



Dec. 20 2023

See us on the Web @  
[Tumwaterhighalumni.com](http://Tumwaterhighalumni.com)  
or on Facebook  
"Tumwater High School  
Alumni" group

*Inside This Issue*

President's Mes- sage	2
Principal's Mes- sage	4
Scholarships	5
THSAA Activities	8
THSAA (ARTESIAN) Golf Classic	8
Reunions	12
All Class Reun- ion	12
Alumni Spotlight	16



**A Thunderbird is frequently depicted atop a Native American totem pole, with wings spread wide, he is proud and sturdy. A symbol of endurance and an emblem of self-empowerment he represents a force to be respected, honored and reckoned with.**



# Tumwater High School Alumni Association



Message from the President

December 2023

Greetings THS Alumni!

2023 was a good year for THSAA as we pursued our mission of promoting alumni connectivity, having fun, and giving back to THS. This year's Artesian Golf Classic was again a huge success. We had a total of 20 teams signed up which is great progress in meeting our goal of hosting a "full" tournament of 30+ teams. We were blessed by great weather and a lively group of golf enthusiasts! Proceeds from this tournament along with donations from several very generous alumni donors allowed THSAA to award six total scholarships; Sawyer Hicks was awarded the \$1750 Edna Belle Granacki Community Service Scholarship and five \$1500 scholarships awarded to the following: Andrew Chappel, Emma Vani, Kham Pham, Reagan Broome, and Samira Torfin. We are very grateful for the many donations received from alumni who contributed to our scholarship program; without their support we would not be able to increase the quality and quantity of scholarships awarded over the years.

We were thankful to host our annual "all class" reunion on August 26, 2023. Due to a very tragic January fire at the Sherman Valley Ranch, which took the lives of 5 members of the Steve Cox family, the venue had to be changed to the Swede Hall in Rochester. We are indebted to Pam McDaniel Cox Ward ('75) for her generosity in allowing us to host our previous reunions at her ranch. We estimate over 150 alumni gathered to enjoy the camaradery of classmates spanning from class of 1962 to the present. Our current plan is to host our next "all class" reunion on August 24, 2024 at Swede Hall in Rochester.

We are interested in putting a "spotlight" on alumni (former students, teachers, and administrators) who have been a positive influence in our community or have noteworthy accomplishments in their careers. This newsletter puts a "spotlight" on THS '91 graduate Francis Hoang, an entrepreneur, West Point graduate, former military officer, and an attorney. I think you'll find his story compelling and inspirational. It is a great example of how hard work and motivated sense of purpose can lead to great accomplishments. Especially noteworthy for me is how the THS community embraced the opportunity to provide a positive, stable, and nurturing environment which enabled Francis to realize his full potential. Thank you, Francis for your dedicated service and best wishes in your future endeavors. If the alumni community have suggestions for future "spotlights", please contact Rock Boardman at (elkhorns@comcast.net)

I'd like to welcome Sonja Eby Winkelman ('75) who was voted into the THSAA board during our February annual meeting. Sonja is our Activities Chairperson and planned the "all-class" reunion and did an outstanding job of coordinating all the moving parts to make this event happen. The Golf Chair is still vacant. Our bylaws call for each board position to be voted upon every three years for renewal/rotation and staggered so not all positions are voted upon the same year. Alumni members who attend the February Annual meeting are eligible to vote; the past three votes were conducted by Zoom Meeting so physical presence is not required. Positions up for renewal/rotation are Secretary, Communications Chair, and History Chair. Our by-laws call for the VP to assemble a slate of persons who are interested in a board position, so if you are interested please contact Louisa Ward Shimamoto at louisaths75@gmail.com.

Currently, we have scheduled the 2024 Artesian Golf Classic for 1:30PM (Shotgun start) on June 1, 2024 at Capitol City Golf Club and is open to all interested golfers. Sign up "online" at [tumwaterhighalumni.com/golf](http://tumwaterhighalumni.com/golf) or via "snail mail" with the below form. If you're aware of folks interested in providing sponsorship, please send their contact information my way and I'll get in touch with them. Stay tuned at our website: [tumwaterhighalumni.com](http://tumwaterhighalumni.com) or on Face Book: "Tumwater High School Alumni" group. Looking forward to a prosperous 2024 as we reminisce our THS past.

