themselves as young adults who knew where they were going and they were very confident on how they felt the band had an impact on them.”

Stacy hopes the scholarship continues. “The band scholarship is pivotal to keeping the tradition of the band alive,” she said. “I think this Centennial scholarship should always be awarded to the band senior that shows leadership and compassion to the extreme. Also, giving out scholarship awards should really show that music programs in schools should never be cut. “I'm terribly worried about the fate of bands in other schools, which is why I am so proud of Joliet for keeping music alive. If I ever have kids, I want them to have any opportunity open to them - especially band,” she said. “Giving awards like this will help establish the necessity of music in schools.” Holwey agreed. “There are a lot of students out there who are passionate about their band, and they show it year-round,” Holwey said. “The band scholarship gives those outstanding students the opportunity to be rewarded for their contributions to the band program.” DiVecchio hopes the scholarships are not the first and last given out by the Band Alumni Association. “We want to continue to give these scholarships yearly and we feel we can do that with the generosity of our alumni and those who feel strongly about JT band program as we do,” DiVecchio said.

To donate to the scholarship program, write the check to: JTHS Band Alumni Association and put “scholarship fund” in the memo line. Mail to: JTHS BAA, P.O. Box 1261, Joliet, IL 60434. For more information, call 815-714-8706 or go to the website at [www.jthsbaa.org](http://www.jthsbaa.org)



“In 1928, the National High School Band contest was held in Joliet. Before the contest started all of the bands took part in a parade through the city. Part of the route was on Bluff Street, the street closest to the west side of the river, between Cass and Jefferson Streets. My father was a fireman and on parade day he was working in the fire department building on that street. I was with my father that day as the parade came right by the building. Bluff Street was a very narrow street and we got a close look at everyone going by. Yes, I was very young then ... but I recall seeing one special parade participant. It was JOHN PHILIP SOUSA!!! No, I’m not able to say, oh yes I remember him well, but I do remember that no other person was marching alongside of him. Being that young that is all I can recall of the experience. That memory has been in my mind all my life.”

**Bernard H. Baher, Class of 1938.**

## The Santa Monica College Emeritus College Concert Band

# *Salutes*

## The Joliet Township High School Alumni Band

*In memory of our friend and fellow band member*

# Paul Reid Holmstrom

May 24, 1930 - January 18, 2012

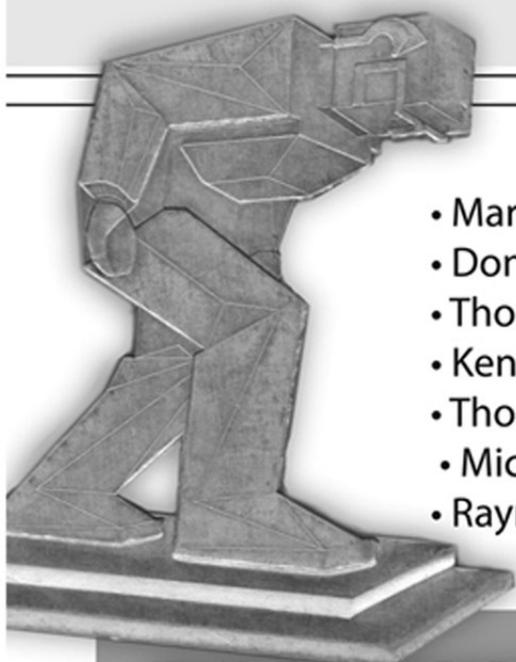


“In the spring of 1941, the band had a two-week trip to California where we played at several Los Angeles high schools and on up to Santa Barbara. I remember playing on national radio from the Los Angeles studio, having our picture taken with Shirley Temple at a movie studio and a night out to visit the Coconut Grove where Benny Goodman was playing, and getting an autographed picture of him (which I still have). I am retired, living in a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. I have a musical wife, musical children and musical grandchildren. My contribution to that started with that great, great Joliet High School Band!”

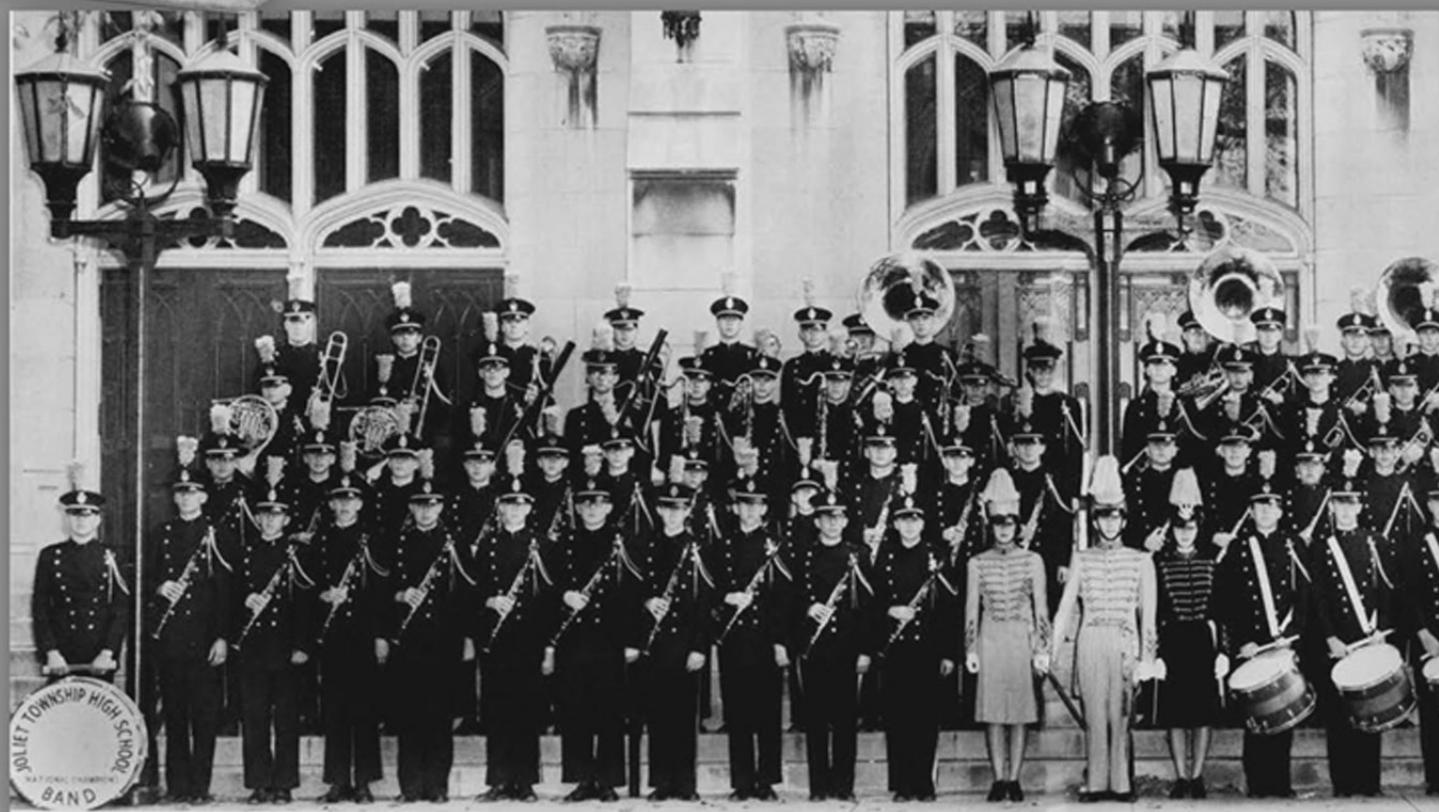
**Frederic (Ted) L. Beattie, Class of 1941.**

