

BERLIN BRATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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September 2001



"Homecoming 2001"

On July 19, 2001, and for the next three days, we descended upon Wichita, Kansas for the Homecoming 2001, the All-Overseas Schools & Military Brats Reunion, sponsored by the Overseas Brats organization, to celebrate the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) Site Dedication.

During this four day period, we participated in a number of friendly competitions between the rival schools who were in attendance. Berlin won Gold in every category, it was so awesome. We were so organized that we put every other school to shame. We had the largest attendance, the most school spirit and we won the best school exhibit. The director of DoDDs even mentioned Berlin by name during his dedication speech. You could not miss us at the Site Dedication. There was a sea of maroon right up front and the news cameras focused in on us!

Wichita is the new, official "hometown" of military brats around the country. About 475 students and over 500 teachers/administrators were in town to explore and get to know their recently adopted "home away from home." In all 210 schools were represented from 26 different countries. Frankfurt (a Class A school) came in second to Berlin with 93 registered.

We spent our time reacquainting ourselves with old friends; picking up our friendships right where they left off. The alumni that attended, spent their time by participating in a number of planned and unplanned activities. There was a Golf Tournament, Thursday Night Dutch Treat Dinner at a local restaurant and a Karaoke Reception, an Exhibit Room for each school to display their memorabilia, and a Dinner and Dance, both Friday and Saturday nights. A glorious time was had by all. Berlin even had its own Hospitality Suite, complete with BAHS memorabilia and refreshments, and after each planned activity, we adjourned to the Berliner's Hospitality Suite to continue the festivities into the early morn-

ing hours, in the usual Berlin fashion.

Since returning from "Homecoming 2001" we (the Berlin Brats) have been receiving numerous emails from alumni from other schools. They all have been impressed with our attendance numbers and our school spirit. Of particular mention has been the school spirit we displayed at the dedication ceremony on Saturday, the sea of maroon from our polo shirts, our banner and our now famous Berlin Wall construction.

Below are some of the messages that were received and I dare say, our brother-sister duo made a tremendous hit

(Continued on page 7)

Inside this issue:

AOSHS Homecoming	1
Site Dedication	2
Overseas Brats Gathering	2
Berlin Alumni in the News	2
You Asked...	3
2003 Reunion Site	3
Time Capsule	3
The Wall	4
My Past	4
AOSHS Board	4
Golf Tournament	5
Berlin Sweethearts	6
Homecoming Photos	9
Meet the Publisher	17



Sea of Maroon at AOSHS Site Dedication

Site Dedication

The Site Dedication of the American Overseas Schools Historical Park was held in Wichita, Kansas on July 21, 2001 at 2:00 P.M. In the speech given by Dr. Tom Drysdale, he stated;

How fortunate it is for all of us to be gathered here today, July 21- 2001, at the beginning of a new century and millennium.

We are here to dedicate this site on the banks of the Arkansas River to past, current, and future American children and youth who have been, and will be educated abroad.

It is also dedicated to their teachers, both American and foreign, recognized by the US Departments of Defense and State as Unofficial American Ambassadors advancing democracy and freedom around the world.

Also how fortunate it is for all of

us to be gathered here today in Wichita, Kansas. Wichita, three times selected as an All-American Model City, has recently been honored and recognized nationally for taking the lead in eliminating racial discrimination.

Regardless of what evolves on this site in Central USA during the next



Dr. Tom Drysdale at Site Dedication

century and millennium, this dedication, and the burying of a commemorative time capsule, will be recorded as important happenings recognizing the unique history of the overseas education of millions of American children and youth from every state and territory in the union.

The Berlin Brats were the only school to get mentioned by name by the Director of DoDDs in his speech at the site dedication. The Berliners, in our spirited fashion, cheered loudly when we were mentioned.

Why Wichita? I heard this question from more than one person and even asked this question myself once or twice. Well, I am here to tell you that

(Continued on page 12)

Colorado Springs - Overseas Brats Gathering

The Overseas Brats organization is gathering at the Sheraton Hotel in Colorado Springs, October 25, through October 28, 2001.

