



# VFW BOYS - WJMB Alumni News

[www.wjmbalumni.org](http://www.wjmbalumni.org)

**WJMB Alumni  
Association**

Spring  
2009

## Summer Picnic Date Set - Saturday, June 20th!

Thanks to the leaders of our young organization, we can all now set aside the date of Saturday, June 20th for this upcoming summers alumni picnic.

After discussion, an agreement was made to keep the date in June and close to Father's Day in the hope that alumni may be journeying home to visit their dads.

Despite the rain cooling things down a bit, last June's picnic was attended by more alumni than expected, and all had a great time. With the planning being done well ahead of time for this year, it is expected that we could double the attendance from last year! Wow, wouldn't that be great!

As always, the picnic will welcome all alumni, family and friends, and is free of charge. Thanks to Russ Beatty once again for negotiating the use of Fireman's Park in Poland, Ohio.

The alumni association will once again supply the hamburgers and hot dogs and we ask that guests bring a covered dish to share, tableware, and your favorite beverage. As many of us realized last year, although the park has plenty of room, there is not quite enough picnic tables. It is recommended that folks bring some extra lawn chairs for your own comfort, just in case of a larger than expected crowd.

As we get closer to the date, a reminder postcard will be mailed out as a courtesy to everyone on the mailing list. If you realize that

for some reason you are not, please let us know by emailing your name and address to:

[mike.cecil@wjmbalumni.org](mailto:mike.cecil@wjmbalumni.org)

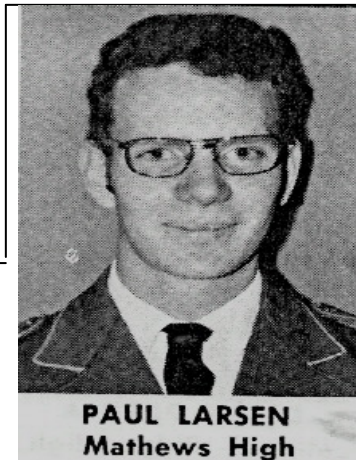
Details again are as follows:

**Date: Saturday, June 20th 2009**

**Time: 2pm - Dusk**

**Where: Fireman's Field Park  
Poland, Ohio**

Bring: Tableware, Covered Dish, Beverages, Memorabilia, Smiles!



**PAUL LARSEN  
Mathews High**

Photo of Paul taken from the 1974 WJMB annual concert program

## Paul Larsen, An Alumni Remembered 1954-2009

"He was a fun-loving guy. He spent 20 years in the Marine Corps. He was in Beirut, Lebanon, Gulf War and on the invasion of Grenada. He spent time serving his country as a good citizen," said Chris Larsen, the brother of Paul Larsen.

Paul Larsen died Tuesday March 17th after being struck by two cars on South Avenue in Youngstown, Ohio. Youngstown police are still searching for the driver that initially hit Larsen, but drove away.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place on Saturday, March 21, at St. Columba Cathedral.

Paul was born March 10, 1957 in Warren, the son of C. Otto

and E. Helen Stacher Larsen.

He graduated from Mathews High School in 1975. Immediately following, Paul enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving his country for 20 years. He served in Beirut, Granada, Desert Storm, Japan, Persian Gulf, Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton. He was in the Marine Corps Band, served as a recruiter and amphibian crewman later retiring as a Gunnery Sergeant in 1995. After his military career, Paul worked as a diesel mechanic and formerly worked for J.P. Hunt Trucking. He was a member of St. Columba, the retired Marine Corps Association.

Paul will also be remembered by his WJMB family. The number of his fellow alumni that turned out to pay respects to Paul would not only have

made Squire very pleased, but his family members were most surprised at the show of support. The alumni association also sent flowers and made a small monetary donation to the family.

Paul and his family, most notably his father "Otto" (former band manager and trustee) are just one of the many fine families that gave so much of their time and efforts to support the mission of Squire and the band. Paul followed that lead by being a model member for many years. For their efforts and friendship, and on behalf of all alumni everywhere, we say thank you to the Larsen family, and a fond farewell to Paul. You will be missed. Paul was 52 years old.

Board meetings will be held on the second Saturday during the following months: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov. Time and Location TBA

## **VFW Boys / WJMB Alumni Association Board Members**

- President - Jim Cunningham
- Vice President - Mike Ceci
- Treasurer - Pam Raidel (Potter)
- Secretary - Wendy Mundell (Slee)
- Trustee - Russ Beatty
- Trustee - Holly Ceci (Burns)
- Trustee - Marcy Davis (Slee)
- Trustee - Dan Davis
- Trustee - Mike Harlan
- Trustee - Cindy Munson (Slee)
- Trustee - Steve Pasternak
- Trustee - Heidi Wagner
- Trustee - Dick Walker
- Trustee - Jonathan Willis
- Trustee - James Gruver

## **You're Invited: Bi-Weekly Alumni Reunion Breakfast**

Since we have been really enjoying ourselves, and getting many things accomplished at the same time, we are planning to meet out for breakfast more regularly, and less informally, hoping more alumni may find the time to join us! With a special thanks to fellow alumnus **Rob Proverbs, 76-82**, who has arranged for us to be able to meet at his restaurant, **The Korner Restaurant, Mahoning Ave. N. Jackson** at 9am, every other Saturday

The numbers in attendance have been growing and the most recent morning saw almost 20 alumni just hanging out and chatting over coffee. Come and visit with us! Visit [www.wjmbalumni.org](http://www.wjmbalumni.org) for any future updates. We hope to see you there to enjoy the wonderful food Rob's place has to offer.