# The Golden Band

## Salute the Joliet Township A Century of Music



- Martha Alderman
- Donald Angus
- Thomas Barber
- Kenneth Brown
- Thomas Connelly
- Michael Corcoran
- Raymond Fish
- Janis FitzHenry
- Louis Fletcher
- Louis Gibbons
- Thomas Grewenig
- Janice Hacker
- Michael Hamrin
- Gene Hemphill
- Howard Hill
- Gale Holloway
- Dennis Horvat
- Lee Johnston
- Michael Jochen
- James Knudson
- Wayne Koerner



# Alumni of 1962

## Ship School Bands for Musical Excellence

- Ted Lega
- Thomas Lockhart
- Thomas Ludeman
- William Malinowski
- Lynell McCallum
- Donald McCloud
- Mark Puddicombe
- Ronald Purdy
- Thomas Ruddy
- Lawrence Sasso
- Nicholas Seehafer
- William Smilie
- Richard Smith
- James Stine
- Richard Sweedler
- Terence Sweeney
- Roger Trainor
- James Turley
- Richard Walling
- Richard Walsh
- Bruce Zeich





**Remembering Bruce H Houseknecht JTHS Band Director 1945-1969  
in his own words:**

**"You don't step into the shoes of A.R. McAllister. You try them on."**

**"If it had not been for the splendid work of Charles Peters with the Grade School Band, what you hear this evening would not have been possible."**

**"For school music groups, there is one goal, the performance of great music to the best of our abilities with whatever resources we have at hand."**

**"I think my greatest thrill, in my 25 years as band director in Joliet, was saluting President Dwight Eisenhower at his inaugural in 1953 and having our band win first place in the inaugural competition when we didn't even know we were competing."**

**"We need music, our children need music, the world needs music. Where else can you find persons of every nationality sitting side by side and deriving the same inspiration and enthusiasm than for playing or listening to music?"**

**In Loving Memory, The Family of Bruce Houseknecht**



"Many school music groups fail to realize what a keen interest in their continuing activities is maintained by their alumni. Each time my bandsmen parade or perform in concert, each one of them knows that in the thousands of people lining the parade route or attending a concert, are dozens of previous drum, clarinet or trombone players, many of them with prize medals, eyeing them individually where they once marched or played before."

**Bruce H. Houseknecht, band director, wrote in an article for Music in the Schools for the *ETUDE* July/August 1956 issue.**



"I used to live near Washington School back in the late 1950s. Some nights the band would practice on the football field nearby. It was a surprisingly festive event, with quite a few parents and children of all ages on the sidelines enjoying the music. We 8-year-olds would march along the adjacent fields, keeping step with the band, stomping about and waving our arms like demented drum majors. I think I knew the words to the fight song before I ever entered junior high school! It's a great memory."

**Keith Johnson, Joliet East High School's first graduating class in 1965.**



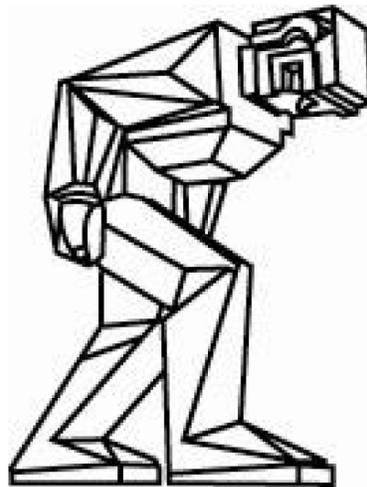
Memory from the 1963 JTHS Summer Band Trip to Gettysburg Centennial Parade and Naval School of Music: "We stopped first in Gettysburg to march in the Centennial Parade. Everything went reasonably well until the buses dropped the band off at the open field where units gathered to start the parade. Next thing we knew, we were in a summer thunderstorm. Band Director Bruce Houseknecht ordered the brass players to lay their instruments on the muddy ground to reduce the danger from lightning. He also ordered the flags and plumes to be stored in the portable restroom so we would still look good. That worked until the restroom floated away. We waded into the water and moved the restroom to higher ground. After the storm stopped, we retrieved flags, plumes, and instruments and got ourselves in order. Of course this was summer in Pennsylvania, so we were now going to march in 95 degree temperatures with 100 percent humidity. Everything was steaming. Our uniforms did look good despite still being soaking wet with a fair amount of mud on the trousers. ... So we marched the parade route and lost a few pounds." **Jim McKeown, Class of 1963.** He went on the trip with cousin **Craig McKeown, Joliet West, Class of 1965** and father, **Charles McKeown, chaperone and JT Class of 1925.** "Charles also had the extra excitement of having to rush to explain to the D.C. police that a large number of energetic males pouring down the Mall toward the Washington Monument were really harmless."

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Since its establishment in 1912, the JTHS Band Program has impressed audiences from coast to coast. The Joliet Central, East and West alumni musicians continue to perform and demonstrate pride for their alma mater as members of the JTHS Alumni Band.

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“In 1928, the National High School Band contest was held in Joliet. Before the contest started all of the bands took part in a parade through the city. Part of the route was on Bluff Street, the street closest to the west side of the river, between Cass and Jefferson Streets. My father was a fireman and on parade day he was working in the fire department building on that street. I was with my father that day as the parade came right by the building. Bluff Street was a very narrow street and we got a close look at everyone going by. Yes, I was very young then ... but I recall seeing one special parade participant. It was JOHN PHILIP SOUSA!!! No, I'm not able to say, oh yes I remember him well, but I do remember that no other person was marching alongside of him. Being that young that is all I can recall of the experience. That memory has been in my mind all my life.”

**Bernard H. Baher, Class of 1938.**



“After the parade in Gettysburg, we went to Washington D.C. to play a concert the next day at the Naval School of Music. That had seemed like a good idea for an efficient itinerary – until we arrived at our hotel that night with uniforms which were nowhere near presentable for a concert, due to mud and a LOT of sweat. Fortunately, the hotel found a cleaning company willing to open that night to clean and press all our uniforms. The cleaned uniforms arrived backstage no more than fifteen minutes before we were scheduled to start the concert. After settling down from the rush to get into uniform, we performed our usual excellent concert for an appreciative audience.”

**Jim McKeown, Class of 1963.**



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YOUR HOST



“I can't end without talking about the people that made the program. They were classy people from top to bottom. I haven't seen any of them since I left high school but I can remember just about all of them. We were the ultimate band of brothers. The Joliet music program was one of the greatest things that ever happened to me. I am so thankful I was a part of it.”

**John C. Hall, Class of 1966 – Joliet Central.**



“We used to have a program downtown that featured a number of our high school bands ... One at a time, each band would march to the Court House Square. Plainfield would march in first from one direction, Joliet Catholic would march in from another and Lockport would come from another. We would march under those railroad viaducts. Our drum ranks sounded like thunder and the music roared. I just loved that.”

**John C. Hall, Class of 1966 – Joliet Central.**



“My dream that was realized as a JTHS band member started when I was in the first or second grade. My family was at the Will County Courthouse for a July 4th celebration. I snuck away from my parents so I could get up close to the JTHS band that was playing patriotic music. As I squeezed forward, finally I was right in front of the 1st chair flute, playing the The Stars and Stripes piccolo solo. I was transfixed. Can still remember the white gloves he was wearing, with cutout fingers. I said to myself, ‘That’s what I want to do someday.’ I would later learn the flutist was Jim Mertz - my hero. With the support and guidance of Charles Peters (started me playing flute in 3rd grade) and Bruce Houseknecht - and the wonderful tradition of the Joliet bands - I attained my goal when I was a senior at JTHS in 1961-62. This is one of the highlights of my life.”

**Jim Turley, Class of 1962.**



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“My favorite memory is when I had the opportunity to participate in the annual state of Illinois marching competition at U of I at Urbana-Champaign. The stadium was huge and packed full of spectators, which made it an awesome arena to perform in.”