We will use the event to stage a get-together of Berlin Alumni who live in Colorado, as well as, those who will use any excuse to get together. In addition, Saturday Night, Berlin Alumni will be dressing for Halloween, so

Saturday Night, October 27
Berlin will be dressing for
Halloween, so Bring those
Costumes!

bring those costumes!

The Overseas Brats will Celebrate with us, the success of "Homecoming 2001" and get the first news about how successful it was;

and share the plans for the next Homecoming! In addition, this will be a Terrific opportunity for anyone wanting to get involved with their alumni groups or

overseas alumni affairs!

There will be mini-courses offered on topics such as how to find friends, reunion planning, alumni group organizing, and much more! Contact OVERSEAS BRATS, P.O. Box 47112, Wichita, KS 67201; E-mail Joe Condrill at JoeOSBPRES@aol.com

As is our tradition, Berlin will have its own Dutch Treat Dinner Thursday night. Contact Jeri (Polansky) Glass at BerlinBrats@juno.com to make your reservations.

Berlin Alumni a Member of Train

Do you remember Rob Hotchkiss? Class of 1979? Well now you can see him any time the band TRAIN is playing in your hometown.

You can read about Rob and the band at www.trainline.com.

Train has criss-crossed the U.S. numerous times; performed on bills with the Dave Matthews Band, Ben Folds Five, and Collective Soul; toured Australia; released their self-titled debut

album (which was the #1 album on the Billboard Heatseekers chart for four weeks in late summer 1999); sold more than one million records; and scored a Top Ten hit.

Rob has stayed in contact with us Berliners every chance he gets. Recently, after their concerts in Detroit and Atlanta, he met up with fellow Berliners for some reminiscing.



Jeanette and Janine Fisher with Rob in Detroit

Rob writes to all of us stating that "We Berliners are a pretty cool bunch - a little strange, but cool. Say 'hey' to anyone who might care. Peace,"
RH ~
Rob Hotchkiss '79

You Asked.....

What is AOSHS, OSB, who hosts Homecomings, Gatherings, and Regionals, etc, etc ?

AOSHS is the American Overseas Schools Historical Society and was organized to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating American children and youth abroad. This organization and its members are the keepers of all overseas schools archival documents and memorabilia and are constructing an archives, museum and visitor's center on the five acres of land donated by the city of Wichita, Kansas. AOSHS does not hold reunions or regionals but does hold a meeting in conjunction with the annual DoDDs Reunion (the teacher's association) held in a different part of

the country each year. AOSHS is a non-profit corporation. Four quarterly newsletters are published each year and one can become a member by joining and submitting dues of \$20 annually.

OSB is the Overseas Brats, an organization started in 1986 to unite all former students of overseas schools. Prior to that date formal overseas alumni associations did not exist as they do today. OSB was instrumental in bringing "Brats" of all schools together to share their heritage and, from its regionals seminars, gatherings and publications, served as a support vehicle for individual schools to begin their respective alumni associations. Newsletters and other publications are sent to members throughout the year. Membership is \$18 a year.

The Berlin Brats. We ARE your high school alumni association for all classes, all years. We strive to find everyone who ever attended Berlin American High School or Thomas A. Roberts, when it was the high school. Initially we only held Reunions. The first in 1986, followed by one in '87 and then '91. At the '91 Reunion it was determined that we needed a regular alumni association with a membership base in order to produce newsletters and a hard-copy database. Another Reunion followed in '96. Then in late '97 as we experienced huge growth by locating over a thousand former BAHS'ers, we then established Class Contacts for each class year and began holding regionals

(Continued on page 13)

Do you want a Say ???

The next Berlin Brats Reunion will be in 2003. Would you like a say in the site location? If so, now is your opportunity! This November ballots will be mailed out to the current members of the Berlin Brats, who will choose between ASHEVILLE, N.C. and SCOTTSDALE/PHOENIX, AZ.

If you or anyone you know have not joined or renewed your membership in some time, now is the time to get current. You must join or renew

before November 1st in order to receive a ballot.

Our membership form can be found on our website at: www.geocities.com/Pentagon/3328/bahs.htm

Or simply jot your full name (including Maiden name) on a piece of paper with your complete address, telephone numbers, email address and class year.