### Squire's Stories "Duty, Honor, Country"



*"If I have taught them love of God and Country and an appreciation of fine music, then I have achieved my reward."*  
-Squire



One of the many pursuits of our alumni association is to collect, preserve and protect our childhood organizations memories whenever possible. Since sending out a request for donations of old photos, programs, etc. we have received many boxes of items. From a kind donation from the family of former band manager Otto Larsen to a gift from the family of Robert Hummer, not to mention the Ruth Beatty (Hill) entrusting us to scan her priceless photos of camp, trips, and the band from the 1940's, we have begun a wonderful conservation effort.

With this initial collection of photos, we have been able to put together about a 30 minute DVD of VFW/WJMB memories. This video, which we hope will be the first of many, was debuted at the Winter Mix this past January, and will be available for sale at the upcoming picnic in June. It will also soon be available on our website as well. As with any alumni project, any proceeds will benefit our continued mission of bringing together alumni from all corners of the country .

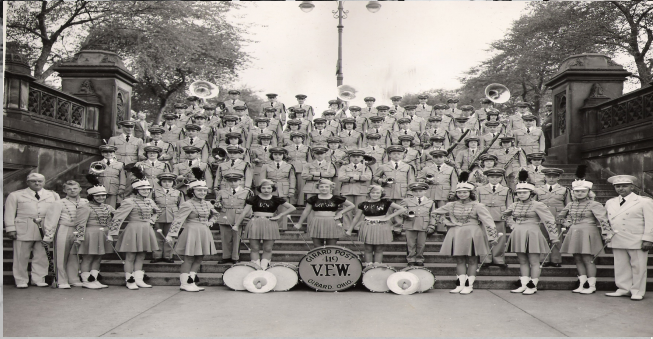
This page shows a glimpse of some of the wonderful photos that have been donated or scanned with the permission or donation of the owner. It is also the hope to soon be able to allow online access to all of our scanned images very soon. In the mean time, we hope you enjoy these!

To share your story with everyone, just write it down as well as you can and send it to PO Box 291 Niles, Oh 44446, or contact a member of the newsletter committee for help. Email us at : newsletter@wjmbalumni.org



**Donald W. Hurrelbrink**

Director V. F. W. Junior Band 1930 to present date. Graduated Dana's Institute of Music and the Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati, Ohio. French Horn is his basic instrument. He is Director of Music at the Fitch High School of Youngstown.



**V.F.W. 55th NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT 1954**  
 SPECTACULAR MILLION DOLLAR PAGEANT OF DRUMS  
 AUGUST 4, 1954  
**VFW**  
 ADULT GENERAL ADMISSION \$1.00  
 2944  
 \$15,000 PRIZES  
 7 P.M.



## January "Winter Fling" Success Despite Winter Snow Storm!

Talk about a "Winter Wonderland!" That is exactly what everyone ran into that attended the January 10th Dinner Banquet in downtown Struthers, Ohio.

However, with the wonderful planning of Russ Beatty and his wife Tammy, the event held at Donna Vito's went off without a hitch, unless you take the foot of snow that fell that day into account! Those that braved the cold and bad roads were treated to an evening that included a very nice buffet, an alumni video, and surprise guests from out of town alumni like Chip Williams and his wife, the former Joyce Leedy, as well as Ray DePaul from NYC, and Joey Esposito from Baltimore, MD.

With the number of cancellations that came last minute (about 30) due to the weather, it does appear that there is enough interest to schedule another event for either next winter, or quite possible late in the fall, near Thanksgiving. Once a date is set, invitations and emails will be sent.

### Partial List of Attendees

Ayres, Phil (78-84)

Batt, Pam

Beatty, Rick

Beatty (Hill), Ruth (45-52)

Beatty, Russ (45-48)

Beatty, Russ (72-78)

Ceci (Burns), Holly (85-92)

Ceci, Mike (82-87)

Costarella Jr, Joe (70's-8 yrs)

Costarella Sr, Joe (49-54)

Cunningham, Jim (66-72)

Davis, Dan (81-87)

DePaul, Ray

Esposito, Joe

Franklin (Bush), Margaret (68-79)

Gerrity, Bill & Judy (Parents 1980's)

Gerrity, Susan (79-84)

Gruver, Jim (73-76)

Gruver (Jones), Janice (74-77)

Gruver, David (2001)

Harlan (Gerrity), Beth Anne (81-86)

Harlan, Jack (78-83)

Harlan, Mike (Mighty Mouse) (80-86)

Pasternak, Steve (71-72)

Raidel (Potter), Pam (69-74)

Raseta (Beatty), Ruth Ann (80's-6 yrs)

Smith (Franklin), Margie (70's-6 yrs)

Taylor, Lori & Bill

Thomas, Rick & Vicky

Tobin, Karen (Lapresta)

Walker, Dick (70's)

Williams, Chuck (74-79)

Williams, Robert (Chip) & Joyce (Leedy)

Wilson, Carol

Witt, Al

Zabotsky, Dave (71-77)

## Message From Our President



Jim Cunningham  
Photo taken from the April 1971

I would like to thank everyone who has helped the Alumni Association grow for the last year and a half.