**Michael Holwey, Class of 2012, Joliet West.**



“My favorite band memory. That’s tough. Honestly, though, I think it was the last concert. David Kollross played his trumpet solo beautifully, and he’s been my best friend since we were five. Our last formal concert together and we both got to play solos with our band ... it was really awesome. It was kind of a culmination of our band experiences and friendship, I think. It was really, really inspiring. In everyday band, though, I think my favorite memories will be the instances that I just looked around and really thought about how much of a family the band turns into throughout the year. It isn’t just one memory, but more of a moment. The whole band is my favorite memory.

**Cynthia Stacy, Class of 2012 – Joliet Central.**



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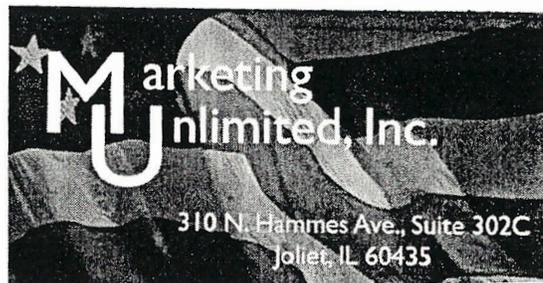
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“We had no girls in the band other than the sponsor, a girl picked by the bandsmen to march with the drum major. In fact it was a serious contest to see if you could get your girl selected. The sponsor appeared with the band in concert formation at the head of the flute row, towards the audience. She simply sat there, enjoyed the music, stood on occasion, bowed and that was all, adornment.”

**Louis Fifer, Class of 1941.**



“There are two powerful organizations (that) back the band - the Band Parents and the Band Mothers. They meet once a month, separately, and it is my duty to prepare musical programs in the form of solos and small ensembles for these meetings. Quite a bit of extra work, but I was pleasantly surprised the other day when I learned that they presented the band director with a very substantial purse each spring for his troubles.”

**Bruce H. Houseknecht, written in 1945.**



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“Whenever I think back over my high school experiences, just being in the Joliet Township High School CHAMPIONSHIP band shows up as the highlight of those years. Mr. A. R. McAllister, our ‘master’ conductor, made it all possible. A.R. as we respectfully and affectionately referred to him, had played in the famous Sousa band and knew John Philip Sousa very well. Like Sousa, A.R. was a perfectionist and taught us all to follow in Sousa’s and his own footsteps, as near as our own talents would permit. We were ALL glad that A.R. wanted us to be the very best!!! He would ‘listen in’ on us when we were able to use one of the several individual practice rooms that was above his office. He could then teach us how to improve our talents in order to be in his band. In addition, just before a concert, we all had to electronically tune our instruments individually so that when playing with the entire band we were all in tune.”

**Norman F. Hyatt, Class of 1944.**



“My mother graduated from JT in 1947 and gave birth to me in 1950. I am convinced that even back then she wanted her first-born son to eventually play trombone in the front rank of that wonderful band as it strutted down Chicago Street playing March of the Steel Men (Steelmen). I passed the band test in 1959 at A.O. Marshall Grade School and as I progressed through junior high school, my mother had me focused on her goal. As a boy, I often had doubts that her plans for me could or should be carried out and numerous battles ensued between mother and son. ... Yes, I achieved her dream for me of marching through the heart of downtown Joliet playing Charles Belsterling’s classic school anthem, and yes, I was in the first rank just an arm’s length from renowned director Bruce Houseknecht.”

**Darrell Holmquist, Class of 1968 – Joliet Central.**



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# The History of JTHS Band Directors

## Joliet East High School

### **Marshall Erickson**

**JT Cadet Band 1957-1964**

**East Campus 1964-1980**

Marshall Erickson served as Joliet East High School's first band director, serving from its opening in 1964 until 1980. Mr. Erickson graduated in 1948 from Waukegan Township High School. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from the University of Illinois, attending 1948-1953. He performed in the U.S. Air Force Band at Lowery Air Force Base in Colorado from 1953-1957. He taught music in Hoopston, Illinois in 1957 before leading Joliet Township High School's Cadet Band from 1957 to 1964. During his tenure, he took the Cadet Band to New York where they performed with the Concert Band. He started Joliet East High School's band in 1964 with girls in the band. The first band had about 40 members. Throughout the years, the Marching Kingsmen were invited to perform in nearly every state and in Canada. The band took two trips to Denver and played at Disneyland five times. The band also led the Lions National Convention parade in San Francisco. The band won the last Riverview Parade contest just before Riverview closed. Mr. Erickson retired on Jan. 1, 1987 and moved to Montana in 1996. There, he was a board member and emergency conductor for the Bozeman Municipal Band. In 2011, he was vice president of the Bozeman Federation of Musicians.

### **Michael Fiske**

**1980-1981**

Michael Fiske graduated from Joliet East High School in 1972. He received his master's in music education from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 1988 and his bachelor's in music education from Bradley University in 1977. He had hoped to spend his career at Joliet East, but a pending closing of the school sent him to other opportunities before he could return to JTHS.

### **William Leafblad**

**1981-1983**

William Leafblad was the Kingsmen's third and last band director. Joliet East High School closed in 1983.

## JT/ Central Campus

### **Archie Raymond "A.R." McAllister, Sr.**

**1913-1944**

In 1913, A.R. McAllister, a manual arts instructor who played the cornet, was asked to organize a band for Joliet Township High School. Mr. McAllister, who grew up on a farm in Jackson Township, bought a cornet at age 14 with profits he earned from selling his pig at the Will County Fair. He studied music under James H. Ward, director of Ward's Boy Band in Joliet. Prior to directing the JT band, McAllister organized the Trinity Girl's Band in 1905 and performed with local ensembles, including the Dellwood Park Band and Joliet Steelworkers Industrial Band.

Under Mr. McAllister's leadership, the band won state championships from 1924-26 and national championships from 1926-28. In their hometown, the band received permanent possession of the trophy in 1928 and was praised by John Philip Sousa. The band was exempt to play at the 1929 contest in Denver, but performed as an exhibition group. In 1931, the band regained the national title.

In 1936, McAllister led his young musicians through a week of nine performances at Radio City Music Hall where the band performed an Easter show with the Rockettes, playing for a total of 160,000 people. The band played for draftees, and was known as "the minute men" because they were always ready - day or night to perform for soldiers traveling through Joliet.

Mr. McAllister became a nationally recognized leader of the school band movement and was known as "the father of the high school band program." McAllister helped organize the National School Band Association in 1926. He was elected vice-president the same year before serving as president for 14 years. On Sept. 30, 1944, McAllister died at age 63.

### **Bruce Houseknecht**

**1945-1969**

Bruce Houseknecht was appointed band director in 1945, a position he held for 24 years. In addition, he was head of the JTHS and Joliet Junior College music departments from 1946-65; head of the department of fine arts from 1965-69 and director of orchestra for Central Campus from 1967-69.

Originally from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Mr. Houseknecht started playing the violin at age 5. He has a bachelor's in music education from Penn State and a master's of arts from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. Prior to coming to Joliet, he was

the supervisor of instrumental music for public schools in Milton, Pennsylvania.

Under Houseknecht's baton, the band continued to win Division I Superior ratings at the Illinois State Contest level and was invited to perform five times at the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago. In 1948-51 and 1953, the band won the Gold Trophy award for best Class AA Marching Band in the Tournament of Bands at Riverview Park in Chicago, in which 192 bands and drum corps from six mid-western states competed. The band received a first place trophy in the junior division at the Presidential Inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953.