## THSAA MEMBERSHIP :

One time donation fee of \$25.00. Fees and Donations are tax deductible and help provide scholarships to deserving graduating THS Seniors.

Join us and attend our fun and enjoyable activities by accessing the THSAA website at [TumwaterHighAlumni.com](http://TumwaterHighAlumni.com). There you will find everything you need to become a THSAA member.

*Tumwater*  
**ARTESIAN**  
**GOLF CLASSIC**



**June 1, 2024**

**Capitol City Golf Club**

**5225 Yelm Hwy SE**

**Lacey, WA 98503**

**Shotgun Start @ 1:30PM**

**Sign up at: [tumwaterhighalumni.com](http://tumwaterhighalumni.com) or**

**Submit the below via mail:**

**Team Captain/Contact person:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_, Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Player #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Singles and double welcome! We'll make foursomes

Remit Check to: THSAA, P.O. Box 14114, Tumwater, WA 98511

Cost: Foursome: \$380 (\$95/person). Includes green fees, cart, prizes, dinner (outdoor under cover) after the tournament, and range balls. Also raffle available.

All proceeds go towards funding scholarships for graduating Tumwater High School seniors.

THSAA is a non-profit charitable corporation in accordance with IRS 501(c)(3) tax code. EIN: 46-0906920



## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SUDERMAN

Dear Alumni Association -

It is truly an honor to introduce myself as Principal of Tumwater High School. I was offered my first teaching position at THS in 2004 and I didn't realize how fortunate I was to be welcomed into the Tumwater High School Family. In years to follow, the people and the community of Tumwater would shape my future both personally and professionally. After teaching math at THS for 15 years I took my first administrative position with another school district and, 2 years later, was able to come back to THS as an Assistant Principal in 2021. Having now assumed the Principalship at THS in the start of my 20<sup>th</sup> year in education is a great honor.

I'm happy to report that the longstanding culture of investment at Tumwater High School is alive and well! People from a wide array of stakeholder groups (students, staff, community members, past and present) continue to show up in big ways and invest their time, energy and effort in Tumwater High School. Here are some highlights:

- The THS class of 1993 laid a healthy layer of beauty bark that is putting a shine on the front area landscaping – it looks great, THANK YOU!
- How about our current ASB President, Kylar Carlson! He is going big in his investment and has taken it upon himself to clean, dust and organize our trophy cases. I caught him in the act at 4:30pm one afternoon and, as I understand it, he was here till 7pm that day.
- Pancake Friday has become something special. Several of our paraprofessionals cook and serve pancakes every Friday morning. We have upwards of 100 students from a variety of different backgrounds coming in for some free Friday morning pancakes.



Homecoming week was a huge hit! We had a ton of student and staff participation in the Spirit Days and the Homecoming dance was attended by about 800 students! We also held the first ever THS class competitions that included tug-o-war, plank walk races, pie eating contests, and several other events – approximately 150 students showed up to this event and we're already looking forward to doing this during our Spring Spirit Week.

There are so many ways that people associated with Tumwater High School do things that continue to make this place special and it doesn't take long to see and feel the results. The vibe at THS is good!

In my first year as Principal of THS, I couldn't have hoped for a better start with a better staff. We have an incredible team of people that are finding ways to create great high school memories for our students as well as setting them up for success in their post-high school endeavors. Thank you, Alumni Association, for your support and for your continued investment in making Tumwater High School a special place.

Sincerely,

Zach Suderman

Tumwater High School Principal

**THSAA WOULD LIKE TO CONGRADULATE  
PRINCIPAL SUDERMAN ON HIS POSITION  
AND WILL GLADLY SUPPORT HIM AND HIS  
STAFF!!**



## 2023 Scholarship Winners

THSAA awarded five \$1,500 and one \$1,750 secondary education scholarships to graduating THS seniors. The scholarship selection is made based upon leadership, scholarship and community service. They are, Andrew Chappel, Regan Broome, Sawyer Hicks (Edna Belle-Granacki Service Award Recipient), Khanh Pham, Samiria Tarfin, and Emma Vani. These persons are fine examples of the values of THS and the alumni association. Congratulations to our award winners. *Since 2013, THSAA has awarded scholarships to graduating seniors amounting to 44 scholarships for a total of \$ 57,750.*