You must join or renew your membership before November 1st in order to receive a ballot

Submit with a \$20 check payable to the Berlin Brats at: 41630 N. Rolling Green Way, Anthem, AZ 85086.

TIME CAPSULE

Did You Attend the AOSHS Site Dedication in July as part of Homecoming?

If so, you are one of the lucky ones! You get to contribute to the Time Capsule!

As stated by AOSHS president, Dr. Tom Drysdale, AOSHS would secure a time capsule to commemorate the Historical Park site dedication.

Since the dedication has taken place and the procurement for the Time Capsule is under way, AOSHS is now ready to collect items for inclusion in the capsule.

Please refer to the following guidelines when making your submission:

AOSHS is looking for first hand personal accounts of what it meant to you to be at the site dedication. If at all

possible, your story or article should be accompanied by a photo. Photos that depict the excitement of the day, the various speakers, the color guard, the band, our police escort, our transport buses and the land on which our Historical Park is to be built, with or without a story, are especially welcomed. However, please clearly identify each

(Continued on page 13)

THE WALL

The Wall....our Wall....was truly awesome! Back in late October or early November 2000 while emailing Cate Speer, our Class Contact for the Class of '85, I mentioned that the Berlin Brats would be participating in the "School Exhibit Competition" as part of Homecoming 2001 in Wichita.



Cate Speer's brainchild, 'the Wall' was a great success, we all signed it, and took a piece home!

What could we do?...we said to each other. "Let's build the Wall!" huh? ...what?are we crazy? How can we do that?

Well we did and it proved to be the "hit" of Homecoming 2001!

I was at a loss on how to implement our little project....but not Cate. She was unleashed and boy did she shine!

Our Wall was made up of 150 ~ 12"X9"X4" white mailer boxes which created a 7 foot by 7 foot Wall. Cate and her crew (all mentioned in her thank you below) assembled the boxes....which then looked like white bricks....and proceeded to graffiti the entire front side with "Ich bin ein Berliner," "Berlin uber alles" the peace symbol, their signatures and class years. They then positioned it in



Jeri (Polansky)Glass, view of the back side of the Wall

front of our two exhibit tables thereby causing everyone in the exhibit hall to walk around the Wall to see our memorabilia. Once behind the Wall they were surprised to see the word BERLIN in

(Continued on page 14)

My Invisible Past Created...

I used to have an invisible past. I used to believe I had an invisible past. Each Berlin Brats Reunion I have been to has been my invisible past created. I don't have the feeling anymore that where I grew up has disappeared. I don't have the feeling anymore that my past is invisible or un-sharable. I do know that it will always be unexplainable! I heard some say they don't want to go to a reunion

because they don't want to "dwell in the past". Believe me, we were not dwelling. We were living, living in the now, and living OUT LOUD. Because of this, I feel like where I grew up is where ever I am now. It is my daily life, my laughs, my smiles, and even my

tears (especially, those tears of joy).

I just couldn't get enough of the e-mail love fest that went around after this reunion. I even received e-mails from people that weren't even at this one! Thank you everyone who went and to

(Continued on page 14)

*"I am forever thankful that I
was lucky enough to live in
Berlin"*

BERLINERS ELECTED TO AOSHS BOARD

At the annual AOSHS meeting held in Wichita as part of Homecoming 2001, Saturday, July 21st, 2001, two Berliners were elected to fill the two student positions on the AOSHS Board. They were Diane (Green) Kempton, '72 and Jeri (Polansky) Glass, also from the class of '72.

In addition, Diane was surprised by

the Board when they awarded her the "most valuable member of AOSHS!" ~ a well deserved award for all of her hard work.

Diane presently chairs the Architectural Committee for AOSHS and has served the Board in numerous other capacities.

And for those of you who don't

know....Diane also designed the BAHS school flag.

Diane is a woman of many achievements and talents and we are thrilled that she is playing such a major role in the design and development of our archives, museum and visitor's center to be built in Wichita, Kansas.

Berlin Hosts Golf Tournament at Homecoming 2001

Written by: Billy Jordan, Jr.