Mr. Houseknecht appeared as an adjudicator and guest conductor throughout the United States. In addition to being in high demand, Houseknecht was a member of Phi Mu Alpha, an honorary member of Kappa Psi, and inducted into both the American Bandmasters Association and the American School Band Directors Association. He was a contributing editor of the Instrumentalist magazine for several years and served on the summer faculty at University of Michigan, University of Colorado, Louisiana State University and University of North Dakota. He also served as guest conductor and lecturer at the Eastman School of Music. He was a member of the executive board of the Illinois Music Educators Association, serving as president for two years. A violinist by trade, he was concertmaster for Joliet Junior College and was choir director at Central Presbyterian Church of Joliet for 10 years.

In 1969, Mr. Houseknecht accepted a post as a professor at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. At age 57, he died in 1974 in Rochester. He was posthumously memorialized in 1974 with a memorial plaque in the lobby of the new Music Educators National Conference (MENC) building in Reston, Va., and inducted into the Joliet-Will County Project Pride in 1987.

## **Ted Lega** **1969-2002**

Ted Lega graduated from JT in 1962, serving as student director and first clarinet in JT band. In 1969, Mr. Lega was appointed as the third director of bands at Central Campus. During the next 33 years, he continued the tradition of excellence with his Symphonic, Swing and Marching Bands, receiving countless awards and honors. Mr. Lega's bands have received the Honor Band award at the University of Illinois Superstate Band Festival 14 times. The groups have also been named Grand Champions 11 times at Illinois State University as well as twice at the Opryland Music Festival. Mr. Lega's peers have recognized him to be among the finest high school band conductors. In 1987, Lega was recognized as the Outstanding Chicagoland Music Educator, and in 1995 he was elected to the American Bandmasters Association, joining his predecessors, Mr. McAllister and Mr. Houseknecht. In 2002, Lewis University awarded Mr. Lega the St. Genesius Award - patron saint of arts for recognition of dedication and achievement as music educator, band director and orchestra leader. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of John Paynter, director of bands at Northwestern University; honorary doctorate of music from Vandercook College and the Leonardo Da Vinci Award for performing arts from Order of Sons of Italy in America.

## **Michael Fiske** **2002 to present**

Mr. Fiske returned to his beloved school district when he was appointed the fourth band director of the JTHS Band at Central Campus in 2002. Prior to coming to Central, Mr. Fiske enjoyed a successful 25-year career directing high school bands in Illinois and Indiana, most recently at Morris High School.

Under Mr. Fiske's direction, the Central Band has continued a tradition of excellence. They were Grand Champions at Illinois State University in 2003, and have been Best in Class several times since then in the Illinois State University Contest. The band has had annual representation in the Illinois Music Educators Association District and All-State Festivals. They have performed in Orlando, Atlanta and New York City. They were Grand Champions at the New York National Freedom Festival in 2006 and Best in Class at Festival Disney in 2008. They also performed at Walt Disney World in 2004 and 2012, and at Six Flags Over Georgia in 2010. Locally, the Central Band remains a favorite in downtown parades and at home basketball and football games. The Central Big Band gives numerous performances each year in Joliet and Chicago. The band maintains an active concert schedule during the school year, having just completed the 100th concert season.



"A.R. McAllister had a talk with me about self confidence. He tried to instill that in me and I can honestly say that he succeeded. After that I remembered the lesson and feel that much of what I did in later life, where self-confidence was needed, was largely due to that lesson."

**Bernard H. Baher, Class of 1938.**



"Once before a tour there was one boy even poorer than the rest of us. He had no clothes to go on tour. So Mac got the student a suit, a couple shirts and a tie so he could go. That made us all feel good."

**Roben McGuire, bassist, 1934-1938.**



"We learned from Mac, that discipline is as important as the ability to play your instrument or maybe more so."

**Ross Engimann, saxophonist, 1934-1938.**

# West Campus

## **Arthur Katterjohn**

### **1964-1968**

Arthur Katterjohn served as Joliet West's first band director, serving from its opening in 1964 until 1968. Mr. Katterjohn graduated "cum laude" from the University of Michigan in 1951 and received a master's in music in 1952. He was a member of the Michigan Band under the leadership of Dr. William D. Revelli. Later, he completed an advanced graduate study at Northern Illinois University in 1974. He first served as band director in Saline, Michigan for 13 years before directing at the West Campus. In 1968, he left after he was appointed assistant professor and director of the Wheaton College Band. Mr. Katterjohn was a member of American Bandmasters Association, Illinois Music Educators Association, the National Band Association, and was a national division officer of the College Band Directors National Association. He also served as a staff conductor at the National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. Since 1970, he was conductor of the Adult Concert Band in Palatine Illinois. He died in 1980 at age 50.

## **Dean Sayles**

### **1968-1990**

Dean Sayles, JTHS Class of 1956, served as director of bands at Joliet West High School from 1968-90. From 1990-99, he served as the district's director of technology. Mr. Sayles attended Northwestern University, where he received his bachelor's in music education in 1960 and his master's in music in 1961. While at Northwestern he was a member of the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Symphony Orchestra, Waa-Mu show and several other performing ensembles. He worked with Northwestern University director of bands, John P. Paynter, as well as Emeritus director of bands, Glenn Cliffe Bainum. He served on the student band staff as librarian and staff manager. An oboist, he studied with Robert M. Mayer and Ray Still, both members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. During his tenure at Joliet West the band continued the JT tradition of outstanding bands winning high honors in both concert and marching area. Many graduates of the West Bands have gone onto either professional careers in music or as members of community music organizations, such as community bands or orchestras.

Mr. Sayles served the Illinois Music Educators Association as a district band chair for four years, state president-elect for two years, state president for two years and past-president for two years. In 1993, he was presented with the IMEA Distinguished Service Award. Throughout his career in Joliet, Mr. Sayles has been one of the pre-eminent oboe instructors and performers in the area. Several of his former students have gone onto prominent positions as professional oboists. He also continues to perform in retirement as a member of several Chicago area orchestras, bands and ensembles.

## **I. V. Foster**

### **1990-1993**

A 1977 graduate of Joliet Central, I.V. Foster was appointed Joliet West's third band director in 1990. He got his start in education, teaching music. He currently holds a doctorate in education administration and leadership, an master's in music education and a bachelor's in music education from Northern Illinois University. He has played everything from the trombone to the tuba, bass, and piano. He played in the Far East for three years when he traveled with the U.S. Marine Band. Since Joliet West, Foster has served in several administrative positions, including superintendent for Prairie Hills School District in Markham, Illinois.

## **Kevin Carroll**

### **1993 to present**

Mr. Carroll is a saxophonist and a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He completed his master's in instrumental music education from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. Mr. Carroll began his teaching career at Joliet West during the spring semester of 1993. During Mr. Carroll's tenure at Joliet West he has been awarded the Chicagoland Music Educator of the Year Award in 2002 and has been selected a "Who's Who Among American Teachers" numerous times.

Under Mr. Carroll's direction, the Joliet West Band program has earned many awards in Illinois and throughout the country. Some of the most prestigious awards include acceptance into the Illinois Superstate Concert Band Competition 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2010 and Grand Champion of Illinois State University's Concert Band Invitational and New York Performing Arts Center Competition for 2006. The West Band program has grown from approximately 70 students and 1.5 bands to about 200 students, comprising three full concert bands, two jazz bands, percussion ensemble, Marching Tigers, and the Black & Gold Pep Bands for the 2012-13 school year.

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# A Century of Musical Milestones

Believe it or not, there was another JT band before the era of A.R. McAllister. It all started after folks saw a band at a football game at Ottawa High School and thought that was the kind of spirit that Joliet needed. A group of senior boys started a rally band in 1912 – beginning the 100 years of JTHS band history. School board member H.A. Stillman saw this pep band play at the football games and requested that Joliet Township High School District organize a band.

In 1913, the school board hired Louis Henry Condy, a Chicago music teacher, conductor and instrument dealer, to organize a band. Condy sold five instruments to the school board. The band members, mostly juniors and seniors, played their own instruments. However, the band didn't flourish, and a professional ensemble led by Condy was hired to play at a school football game. The JTHS band made their only appearance at a student assembly on Dec. 19, 1913.

