

# A class act

October 3, 2020, was a big day for Notre Dame High School as its Class of 1960 celebrated their 60-year reunion at the Milford, Mich., home of Eddie Kay and his wife, Nancy, the event's gracious and generous hosts.

According to Kay, who was instrumental in organizing the event and getting 38 people, including 21 alumni from the Class of 1960, safely together in the middle of a pandemic, all the participants were very enthusiastic and upbeat.

"There were so many interesting conversations on what people had done in their lives," he said. "A truly exciting experience with old, old friends!"

Classmate Gary Wilson ND'60, who put together a website dedicated to the Class of 1960 (notredamehw1960.org), also was on hand at the reunion. He recounts the event below.

## NOTES FROM THE CLASS OF 1960 60-YEAR REUNION

By Gary Wilson ND'60

**A** big Class of 1960 "thank you" goes to Eddie ND'60 and Nancy Kay for hosting our 60-year reunion! Their beautiful home was the perfect site for our reunion, given all of the concerns of COVID-19. Each attendee was tested for a fever upon arrival, with hand sanitizers placed throughout the house, and face masks (green and white and showing the ND logo and Class of 1960) were passed out to everyone.

In total, 38 people were in attendance, which included 21 NDHS classmates. Also in attendance was Beth Lockhart, the Director of Alumni Relations for Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy. Beth was a tremendous help to Eddie, Nancy and the 60-year reunion organizers, including George Garascia, John Kessler, Dennis Lang, Jerry Rumph, Roy Slongo and myself. It was an extremely well-organized event.

Our time together spanned from 1 p.m. to last call at around 8:30 p.m. It was a wonderful opportunity to reminisce, share stories of past years and re-establish old friendships. A few points of interest:

A professionally made reunion booklet including classmates' names, addresses, biographical information and photographs was given to each classmate. A well-done keepsake. (Thanks to Beth for putting it together.)

Beth also led us in a thoughtful prayer before our meal. In

addition, she provided a few examples of how Notre Dame High School in Harper Woods had been blended with Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy in Pontiac. She referenced a number of NDHS graduates who are on staff at NDPMA, including three Marist priests. Specifically, Beth highlighted the following fellow NDHS alumni:

Andy Guest ND'84 (Head of School), Tony Block ND'80 (Chief Financial Officer), Mike Kelly ND'73 (Director of Marketing and Tom Kelly's son), Fr. Joe Hindelang ND'68 (High School Principal), Fr. Leon Olszamowski ND'65 (Corporate President), Fr. Jim Strasz ND'70 (Campus Ministry), Gregory Simon ND'89 (Dean of Admissions) and Mark McGreevy ND'76 (Notre Dame Middle School Religion Teacher).



Beth also talked about several artifacts from NDHS that are on display at NDPMA, including the Stations of the Cross, now in the school chapel, and other statues placed around the NDPMA campus. It was good to hear that the newer "Fighting Irish" school is keeping the original "Fighting Irish" school's spirit alive and well. A donation to NDPMA is encouraged in appreciation.

Each classmate and spouse were given name tags. Fortunately, the lettering was large (ha!) and they also included our graduation photos. It was fun to see what we

### RIGHT

The hosts for the Class of 1960 reunion: Nancy and Eddie Kay.



looked like back in the day. Thoughtfully, name tags for the six spouses who graduated from Regina High School also were prepared, which was a nice piece of recognition.

Two poster boards also were on display showing the photographs of our deceased classmates. The display provided an opportunity to recall our time together with them in school. Classmate Roy Slongo also offered a prayer granting them peace and eternal rest.

A few of Eddie's classmates then presented him with a framed certificate of appreciation and roses were also presented to Nancy for her assistance and support of the reunion.

Our thanks again to Eddie and Nancy Kay for their hard work in organizing and hosting our reunion. Thinking back,



### FAR LEFT

Deceased classmates were honored at the reunion.

### LEFT

Among the reunion attendees: George Garascia, Dennis Lang, Roy Slongo, Jerry Rumph, Eddie Kay and Garv Wilson.

### BELOW

At the reunion: front row, George Runstadler, Vito Marchese, Rich Caloia, Joe Trompeter, Paul Kuntzler, Eddie Kay, Jim Mazrum, Ron Steffens (not pictured: Mike Lueck). Back row, Mike Jeakle, Terry Sullivan, Fred Schultz, Richard Dau, George Garascia, Jerry Rumph, Dennis Lang, Mike Marlow, Frank Jaminet, Gary Wilson, Joe Lupu and Roy Slongo.

Eddie has hosted our 50-year reunion in 2010, a class picnic in 2011, a reunion in Florida in 2017 and now our 60th in 2020. We all should be thankful for his leadership and efforts to keeping the spirit of Notre Dame's Class of 1960 alive and well. Hopefully, the many photographs on our website (notredamehw1960.org) will help capture our meaningful time together.

Let's hope that this was not our last time together. Several ideas have been discussed that might allow us to meet in an alternative way. Details will be shared when they become available. In the meantime, stay well, stay safe, keep in touch, maintain the spirit of Notre Dame High School and God bless all of you!

Go Irish! ◀