### Regan Broome

The first thing I think of when I think about Tumwater High School is our mantra: Pride, Tradition, and Courage. As I walk through the halls of this beloved school and ponder the next years of my life, I know that it will be these three values that guide me. Being a THS graduate is no small feat. Because of our long standing reputation of excellence at all levels, the Tumwater degree holds weight in the community. Being a Tumwater graduate means that I will be a T-Bird for the rest of my life. No matter what I end up doing or where I end up going, I know that this school and this community will always be here for me. There have been memories made here that I will never forget, and I know that I have done my best to leave Tumwater High School better than I found it. As a Tumwater graduate, I also know that there is a reputation to uphold and it is my job to bring the values I learned out into the community. This school is where I learned that respect is more than respecting my teachers, it meant respecting myself in my conduct and respecting the space around me. This school is where I learned the value of quality education from teachers who care about me as a person, not just as a student. This school is where I learned the value of being a student-athlete who excels in their sport and in their classes. I have already begun to live out these values while in high school. I love showing up to sports games to support my friends, and I also loved getting to put on a special event for our special needs students so they could be in the spotlight for a night and enjoy the rush of making the game-winning shot. In the end, I will continue to uphold the classic T-Bird values of pride, tradition, and courage, and I will Never Give Up, Never Never Give Up, but in its other value I learned, such as believing that everyone deserves respect and we are all different, yet united as T-Birds, that I will carry with me long into the future.



### Sawyer Hicks Edna Belle-Granacki Service Award Recipient

It was a stormy night. Thunder resonated throughout the valley. Lightning illuminated the night sky. Rain drenched everything in touch. All the creatures sought shelter in fear of the terrible storm. But one creature refused to cower. The Thunderbird persevered. Though the night was dark and scary the Thunderbird knew that the sun would shine in the morning. The Thunderbird was a symbol for the other creatures that perseverance will lead to a pleasant tomorrow. The Thunderbird wanted to uplift the other creatures out of hiding so it fought against the storm and against the adversity that life brings. The Thunderbird was raised in a nest that instilled perseverance, work ethic, and empathy. It carries those values throughout its flight through the storm. That storm represents the adversity that life brings. Tumwater High School has prepared me in such a way that I will stay true to the core values of the Thunderbird. My interest in the world and how it works was refined as I went through high school. All subject areas fascinate me, but science rises above the rest. I enrolled in every science class that THS offered. Continuing this scientific learning and discovery would be a dream.



Through Tumwater cross country I have learned the value of teamwork and grit. Most importantly I have made life long friendships. In leadership class and in Tumwater's honor society I have developed a passion to lead and to serve the community. This passion has been applied through 4-H, where I raise beef cattle, and through mission trips with my church's youth group. Empathy, commitment, responsibility, and work ethic are all things that are important to me and summarize what it means to be a T-Bird. Youth's experiences and my passion for science has allowed me to quite easily define my life goals. Firstly, it is important to put myself in a position to contribute positively to my community. Equally, I feel it is my calling duty to care for others and improve their lives..

Becoming a medical doctor embodies both of my ambitions. It is a career where scientific knowledge and human compassion are intertwined in order to make the world a better place. I know my ambitions have to be earned., I understand the degree of effort required to accomplish my dream. When I carry in my heart the notion that I am working towards my goal not only for myself, but for my family, my country, and my world, I feel that I can accomplish anything. I will stand strong through adversity and fly through the storm. Tumwater High School has been my nest, a place where I grew and learned who I was and who I want to be. One thing is certain, that wherever life takes me I will always be a Thunderbird.

**BE T-BIRD STRONG**

## 2023 Scholarship Winners Continued

**Samiria Tarfin** My journey to becoming a T-Bird started at Peter G Schmidt Elementary School in Mrs. Gress's kindergarten class. I never would have imagined that the friendships I found would follow me to graduation. Not only did I find my life long friends but I found my future calling. In fifth grade, Ms. Luce demonstrated the impact a caring and supportive teacher can have on a student. It was through Ms. Luce that I first realized I wanted to become a teacher, but it was my experience at Tumwater High School that helped me to discover the values I hope to implement as a future teacher.