Not pleased with the band's progress, the school board bought 15 instruments. The school board voted to discontinue Condy's services due to the distance between Chicago and Joliet, and the need for a band master to attend rehearsals on a regular basis. The board thought their manual arts teacher, A.R. McAllister, would be a better fit because he was already on faculty and had band experience.

In January of 1914, there were 20 charter members, according to the 1920 yearbook. But by the time the school year ended in May of 1914, there were 29 band members, according to another photo. The band was composed of all freshmen and sophomores so they could remain together for a longer time, obtaining better results.

At the first band rehearsal, a student recalled McAllister originating his famous motto: "Results, no alibis."

And, with that the magic of JTHS band began. Here are highlights from the first one hundred years:

**1912:** The board approves starting a band in December, 1912 at the request of Mr. H.A. Stillman, a member of the Joliet Township High School Board of Education.

**1913:** A.R. McAllister, an assistant manual arts teacher who plays cornet, organizes the school's first band, using nail kegs for band chairs.

**1914:** After five weeks of intensive training, the band presents its first concert at a student assembly on March 27. The band, consisting of 29 boys, played at all home baseball games.

**1917:** The band plays for every military assignment of men who leave for combat duty and for every train load of soldiers stopping in Joliet on route to camp or the front lines of World War I.



**1920:** The band escorts the Joliet Rotary Club members to the National Rotary Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey in June. The band is awarded the Boy Band Banner. The band performs a week of engagements on the Boardwalk and plays at Gettysburg, Niagara Falls and Washington D.C. where they serenade President Woodrow Wilson. The band receives The Cup of Philadelphia.

**1923:** Band performs at La Porte, Indiana for President Warren G. Harding's funeral train.

**1924-26:** JT's band wins state championships under McAllister's baton.

**1926-28:** The band performs the unprecedented feat of winning the National High School Band Championship three years in a row.

**1928:** The City of Joliet hosts the third National Band Contest, featuring more than 2,000 band boys and girls, representing 20 states. John Philip Sousa, "The March King," is one of the three prominent judges. Sousa presents the national trophy to the hometown band. JT band gets permanent possession of the trophy because they won three consecutive times. In the summer, Sousa invites the JT band to join him in Chicago to play under his baton at the Auditorium Theater.

**1929:** Joliet Band is invited to perform as a host band at the National Band Contest in Denver. They cannot compete because they had won three consecutive times. The band is accompanied by its sponsor, Miss America Lois Delander, a student of Joliet High School.



**1931:** JT wins National Title again.

**1936:** McAllister leads his young musicians through a week of nine performances at Radio City Music Hall where the band performs an Easter show with the Rockettes, playing for a total of 160,000 people.

**1936:** McAllister divides his 130 musicians into two smaller units, known as the Blue Band and the Gold Band so the band

could fill the many requests for performances. The smaller bands are under the leadership of senior student conductors and their assistants.



**1940:** The band plays 21 concerts in California and is welcomed home by 20,000 people at the train station.

**1944:** McAllister, “the father of the high school band program,” dies on Sept. 30 at the age of 63. Alex Zimmerman, head of the high school’s music department and director of the choir, replaces McAllister for the remainder of the school year.

**1945:** Bruce H. Houseknecht, age 28, is named Director of JTHS Band in August. In September, 1946, he is appointed Head of the Music Department for JTHS and Joliet Junior Junior College. There are 4,000 attendees at the 16th annual fall music festival held for the benefit of the Joliet Herald News “Free Milk Fund.”

**1946:** *If I Could Say* written by Ron Nelson, Class of ‘47, premieres at the annual spring concert. Nelson later becomes one of the countries most notable composers.

**1947:** Band wins State Title at LaSalle-Peru – the first win under Houseknecht’s leadership. Band plays for 4,000 people at post-war concert at Hill Auditorium at the University of Michigan. Band also plays a concert at the Ontario Tourist Information Center in Windsor, Ontario. Houseknecht is selected to serve as guest conductor for two weeks at the University of Michigan. In December, the band is the first to perform at the first Mid-West Band Clinic in Chicago.

**1948:** Houseknecht is named in the 1948 edition of *Who’s Who in Music*. Band performs at the Mid-West Band Clinic in Chicago. Dr. Frank Simon, former soloist for John Philip Sousa, acclaims the band is the “greatest in the land”

**1949:** Band wins State Contest in Pekin, Ill. The JTHS Music Department captures the first Illinois Music Sweepstakes award and four state titles. Band takes a trip to West Bend, Wisconsin, playing before two capacity audiences, featuring Peter Labella, new JTHS Orchestra Director, who was the guest conductor. Louis Fresca conducts a band survey of former band members from 1914-1950, 668 sent, 402 reply Houseknecht receives a citation of appreciation from the NAACP. In July, band marches in the Lions International Convention Parade in Chicago, winning first prize and a cash award of \$700. In August, the band is awarded a bronze plaque for playing at the national Sesquicentennial celebration, held on the Mall of the U.S. Capitol.



**1951:** Dr. William Revelli, director of University of Michigan Bands and former Joliet area citizen, is guest conductor at the spring concert.

**1952:** Bob Novak, Class of 1949, writes an article about the band in the Joliet Herald News. The feature is about the JT concert held at the University of Illinois and the appearance of Dr. A.A. Harding, an associate of the late A.R. McAllister, who declares JT band ‘Still Best in Land!’ Band wins highest honor at State Contest, held at Urbana, Ill. In December, Gov.-elect William Stratton invites the band to represent the State of Illinois in the Presidential Inauguration parade of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

**1953:** Chicago Daily News publishes article that says, “Famed Joliet Band to Tootle Ike.” The band will go to Washington D.C. without a sheet of music. The band will play a medley of service songs, The Governor’s March, and two Sousa tunes, *Stars and Stripes Forever* and *The Thunderer*. On Jan. 18, band celebrates its 40th anniversary with a JT/Legion Band concert, featuring the world premier of Don Gillis’ *Symphony for Band*. Copley Press writes that “JTHS Band Salutes Ike during Big Parade,” winning a special salute and broad grin from President Dwight D. Eisenhower as the band plays *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. Band wins Best High School Unit in parade. The band receives a gold loving cup. The band is judged “superlative” in dynamics, intonation, cadence, general appearance, marching ability, musical excellence and neatness of uniforms. Band travels by train to New York City for two days where they visit CBS for a radio concert broadcast, visit the Statue of Liberty, and see the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall. Later that year, Composer Paul Yoder sponsors Houseknecht for membership in the American Bandmaster’s Association. In March, band wins State Contest at Peoria, Ill.

**1954:** Dr. Edwin Franko Goldman, director of the world famous Goldman Band, visits Joliet as guest conductor at the annual spring concert. Dr. Goldman last appeared in Joliet as a judge with John Philip Sousa at the National Band Contest in 1928. He was also guest conductor of the JTHS Band at Radio City Music Hall in New York in 1936.

**1955:** A.R. Casavant from Chattanooga, Tenn. visits Joliet and holds a workshop on marching band techniques with the JT band. He developed a style of marching that would become known as Precision Drill. Dedication of national yearbook: “1st Chair of America” to director and members of the Joliet High School Band. JT Band is featured in a Coronet Films instructional film series called *Instruments of the Band and Orchestra*.

**1957:** Marshall Erickson is hired to lead the JT Cadet Band which he does until 1964. JT band goes to Moorhead, Minn. for a four-day concert trip. The band plays at a clinic under the direction of a number of guest conductors and the band presents a public concert at the Moorhead Field House auditorium. In December, band performs the director’s arrangement of *Prelude and Fugue in D minor* by Handel. Dr. Howard Hanson appeared as guest conductor of the band in a performance of his *Chorale and Alleluia* at Eastman Theater in Rochester, New York for the New York State School Music Association State Convention. In December, band performs at the Mid-West Band Clinic in Chicago.