The Berlin Brats hosted a golf tournament in conjunction with the Overseas Brats' Homecoming 2001 in Wichita. The participants from Berlin were, Coach Byron Smith, Asst. Coach Ron Harrison, Kris Keller '76, Billy Jordan '76, Kathleen O'Brien '74, Glenn Goltz '72, and Ricky Goltz '73. Representing other schools were Bill O'Neal (spouse of Kaye O'Neal, Munich American HS), Marvin Reyburn (spouse of Karen McDonald Reyburn, Munich American HS) and Bob Thuringen.

The tournament was a two person scramble and was played on the Hidden Lakes Golf Course in Derby, Kansas, which is near Wichita. I know some will find this hard to imagine, but contrary to popular belief, Wichita is not actually located at the edge of the earth. However, you can see the edge from the golf course and if you hit the ball out of bounds you'll never recover it!

The original intent of the tournament was to have fun and golf a little and boy was it a perfect day for golf! The temperature was a balmy 105 degrees with a heat index of a mere 120 degrees with an ever so light breeze blowing. (Typical golfing weather for Kansas in late July). It was not unlike a sauna with the 'breeze' being provided by a blast furnace. We added survive to the list of

things to do and the outing was quickly dubbed the "Survivors Tournament" by the participants.

Although we kept team scores, we did not play for team prizes. To protect the innocent and embarrassed, these scores

The Tournament was quickly dubbed the "Survivors Tournament" by the participants.

will remain unpublished. The teams were, Coach and Ron, Billy and Kris, Glenn and Ricky, Kathleen and Bob, and Bill and Marvin. Prizes were

given for longest drive, closest to the pin, longest putt and most lost balls. Coach Smith was dethroned as the reigning champion (He earned his title at the Berlin Brats '99 Reunion in Breckenridge) and lost his title of 'BAHS Most Lost Balls' to Kathleen. She was presented with 10 used balls (why give her new ones when she's just going to lose them anyway?) at the awards presentation Friday night and true to form, on her way back to her seat, she managed to lose some of the balls she had just been awarded. Kathleen will retain her title until the next Berlin Brats golf outing at the Berlin Brats Reunion in 2003.

Of special note, Kathleen was the most courageous person in the tournament as she had never golfed and braved the heat to join in the outing. Undeterred she came out to the course, and played anyway. After convincing all of us this

was her first time, she stood on the tee box and struck a Tiger Woods-esque drive straight down the fairway and past most of the other balls. Unfortunately, as evidenced by the number of balls she lost it was down hill from there.

After the outing, we gathered at the 19th hole consumed some of our favorite beverages and told 'war stories' about our trials and tribulations on the course. We also started a new tradition of having all the 'Survivors' sign a golf hat from that particular course and presented it to our lovely and talented Berlin Brats leader Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72. We'll have this hat and future tournament hats at all Berlin Brats Reunions.

To protect the innocent and embarrassed, these scores will remain unpublished!

In spite of the heat, (maybe because of it, we could all have been delirious) all participants had a great time

golfing, renewing friendships, catching up with old friends, and making new friends.

Billy Jordan
Golf Chair and
Class Contact ~ Class of '76

RUMOR HAS IT.....

Rumor has it that Coach Byron Smith ('68 – '76) attended his own high school reunion (his 50th) shortly after attending Homecoming 2001 with all of us!
Way to go Coach!

Berlin Sweethearts

Written by: Michelle "Shellie" (Lamb) Iossa, '89

Do you remember your prom date? Or could it be that your prom date is now your husband or wife? After doing some research, I found an impressive number of Berliners that are now married to their high school sweethearts. So I asked them to tell us about their courtships that led to marriage. Meet some of the sweethearts who were kind enough to share their tales of romance in the halls of BAHS and beyond....



Bob Gardner ('68) & Birgit Stohr ('68)

Mr. Sullivan's English class is the setting where we begin the tale of Bob and Birgit's romance. Both were juniors when Bob developed such an intense crush on Birgit that he resorted to "forgetting" his English book just so Mr. Sullivan would pair him up with her to share. After doing this for almost the entire school year, he finally worked up the nerve to ask her to "go steady" and she accepted. The two made it official by making a trip to the KaDeWe to purchase an engraved ID bracelet.