As a freshman, the first thing I noticed while roaming the halls of Tumwater High School were the words *pride, tradition, and courage* displayed all around. Over the course of my four years at Tumwater, I have had the opportunity to participate in leadership, key club, cheer, community service, and honors courses. Through these experiences, I have come to understand that in addition to pride, tradition, and courage, unity, equality, respect, and kindness define what it means to be a T-Bird.

Through my time at Tumwater, I have learned that being a T-Bird is more than just reping the school colors. Being a T-Bird means having an open mind and heart to new people and new ideas. It means respecting others' opinions and differences, and working to keep the campus a safe environment where everyone can come together and feel heard, cared for, and most importantly treated with kindness. Tumwater has shown me how vital it is to live by these values and dedicate yourself to them in order to promote this behavior in the community.

As a Tumwater graduate, I plan to continue to live by these values, embodying what it means to be a T-Bird. I do not just want to practice these values myself, I want to be a good role model and hopefully influence others to live by these values as well. I plan to attend Western Washington University and earn a degree in elementary teaching so I can return to the Tumwater school district and pursue my dream career as an elementary school teacher. I hope to instill the same values in my students and help inspire and uplift young minds like my teachers at THS have done for me.

I credit Tumwater for helping me grow and mature into the person I am today. Although graduation can be a moment of bittersweet nostalgia and reflection, I am excited to go to Western Washington University and gain the tools necessary to return to Tumwater School District as a teacher inspiring future generations of T-Birds.



**Andrew Chappel** Go T-Birds! Be T-Bird Strong! But what does that mean? Go where? How do I be strong? As a Tumwater High School graduate, I think this has several unique qualities and values. To me, becoming a THS graduate means you have gained the skills and knowledge necessary to move onto the next stage of life. As a THS graduate moves to the next stage, whether that be the work force, attend a post-secondary education or something else, the THS graduate moves with courage and strength within oneself. Starting a new stage of life can be scary, but the courage I gained at THS will help me be successful in my post-secondary education. This same courage helped me have confidence to apply to a post-secondary school that has a 46% acceptance rate, which I achieved in December. As I begin my new stage, DigiPen Institute of Technology, I can have courage because I had a good foundation from my education at Tumwater High School.

While I struggled with ADD (attention deficit disorder), the teachers at THS were always present and ready to help me no matter what, to give me the strength I needed in each subject. These same teachers have taught me valuable skills from writing to public speaking to Pre-Calculus, which will give me the courage to be one of the best students at DigiPen Institute of Technology. I can be confident as I work towards my bachelors degree of Computer Science and Game Design and hopefully be hired in the gaming industry. For me to carry the Tumwater High School value of pride into my post-secondary education, I will try to get all my work done and turned in on time and done right the first time. By having pride in my work and myself, I will be sure the work I turn in reflects it. Another tradition I learned and took to heart from Tumwater High School that will help at DigiPen Institute of Technology is work ethics. I will be punctual in attending all my classes and do my best to maintain near perfect attendance. I will use my study time and professor's office hours to their fullest potential, and I will put school first. By following these ideals and the traditions of Tumwater High School I will be able to proudly represent my high school while finding success in the highest places. Go T-Birds! Be T-Bird Strong!



**NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP**



## 2023 Scholarship Winners Continued

### **Emma Vani**

Tumwater High School has been my home for the past four years. It is amazing to think that I have graduated from high school and that I will be leaving for college soon after. I remember walking into the gym my freshman year during the freshman orientation and seeing this big place. It was kind of overwhelming at first, but the welcoming seniors and amazing teachers made me feel like I was home.

Because of the pandemic, I had to learn remotely part of my freshman year and the majority of my sophomore year, as did most students. It was definitely a unique experience for all of us. It was not what I envisioned, but I adapted. Dealing with adversity is a lesson that I have learned at THS, learning to roll with changes while not getting too overwhelmed.