There have been many alumni that have shared their stories from their time in the band. We have heard many funny stories and some sad ones as well. We hope to be able to continue

to share these with you in every issue of our newsletter. That is why I am asking you keep sending them in! Sharing your memories with us is one of the finest ways we can honor Squire and the band we love. The address is listed all over, so send them in! We also need your help as we move forward. There are many opportunities for you to share your talents and be

involved. Help is needed with the newsletter committee, membership committee, etc. Your financial help is also needed. The cost of producing a newsletter and sending it through the mail is quite expensive. Your monetary donations are needed to help us grow and keep in touch with each other. Please consider sending in your yearly dues of \$20 as soon as you can. See you all at the picnic on June 20th!

## Alumni to Promote Alumni Business Interest

Another function of the alumni association is to promote what we do to each other. Maybe a former member is looking for an attorney for estate planning, their might just be an alumni lawyer out there that can help. Need your hot water tank replaced? Or maybe your are ready to replace that window

in the den that keeps letting the cold winter air in? There just might be an alumnus out there to help. We are looking for anyone that owns their own business or provides goods and or services that other alumni may be in need of to send in your business card and a brief description of what you do

and for how long you have been providing this service to the community. No matter if you teach private lessons or are a banker or a butcher, we will gladly publicize you to our organization, and not only in this newsletter, but on our website as well. Send any materials to:

**P O Box 291 Niles, OH 44446.**

## Financial Message: Treasurer Pam Raidel (Potter)

It was with great pleasure that we were finally able to secure Pam Raidel (Potter) to serve as our organizations treasurer. Pam has spent the past many years in the employ of Home Savings & Loan in the Youngstown area and is currently a Vice-President at the new Austintown location on Mahoning Ave. in front of the Home Depot. Pam invites any alumni to stop in and say hello, or if you have any financial questions, she is available for that as well.

On to the financial business of the alumni association. As stated in past newsletters, our organization is most fortunate in that we need very little money to operate. It is fortunate because that is what we have. Very little money. As of 01/31/2009, our checking account balance was \$1,621.00. With total accounts payable at \$929.68 for items related to the Winter Mix and past newsletter expenses, not to mention monthly web hosting

fees, our total capital ends up at \$711.97. With the newsletter costing about \$300 per publication, along with other mailings and expenses for the summer picnic, our estimated annual financial needs to cover costs are about \$1500.00. This relates to only needing 75 alumni to pay their annual \$20 donation and we can keep this organization operating and providing the same services to our members. Thanks for helping!



**VFW Band - WJMB Alumni Association**

P.O. Box 291  
Niles, OH 44446

E-mail: [info@wjmbalumni.org](mailto:info@wjmbalumni.org)

***I, remember Squire.  
How about you?***

WJMB  
Alumni  
Association



**We Need Your Help!**

**Please Volunteer to assist us with any of the following duties:**

- 1. Website Maintenance**
- 2. Database Management**
- 3. Newsletter Updates**
- 4. Membership Committee**
- 5. Event Planning**

**Contact Mike Ceci to volunteer at [mike.ceci@wjmbalumni.org](mailto:mike.ceci@wjmbalumni.org)**



Thanks to our newsletter contributors : Chuck Williams, Jim Cunningham, Mike Ceci, Wendy Mundell & Russ Beatty

**Yes! I Believe in Squire! 2008/9 - WJMB Alumni Association Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Band: \_\_\_\_\_ High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Donation: \$20

\*\*Please note that all membership fees collected are only used for WJMB Alumni Association operational expenses such as: web site fees, newsletter expense, legal filing fees, gathering/picnic expense, etc.

Make checks payable to: **WJMB Alumni Association**

Mail To: **WJMB Alumni Association, PO Box 291, Niles, OH 44446-0291**

This newsletter is published quarterly by the WJMB Alumni Association whose members are alumni or friends of the Warren Junior Military Band of Youngstown, Ohio. The WJMB Alumni Association offers contact with alumni members, updates on WJMB band events and occasional alumni social gatherings. Additional information can be found at [www.wjmbalumni.org](http://www.wjmbalumni.org).

Please let us know what you think about this newsletter. We welcome suggestions and ideas for stories of interest to our readers. Just email your comments and/or suggestions to the Newsletter Committee at [newsletter-committee@wjmbalumni.org](mailto:newsletter-committee@wjmbalumni.org).

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