**1958:** Ted Lega enters Joliet Township High School and joins the band. Sixth annual convention of the American School Band Director's Association is held in Joliet. Bruce Houseknecht and Forrest McAllister are guest conductors of the University of Michigan Band, under the direction of William Revelli. There are 1,800 people along with about 225 band directors in attendance to hear the band play.

**1959:** Singing Steelmen's debut: 83 band members present in concert for the first time, singing *Jesu, Priceless Treasure*, by Bach, *Proudly as an Eagle* by Louis Spohr and *A-Roving* (traditional English Sea Shanty,) arranged by Alex Rowley.



**1960:** Houseknecht receives the American Legion Distinguished Service Award. In December, Houseknecht receives the Mac Award which is televised on NBC during halftime of the annual Blue Gray Football Game in Montgomery, Alabama. The award is given for the first time by the First Chair of America yearbook in honor of the late A.R. McAllister.

**1961:** Houseknecht serves as director of the International Music Band Camp in Dunseith, North Dakota and as a lecturer at the University of North Dakota. He attends a convention of MENC State Presidents in Washington D.C. and is a guest of President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy at a concert on the White House lawn.

**1962:** Band plays at the Illinois Music Educators Association Convention in Chicago. Houseknecht conducts the opening concert of the MENC National Convention in Chicago and is the Master of Ceremonies for Illinois Night in McCormick Place. Lega is named one of four student directors and is first clarinetist in the JT band.

**1963:** In February, band performs a 50th Anniversary Concert with Howard Akers as guest conductor. Mr. Akers was an arranger, composer, conductor and editor of music publisher, Carl Fisher, Inc. In July, Houseknecht is named honorary life member of Kappa Kappa Psi, National Music Fraternity, presented by Beta Gamma Chapter at Louisiana State University. In the same month, the band opens the Kiwanis International Convention in Atlantic City. In Gettysburg, the band marches in the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg Parade. The band went on a sight-seeing tour in Philadelphia and played a concert at the U.S. Navy School of Music in Washington D.C.

**1964:** On April 12, the annual spring concert celebrates an end of an era for the JTHS Band because West and East campuses are opening. In June, Joliet Band plays at the New York World's Fair. In honor of the JTHS Band, Sunday is proclaimed "Joliet Day" at the Illinois Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. The concert is played at the Tiperello band shell. Marshall Erickson is promoted to band director at Joliet East High School and Arthur Katterjohn is hired to lead the band at Joliet West High School.

**1965:** Girls are permitted to join the band at all three campuses. Houseknecht is guest conductor at Band-O-Rama in Kenosha, Wisconsin where more than 1,000 students participate. In March, Houseknecht conducts the United States Air Force Band that plays a Sousa Memorial Concert at the 31st Annual Convention of the American Bandmasters Association in Washington, D.C. In April, Joliet Central Band performs at the opening event at the Navy School of Music at United States Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek, Norfolk, Va. On Oct. 31, Houseknecht receives the Steinway Music Award from John Steinway for his "outstanding contributions to the field of music." Steinway said Houseknecht has introduced hundreds of youths to the satisfaction and enjoyment provided by music.

**1966:** Joliet East Band goes to Colorado Rockies, touring several landmarks and performing at Fort Logan, the Civic Center and the National Jewish Hospital. Joliet Central Band performs at the 20th Anniversary Mid-West National Band Clinic.

**1967:** On May 16, A Night with Doc Severinsen is presented by the Central Campus Concert Band and the JJC Stage Band. Severinsen, who was a featured artist and assistant conductor of NBC's Tonight Show was trumpet soloist.

**1968:** Joliet East Band performs as the featured band in two parades at Disneyland as the first band to travel such a distance to perform at Disneyland. While out West, the East musicians saw the sights, touring Mexico and several California landmarks.

**1968:** Dean Sayles becomes Joliet West's second band director, replacing Katterjohn. West Band travels to Disneyland and San Diego Marine Baracks for parade and concert. They also appear at San Diego High School.

**1969:** Lega becomes JT's third band director after Houseknecht retires. Houseknecht receives city honors as he leaves Joliet for Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. where he will be an Associate Professor of Music. Aug. 14, 1969 is proclaimed "Bruce Houseknecht Day" by the Mayor and City Council of Joliet. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States gives citation to Bruce Houseknecht for meritorious and distinguished service in furthering the aim and ideals of the V.F.W. of the United States. On Aug. 15th, a tribute to Bruce Houseknecht is held at D'Amico's 214 Restaurant. Houseknecht pays tribute to A.R. McAllister as the "great founding conductor." He gives Lega his manuscript of the *Joliet Loyalty* written by Warren Wood who is now Illinois Speaker of the House of Representatives. Wood is master of ceremonies for this event. Houseknecht describes his successor as "every inch an artist and gentleman." Houseknecht is presented with a charter scroll of a Scholarship Fund established in his honor. The Bruce Houseknecht Scholarship Fund will be presented annually to an outstanding JTHS senior entering the study of music in college. Recommendations of a recipient will be made by each of the band directors of the three Joliet schools.

**1970 & 72:** Joliet Central band wins first in general excellence at Virginia Beach Music Festival.

**1970:** Joliet East performs in Colorado.

**1971-1990:** Joliet West Band continues tradition of travel every two years. Destinations include Disney World in Orlando (twice), Colorado, Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri, New Orleans, Los Angeles and New York.

**1972:** Joliet East returns to Disneyland.

**1974:** Houseknecht dies. Joliet Central band is invited to play three concerts in Ontario, Canada.

**1975-present:** Joliet West Marching Band enters marching competitions throughout Illinois, including University of Illinois, Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, Danville High School, Lake Park High School, Wheeling High School, Pontiac and Morris Illinois Corn Festival Parade (winner of Class AA championship 10 times).



**1980:** Joliet East High School Alum Michael Fiske appointed director of the Joliet East Band.

**1981:** William Leafblad replaces Fiske as band director at Joliet East.

**1983:** Joliet East closes.

**1984:** Joliet Central band wins gold medal at Toronto Music Festival.

**1986:** Joliet Central Band is named Grand Champions during its first appearance at the Superstate Concert Band Festival at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The band wins this honor from 1986-1988.

**1988:** Joliet Central Band is named grand champions at Opryland Music Festival. That year the band is also featured in Western Illinois University Band showcase. The band attends its first State of Illinois Band Contest sponsored by Illinois State University, and wins first place. Under Lega's leadership, the Central Band attends 14 times, wins first place 12 times and second place twice.



**1990 & 96:** Joliet Central Band wins first place at Smoky Mountain Festival in Gatlinburg.

**1990:** Joliet Central Band wins first place at Superstate Concert Band Festival at the University of Illinois in 1990, 1992, 1995, 1997 and 2001. The band does not compete the following year after a first-place win, but plays as the honor band.

**1990:** I.V. Foster becomes Joliet West's third band director.

**1992:** Central Band is named Band of the Year at Southern Illinois University.

**1993:** In the spring semester, Kevin Carroll becomes Joliet West's fourth band director.

**1995:** Joliet Central Band takes first place in its division and is named grand champion overall at Opryland's American Music Festival. Lega is inducted into the American Band Masters Association.



**2000:** Lega is inducted into Joliet-Will County Hall of Pride.

**2002:** Lega retires. Lega receives honorary doctorate of music from Vandercook College. Lewis University awards Lega the St. Genesius Award - patron saint of arts - for recognition of dedication and achievement as music educator, band director and orchestra leader. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of John Paynter, director of bands at Northwestern University. Carroll is awarded Chicagoland Music Educator of the Year Award. West Bands go to San Diego, CA and compete in the World of Music Festival taking home firsts for the Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble and Grand Champion for the Symphonic Band. Michael Fiske appointed director at Joliet Central as the school's fourth band director in its 90 years.