When I was a Freshman, I had Ms. Schaake as my English teacher. I loved her class, and I would always turn in my best quality work. Ms. Schaake showed everyone kindness and compassion, and made everyone feel welcome. I was fortunate enough to have Ms. Schaake for my sophomore English teacher as well, despite having to learn remotely via Zoom for most of the year due to the pandemic. Ms. Schaake was even great at teaching over Zoom, and she made sure all of the materials they needed and were understanding the material. When the students returned for hybrid learning, she continued to make everyone feel like they were [part of the THS community. Not only did she help me with any questions I had about English, but she helped me with life and with tennis. Ms. Schaake started helping coach girls' tennis during my sophomore year, and it was great to have such a wonderful person join us on the courts. She has been one of the most influential teachers in my life and has shown me what it means to be a T-Bird, whether that means in the classroom, on the tennis court, or out in the community. I believe that these values of compassion that Ms. Schaake, among other teachers, have shown me are the values that we as T-Birds need to carry on as we move into the next chapter of our lives; these values and our willingness to help others around us are important to carry on, as they will help us to succeed in school and in life.

When I reflect on what it will mean to be a Tumwater graduate, I think about how grateful I am to have attended a high school that has such a sense of pride, honor, and tradition. Tumwater High School has had a great impact on my life from the lessons that I have learned to the positive influence of the teachers and staff. I am very grateful that I was able to attend such a fantastic high school in such a great community.

### **Khanh Pham**

As a Tumwater High School graduate, I am proud to carry on the values that have been instilled in me during my time at THS. At the heart of these values is the importance of family and community, which serves as the foundation for everything we do at THS.

This places a strong emphasis on the importance of family. It serves as the center of everything, and this is evident in the way students and staff interact with each other. Teachers go out of their way to support their students, and they prioritize building meaningful relationships with them. At THS, students are not just numbers; they are individuals with unique talents, interests, and experiences. This emphasis on family has taught me the importance of looking out for one another and supporting each other through difficult times.

One way THS prioritizes our future is through the Senior Culminating Project, which requires every student to present a senior presentation and a 13th year plan. This project prepares us for our next steps in life, whether it be continuing our education or contributing to the workforce. This emphasis on family and community continues through the many co-curricular activities offered at THS. These activities, which include athletics, clubs, music, drama, leaderships, and community service, not only allow us to explore our interests but also prepare us for success in our academic coursework.

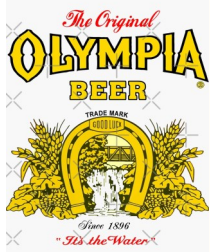
As a THS graduate, I am committed to carrying on those values in my future endeavors. I will prioritize family and community, and strive to make a positive impact in the world. I know that perseverance is essential in facing difficult circumstances, and I have seen firsthand how my fellow TBirds embody this value. I am confident that the values instilled in me at THS will serve me well as I pursue my academic and career goals.

My intended major of Computer Science and Information Systems, with a specialization in Cybersecurity, is an excellent fit for me. I have a passion for problem-solving and a determination to make a positive impact in my community and beyond. I know that I have the skills and resilience to succeed in this field and carry on the values of THS.

In conclusion, being a Tumwater High School graduate means carrying on the values of family, community, perseverance and excellence. These values have prepared me for my future, and I am grateful for the education and experiences I have received at THS. I look forward to carrying on the T-Bird legacy in the years to come.



## THSAA ACTIVITIES:



### Summary of the 2023 THSAA Artesian Classic Golf Tournament

Twenty golf teams registered to participate in the tenth annual THSAA golf tournament (Artesian Golf Classic) at Capitol City Golf Club on June 3, 2023. The tournament is THSAA's major fundraiser to support the scholarship program as well as other alumni activities. The tournament goal remains to one day host a full 36 team tournament and we are over half way there! This year's "best ball" tournament was again won by Team Bell consisting of Matt Bell, Todd Franklin, Dave Glenn, and Cory Shephard with a score of 55; closely behind by one stroke was Team Wisner consisting of Josh Taylor, Jeremy Taylor, Danny Meyer, and Dan Kunitz. Two other teams scored a 58, Team Loren Grunenfelder and Team Bausch. Players' names from team Bell will be engraved on the tournament trophy kept on display at THS. The Men's "Longest Drive Contest" was won by Brian Scheibner of team Alexis Alverson. "Closest to Pin" was won by David Potwin of Team Dan Lowe. The Women's "Longest Drive" was won by Deb Olson of team Patti Banze and "Closest to Pin" was won by Tracy Coffee of team Banze. Winners received Costco gift cards.

Sincerest **THANK YOU** to all our community sponsors! This year's Title Sponsor was again **OBEE Financial Services**. The Cart sponsor was **Timberland Bank**. Hole sponsors included **L&L Hawaiian Barbecue, R.L. Smith Logging, The Otis Group, Van Hagen Family, Safe Harbor Dental, EDWARD JONES/Loren VanLoo, OBEE Credit Union, Peter Batura, Rock Boardman, Janet Ishihara, and Pamela Sapp**. Also, many thanks to donors of items for the raffle. Raffle items included **Western Meats Gift Certificate, Little Creek Casino Golf Package at Salish Cliffs Golf Club, Dixon Golf Certificates, L&L Hawaiian Barbecue gift basket, and a T-Bird engraved bench made of live edges paulted maple slab sustainably harvested from Jim Ishihara's yard. A special thanks to Dan Godat for securing a customized T-Bird putter crafted by the former coach of Collin Morikawa. The putter was auctioned to the highest bidder, Jeremy Taylor, who presented it to his GPA, Norm Wisner, a fan of Collin Morikawa.**

Special thanks to alumnae, **Louisa Shimamoto (75)** for MC'ing the event, **Judi (Weaver 66) Hambrick** and **Janet Ishihara (65)** who managed check-in, and **Sonja Winkelman (75)** for managing raffle tables. Also a special thanks to **Pamela Sapp (69)** and **Linda Thompson (67)** for being our tournament photographers. Also a special thanks to **Steve McNelly** and his staff at Capitol City Golf Course for their professional support in making this event happen. Next year, THSAA has "locked in" 1:30 PM, June 1, 2024 at CCGC for our next **THSAA ARTESIAN GOLF CLASSIC**.

Net proceeds from this tournament along with donations from several very generous alumni donors have allowed THSAA to award six \$1500.00 scholarships to six 2023 graduated seniors.

## **IT'S ON AGAIN FOLKS!!! THE 2024 ARTESIAN CLASSIC**

### **GOLF WITH US ON SATURDAY JUNE 1st, 2024**

The 2024 Artesian Golf Classic will be at 1:30 PM (Modified Shotgun start) on June 01, 2024 at Capitol City Golf Club. Sign-up at our website: [tumwaterhighalumni.com](http://tumwaterhighalumni.com).