**2003-05:** Joliet West Band plays at the Illinois Superstate Concert Band Competition.

**2003:** Joliet Central Band is named Grand Champions at Illinois State University. Fiske is awarded Chicagoland Music Educator of the Year Award.

**2004:** Joliet Central Band performs at Walt Disney World. The West Band Program travels farther than any JT Band has before by going to Honolulu, Hawaii and performs several concerts on the island of Oahu.

**2006:** Joliet West Band performs as the Grand Champion of Illinois State University's Concert Band Invitational and at the New York Performing Arts Center Competition.

**2006:** Joliet Central Band is named Grand Champions at the New York National Freedom Festival.

**2007:** Joliet West Band plays at the Illinois Superstate Concert Band Competition.

**2008:** Joliet Central Band wins Best in Class at Festival Disney. The West Bands take their first trip to Orlando, Florida/ Disney World under Kevin Carroll's direction and play concerts throughout the Disney parks.

**2010:** Joliet West Band plays at the Illinois Superstate Concert Band Competition. Joliet Central Band plays at Six Flags over Georgia.

**2011:** The West Bands travel to Nashville and Atlanta. Some of the highlights include the Jazz Ensemble producing a recording in the historic studio where Elvis, Dolly Parton and Roy Orbison recorded some of their first hits. Both the Concert and Symphonic Bands compete, receiving first place trophies in Atlanta.

**2012:** Joliet Central Band performs at Walt Disney World.

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I consider Mr. Carroll to be one of my mentors throughout my music career. He helped me develop into the musician I am today, which led me to music therapy. Because of much of his hard work and dedication, I am able to serve many people through music therapy.

My husband, Ben, and I met through band in high school at West. We started dating my freshman year in October 2002. He was a senior and we have been together ever since. This October, we will have been together for 10 years.

I also met many of my good friends through band and the color guard. My best friend/maid of honor and I met in color guard freshman year. We didn't really even get along well until senior year, but now we are the best of friends.

A few of my friends from band/orchestra got together during high school and had our own American Cancer Society's Relay For Life team. The team members had both West and Central kids on it.

**Allison (Marcum) Gunnink - Class of 2006 - Joliet West.**

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*In Loving Memory of  
Donald L. Brown*

*JTHS Class of 1946*

*From His Family*



What I often reflect on, is the fact that the expectations and standards of the band program provided foundational tools for “life after band.” Band was truly a preparation for life experiences in the future; you learned that you had to be better, not just good. With that said, if I had to choose just one memory, it would be the trip to Disneyland, California in June of 1968. It wasn’t just the trip and the experience of playing in Disneyland; it was also the series of year-long activities to raise the money to fulfill our dream. The one vivid memory of the trip is from the day of our performance. The band was in the staging area behind large gates in preparation for our march down Disneyland’s Main Street to our concert in front of Cinderella’s Castle. Suddenly, a booming voice was heard over the park-wide public address system announcing us as the featured band of the day. All in the same moment, the introductory announcement concluded, the drum major’s whistle called us to attention, and the gates opened slowly to the sight of thousands of people lining Main Street to the Castle. There was probably an adrenaline surge in each and every one of us, and we were received enthusiastically by the crowd from start to finish. After months of fundraising and preparation, the dream was realized.

**Tony Contos, Joliet East - Class of 1968.**

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*In Memory  
of  
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Class of ‘52*

*Sax player for the Angels*

*Kay, Frank (C65) and Pat (C67) Desiderio*

# CONGRATULATIONS!



**PAT McGUIRE**

**State Senator, 43rd District**

**JTHS Board, 1993 – 2006**



From the day I learned to walk and talk and tinker on my grandma's piano, there was always mention of me joining the band. When I came of age, I was told that if I joined, I would be joining through my high school graduation ... an infinite amount of time to a fourth-grader. But looking back at it, it was the right call by my parents. There were days I wanted to throw the horn across the room (and did, but it was in the case!) Over the long haul, it was a decision that has defined my life and how I live it.

To say that one person had a profound impact on my life is to sell those four years short. Ted Lega was, and is the most profound influence in my life.

To pick only a single moment out of four years of band is quite hard. In the moment, I'd probably say the strongest feeling I had was during my freshman year when we traveled to Nashville for a music festival. It was my first of that nature, and I didn't understand exactly how the awards system worked. We had performed the day before, and were eagerly awaiting the results. I was sitting with only other freshmen and we sat through award after award, and not certain why we hadn't received any awards. It wasn't until the very end where our class was announced, and we received first place for the class ... and then about three minutes later, the overall grand champion award. Just thinking about that moment still gives me goosebumps!! It wasn't until later that we found out that we had unseated the group who had won both awards for several years, and by a rather significant margin, to boot. The next morning, we had a 'command' performance, playing to a packed house in the Grand Ole Opry Theater. There's nothing like the thrill of seeing an entire sea of people on their feet cheering after your performance.

**Brad Uffelmann, Class of 1991 - Joliet Central**



“A very important part of the overall band program focused on preparing for and presenting first-class concerts in the school’s 2,000-seat auditorium to the student body during the school day and then to the general public that same evening. Our concert programs included overtures and other formal numbers followed by encores. The only encores were Sousa marches. The last number in each concert was Sousa’s famous, Stars and Stripes Forever. The highlight of each performance was to have the piccolo players go to the center of the stage for the first time through the closing strains of the march and then the trumpet and trombone sections flank the piccolo players across the entire stage for the concluding strains. What a thrilling way to end a successful concert!”

**Norman F. Hyatt, Class of 1944.**

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“I remember the thrill of marching back from the practice field on Collins Street to the high school on Fridays before the football games. Just as we would approach the school, we opened up and played March of the Steel Men (Steelmen) and JT Loyalty. The sound was amazing and kids would hang out the windows to hear it and cheer. I remember practicing marching in the summer between Marsh School and the high school. Many people would gather along the chain link fence to watch and listen.”

**John C. Hall, Class of 1966 – Joliet Central.**



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Joliet Central Class of '68



In the 100 year existence of the Joliet Township High School Band, the 1961 concert at Joliet Township High school , a first and memorable thing happened. Mr. Bruce Houseknecht was the band director and we played a musical number called “March to the Battle of Jazz”. It featured two senior drummers, Louie Gaefke and Chuck Burgess, from the class of '61, battling it out on their drum sets. As the two drummers battled back and forth, a spot light would shine on them. However, the spot light would shine on the one that wasn't playing instead of highlighting the one performing. When the number finished, Mr. Houseknecht turned around and faced the audience with his hands on his hips, and yelled for the house lights to be put on. He then said, “We will now play this number again!” He turned around, raised the baton and we played the complete “March to the Battle of Jazz” one more time. I believe that this was a first in the history of the high school band that any director has played a program number twice.

**Louis C. Gaefke, Class of 1961**



“My senior year there were only eight seniors in the band. The president, drum major and one student conductor was the school’s starting center on the basketball team. I was picked as one of the alternate student conductors. Many in my class had jobs so they didn’t make the basketball games. I made every home basketball game my senior year and probably did well over 85 percent of the conducting. We had some games when there were as few as three of us as seniors, none of us as officers; so a bunch of the time I was in charge when it really mattered.”

**Ray Garton, Class of 1971 – Joliet Central.**



“Bruce was great! A great heart and a true musical genius. Those rare occasions when he’d get upset about something which was rare, he’d just mumble something in German and we’d all know he was PO’d. The vast majority of the time once he stepped on that podium all he had to do was put it on cruise control cause we were all so focused.”