THSAA  
2023  
ARTESIAN  
GOLF  
CLASSIC  
WINNING  
TEAM



TEAM BELL

Corey Shepard, Todd Franklin, Matt Bell, Dave Glenn



TEAM BARGE

Jared Burbidge Brian Barge Sean Mahoney Steve Strong



TEAM GRUNENFELDER

M. Henley L. Grunenfelder B. Hancock T. Ridley



TEAM HICKS

Alan Marks Cassie McDaniel Calvin Hicks Justin Even



TEAM CLYDE/SIMMONS

Doug Clyde Ed Ross Lee Simmons Gary Masten



TEAM GRIEBEN

Kelly Reynolds Mark Cotey Joe Debruyne Scott Grieben

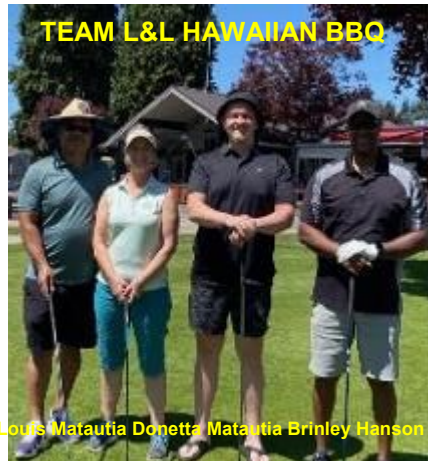


TEAM BEATTIE

R. Darin J. Arndon D. Fraiser B. Beattie



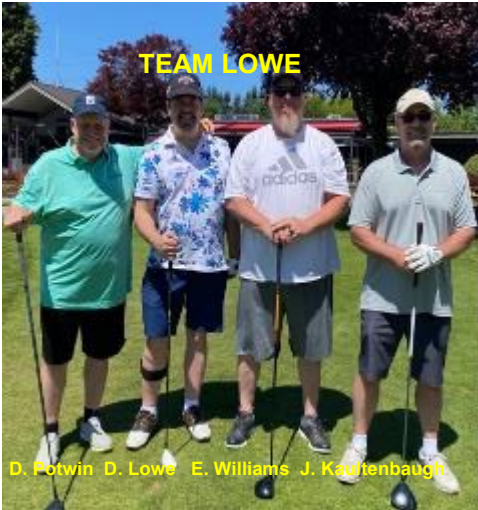
**2023 ARTESIAN CLASSIC TEAMS**





2023 ARTESIAN CLASSIC TEAMS

TEAM LOWE



D. Potwin D. Lowe E. Williams J. Kautenbaugh

TEAM ALVERSON



S. Weatherly A. Alverson K. Scheibner B. Scheibner

TEAM BANZE



Deb Mettler Deb Olson Patti Banze Tracy Coffey

TEAM GLEIZES



Randy Meeds Matt Gleizes Sr. Matt Gleizes Jr.





## THSAA ACTIVITIES:

### Reunion:

#### All Class reunion:

The Tumwater High School Alumni Association (THSAA) sponsored the 2023 All Class Reunion on August 26th at the Swede Hall in Rochester. All THS alumni, teachers, staff, students, and their families were invited. We guesstimate there were around 150 attendees. The venue was a great success. The hall has a complete kitchen, a beautiful ballroom with stage and dance floor including plenty of room for table and chairs. The potluck was yummy with plenty of food for all. The silent auction was a success with several donated items netting over \$500.00! Thank you to the generous donators and successful bidders.

Thank you to Norm Wisner who made a special appearance. We were blessed again, with classic rock & roll live music by BackLash for our listening and dancing pleasure. The band, BackLash includes two of our very own alumni, Stan Carlson, and Fred Doughty, representing classes 1972 and 1973. Thank you BackLash!

As the sponsor of this all-class reunion, it serves as one of our fundraisers for Tumwater High School student scholarships. Last year, the THSAA awarded six scholarships totaling \$9,250.00. Thank you to those of you who participated and donated to this worthwhile event, so we can continue awarding scholarships yearly. We have awarded \$57,750 in scholarships to 44 lucky THS student recipients to date.

The feedback we received, is the feeling of satisfaction and fun were had by all. See the collection of photos on our Tumwater High School Alumni Facebook page. Keep checking the Facebook page as more pictures will be added. Thank you to all who helped to ensure this event was a success. Shout out to Linda Thompson, Ruth Ishihara, Steve Wisner, Terry VanMeter and THSAA Board. If you would like to get involved in the organization of next year's THSAA all class reunion or have any suggestions or comments, please contact Sonja (Eby/Gleizes) Winkelman 360-701-5228. We are attentively planning next year's THSAA all class reunion on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We hope to see you and many others there. Pass the word!





## THSAA AND OTHER THS ACTIVITIES: 2023 All Class Reunion



**SINCE 2013, WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, THSAA HAS AWARDED  
SCHOLARSHIPS TO  
44 THS GRADUATES FOR A TOTAL OF \$57,750.00**



# THSAA AND OTHER THS ACTIVITIES: 2023 All Class Reunion



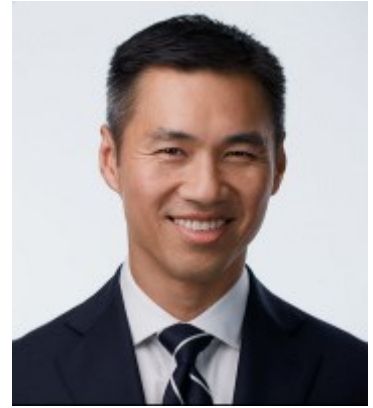


# THSAA AND OTHER THS ACTIVITIES: 2023 All Class Reunion



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### BIO OF FRANCIS Q. HOANG



Francis Q. Hoang is an entrepreneur who has been on the founding teams of companies that have generated over \$600 million of combined sales and employed over 1,200 professionals across the fields of law, aerospace, defense, government services, and technology. He currently serves as Co-Founder and Co-CEO of **boodleAI**, a technology company building BoodleBox, an all-in-one platform for streamlining Generative AI tasks. .

France also serves as the Executive Chairman for **Allied Airlift 21 (AA21)**, which has enabled the evacuation of over 2,000 Afghan Allies from Afghanistan through Kabul Airport, a private charter flight, and State Department coordinated flights.

France was recently invited by the Chairman of the Board of the West Point Association of Graduates to join a select group of 30 alumni and friends of the Academy to serve on the **Campaign Cabinet for West Point Ready**, a \$600.5 million campaign to benefit USMA and WPAOG.

France has over 25 years of national security experience, with service in every branch of the U.S. Government. He clerked for Judge Thomas Griffith on the **U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit**, was a summer law clerk to Judge Jamie Baker on **U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces**, served as a law clerk to the **Senate Judiciary Committee**, and was appointed by President George W. Bush as an **Associate White House Counsel and Special Assistant to the President**. Shortly after leaving the White House, France mobilized in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM where he served as the Executive Officer of a **U.S. Army Special Forces Company** on a combat deployment in Southeast Afghanistan.

France previously deployed to the Former Yugoslavia during Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD and later served as the **Deputy Chief of Police and SWAT Commander** for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He also previously worked as a lawyer at the law firm of **Williams & Connolly** and briefly served as an **Assistant United States Attorney** in the Eastern District of Virginia. He serves as a **Distinguished Visiting Lecturer** at the U.S. Military Academy in the Department of Law and is a **Fellow** with the **National Security Institute** at George Mason University.

France graduated in the academic top 1% of his **West Point** class, received a Masters in Criminal Justice from **Washburn University**, and graduated magna cum laude from **Georgetown University Law Center**. He also managed to pass both **Ranger School** and the **CPA Exam**.

France's commentary has been published by the Wall Street Journal; he has testified before Congress on the plight of Afghan Allies; and he speaks regularly on innovation, entrepreneurship, leadership, and service. Born in Saigon, Vietnam, France proudly grew up in Tumwater, Washington.

My family had a long journey to Tumwater. We traveled 8,993 miles from Saigon, Vietnam, escaping communism on an Air Force C-141 aircraft, living in a marine corps tent at Camp Pendleton, and eventually coming to Washington State where a sponsor family helped us get on our feet. My father, a former South Vietnamese Army Officer, found his first job at the Tye Motor Inn while my Mom became a clerk at the Washington Department of Wildlife.

We settled in a home on Lark Street, then moved to 65th Way, a short walk from Tumwater High School, then later to Barnes Lake. I grew up a carefree child of the 80's, riding my bike around the neighborhood until the streetlights came on, and often enjoying Brewery City Pizza.

By the time I arrived at Tumwater High School, I had 8 years of Tumwater schooling, starting with Peter G. Schmidt then Tumwater Middle School. I cherish the fact that I graduated from THS in 1991 with classmates who I attended kindergarten with.

My Tumwater education simultaneously grounded me while opening up the world to me. My teachers believed in me but more importantly helped me believe in myself. My classmates and I struggled like all teenagers with the first steps of navigating our world and ourselves, but as often happens on hard journeys we became closer for it.

I look fondly back on my years at Tumwater High School. Even now I can close my eyes and hear the students cheering in the stadium at another T-Bird victory. I can feel the wooden bleachers beneath me and my classmates beside me during a school assembly. I can put myself back in the hallways of THS walking between classes and passing by the familiar faces of friends I had known for what seemed like forever. The years at THS both seem so long ago and yet seem like they were just yesterday. They were some of my best years, especially since they prepared me for the best that was yet to come.

I will forever be grateful to THS, my teachers, and my classmates for giving me the best thing a young man, especially one from a far off land, could ever hope for: a place to belong.