**Tom Verderber, Class of 1972 - Joliet Central.**

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## *Congratulations JTHS Band!*

Four Generations of Band Members  
Ray Pritz, Ken Pritz, Jeff Pritz,  
Matt & Vivian Pritz, Stephanie, Adam,  
Maggie, Nick, & Abbey Umek



*Congratulations to all  
JTHS Band Alumni*

*Mary Beth Bjekich  
JT Central '76*



“In the spring of 1941, the band had a two-week trip to California where we played at several Los Angeles high schools and on up to Santa Barbara. I remember playing on national radio from the Los Angeles studio, having our picture taken with Shirley Temple at a movie studio and a night out to visit the Coconut Grove where Benny Goodman was playing, and getting an autographed picture of him (which I still have). I am retired, living in a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. I have a musical wife, musical children and musical grandchildren. My contribution to that started with that great, great Joliet High School Band!”

**Frederic (Ted) L. Beattie, Class of 1941.**



It was a frosty December evening in 1969; Nancy Holmquist, who was the reigning 1970 Gold Band Sponsor for JT Central, had offered me a ride home from The Boston Store where we had just performed with our Madrigals group.

Nancy had impeccable driving skills and was very careful not to turn her head all the way towards me when she asked me a surprising question, “How would you feel about being nominated for Gold Band Sponsor this spring?”

What? Me? Nominated Gold Band Sponsor? It had not occurred to me that I might be given the great honor of marching, filing music, boosting Band morale, watching Mr. Lega’s arms fly towards heaven, his wrist flicking the baton to command the Band’s attention. I turned to smile at Nancy, “I don’t know if I am the right girl for the job. I don’t think I’m pretty or popular enough.”

Nancy replied, “I’ve been discussing you with band members. They agree, you might be perfect.”

Nothing more was mentioned until a day in springtime 1970, when several Junior girls including me, marched into the band room in a sort of beauty contest style, and were asked why we would want to represent Central’s Band next year.

I have no idea what I replied. Only that soon after, the Gold Band Sponsor hat was placed on my head by Nancy Holmquist at 8:00AM while I leaned against the studio grand piano in the chorus room. I think I was alphabetizing choral music.

Being chosen Gold Band Sponsor for 1971 defined the year for me. I felt an obligation to rise to my best and that it was my responsibility to bring dignity and honor to the position. Which included doing my homework and getting better grades.

It was great fun sharing the responsibility with Nancy Pavnica, who had been chosen Blue Band Sponsor. With her beautiful looks and personality, it was easy to aspire to the task at hand.

And because Mr. Lega had been a band member for four years under the direction of Mr. Bruce Houseknecht along with my cousin Nick Seehafer, I had memories of attending Nick’s band concerts on Sunday afternoons which made me even more proud to be associated with such a great organization. The JT Central Band or, Joliet Township Band, gave me a personal legacy of tradition that now spans 100 years.

Throughout my lifetime, I have considered Band Boys and Girls the most respectful, polite, talented, and plainly nice people on the planet.

**Renee (Cheville) Mumford, Joliet Central Class of 1971**

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You may hum these songs in your sleep, but do you know who created The March of the Steel Men (Steelmen) and Joliet Loyalty?

As a high school student in Philadelphia, Charles S. Belsterling, composed The Ambassador for a political marching club that enlivened each campaign with a torch light procession. Years later as vice president of the United States Steel Company, Belsterling heard the JT band perform at his company's offices and at the Radio City Music Hall. After commenting on the value of musical training during his high school years and his own experience as a composer, one of the students asked for a copy of The Ambassador.

A.R. McAllister was impressed and asked Harry L. Alford to make a band arrangement of the song. "This is an inspiring march introducing stirring military strains and novel and outstanding examples of both composer's and arranger's art," McAllister said in an article printed in The School Musician.

Rechristened The March of the Steel Men, the piece was the feature number of JT's 24th anniversary concert. Belsterling attended the concert on March 19, 1937 where the stirring number received its world premiere. Belsterling dedicated the song to the JT Band and the Harwood Post American Legion Band.

The rousing school song was composed by Warren Wood, JT Class of 1927. His music was played by the band for the first time at a football game in 1926. His classmates, Florence Martin, Claude Robison, and Allen Touzalin, penned the lyrics. The song was sung for the first time at a pep rally that opened the 1927 basketball season. The song was copyrighted in 1927.

#### JOLIET LOYALTY

Joliet High, we're always loyal,  
To thee we'll e're be true,  
With a battle cry of "Onward,"  
We will fight for Gold and Blue.  
Rah! Rah!

Joliet High is on to battle,  
We'll conquer ev'ry foe,  
We have a fighting spirit  
On to vic'try we will go!

J-J-JOL  
I-I-IET  
J-O-L-I-E-T!



Oh Hail the Kingsmen,  
Mighty Kingsmen  
School of Green and Gold.  
We'll fight for the right  
To prove our might  
Against our many foes!  
Rah! Rah!  
Oh, East our pride will never cease  
For victory is our goal  
Our battle cry for JT East is  
"Onward we will go!"



Fight... Fight...  
Fight! Fight! Fight!  
Go! West High - Go! Tigers!!!  
Fight, show the foe our might  
Victory and glory bring  
Every loyal son will sing!!  
Rah, Rah, Rah!  
Black, gold and white,  
West is best, and that's our battle cry  
Loyalty and honor to the men of  
Joliet West High

**Congratulations**

A treble clef with three musical notes (one blue, one yellow, one red) is on the left. A sunburst graphic with a musical note stem is in the center. Two more musical notes (one black, one red) are on the right.

On a  
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From  
**The JTHS Foundation Board**

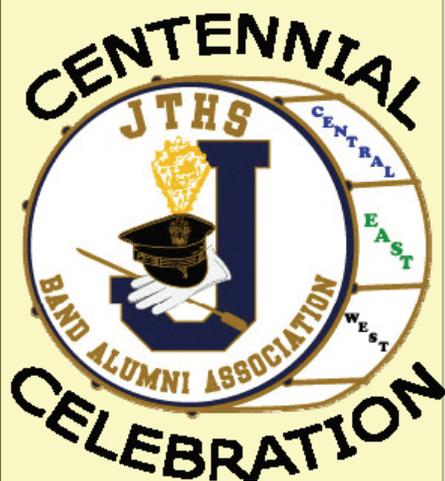
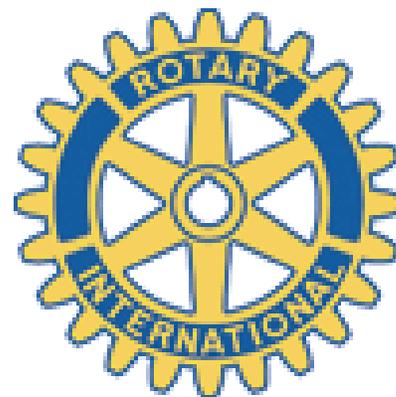
A large black brace is on the left side of the page. At the top and bottom are musical staves with a double bar line and repeat dots.

*Congratulating  
the Musical Legacy  
of the  
JTHS Band Program*

**Happy 100th!**  
*The*

*JTHS Alumni Association  
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**The Rotary Club of Joliet  
Salutes the Joliet Township  
High School Band & is Proud  
to be Part of Your Legacy**



Joliet Rotarians are very proud of their history in helping to make the dream of a Joliet Township High School Band come true.

In 1913, the same year A.R. McAllister was asked to organize JT's first band, the Rotary Club of Joliet was born. One of its first acts of service was to help insure JT band members had what they needed to compete.

Joliet Rotarians and school board members, Al Oldhaver, Herb Spencer and Art Montzheimer, purchased musical instruments and band uniforms from Rotarian George Wiswell's Music Store. And so it began for the Joliet Township High School Band and the Rotary Club of Joliet.

***CONGRATULATIONS  
JOLIET TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL BAND  
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