After dating all summer and into their senior year, heartbreak followed in November when Birgit learned that her family would have to move to Michigan in December. Without ever knowing if they would see each other again, their departure was bitter sweet as they agreed to date other people but stay in touch through letters. Unable to put Birgit out of his mind, Bob made a stop to see Birgit on his way back to the States for college and said, "It was like we hadn't been apart. The same feelings were there that had been so strong in Berlin."

Their romance continued to blossom during frequent visits between breaks and it was during the summer of '69

that Bob proposed and plans were made for them to be married the following June. "In the four years I knew her,"

Bob confesses, "We only spent six months together. I guess that I am a strong believer in fate."

In an ironic twist, Bob is now an English teacher and begins each school year with a story about Mr. Sullivan and the value of literature. On a sweet note, he adds, "It's a little corny, but I have

been able to share my life with a person who has brought me joy for more than 34 years."

Bob and Birgit have been married for 29 years and live in Diamond Bar, CA. They have one daughter who lives north of San Diego and is beginning her career as an elementary school teacher.

Julie Godward ('76) and Dale Ahrendt ('76)

The Berlin bond is what Julie and Dale credit for the incredible romance that brought them together at an early age...

Dale and Julie caught each other's eye while working as summer hires at Tempelhof during the summer of '75. What began as an innocent friendship soon turned into a red-hot romance after spending lots of time hanging out, going to movies and enjoying the Berlin nightlife. Julie notes, "Our first official date was going to see Earth, Wind & Fire opened by Santana." That must have done the trick because soon afterwards, Julie realized she was in love with Dale and broke off her engagement to another guy back in the States.

Word soon came that Dale and his family would be moving stateside when his Dad's tour ended, so they worked hard to save money and graduate early to

"I have been able to share my life with a person who has brought me joy for more than 34 years."

- Bob Gardner '68

stay together. Dale proposed during Spring Break of '76 just prior to their move to Houston, TX.

Julie recounts the story of their wedding day, "When we decided it was time to do the deed, we got our blood tests, took a day off from work and went to the Harris County Courthouse and got married. We didn't tell anyone—we just did it. We had lunch at Denny's, bought a bottle of Matuese and went to the apartment we lived in with his dad and his wife. His dad broke out a bottle of 20 year-old champagne and gave us a toast....That night we made a cassette tape telling my parents. My parents still have it and made us a copy—Dale sounds s-o-o-o cool, it's really cute."

They both feel tremendously blessed by the support of their families. In fact, Julie's sister Brenda (Godward) is also married to her BAHS high school sweetheart Rick O'Sail. It is clear that they believe there is a deep connection among Berliners. "The circumstance that we lived under in Berlin was so unique" Julie reflects, "Well, only another Berliner can understand that, right?" Dale and Julie have been married for 24 years and reside in Cedar Park, Texas. They have two children; Jessica, 21, and Benjamin, 16.

Lynnie Tolbert ('82) and Dan Short ('81)

Lynnie and Dan knew each other long before they started dating. Their first official date was in February of 1981, and became exclusive immediately. Never wavering in their feelings, they stayed committed throughout the transition back to the States and during

(Continued on page 15)

"Homecoming 2001"

(Continued from page 1)

with the entire Brat community present. Read on.

I had a blast at the Reunion. It was really wonderful and I was so sad to see it end. I can honestly say I haven't had that much fun since I was in Berlin!

Rose (Hanson) Neel, '84

A number of people told me how impressed they were with the Berlin Brats...organization and spirit. I always knew I was different because I was a Brat, but now I know how privileged I am to be a Berlin Brat!

Billy Jordan, '76

It was great!!!!

Diane (Shaw) Orozco '66

It's so awesome to be a part of such a group of people. I am looking forward to the next time....

Yhoshekia (Loftin) Lowe, '83

Wichita was a blast and the next one will be too. I've found a long lost friend....thanks!

James Mickael, '79

Thanks for a great time. Without a doubt....a fabulous event. Will be at the next event again, and yes of course up to 3 to 5 am!!!

Jim Triplett, '82

I just wanted to tell everyone what a great time I had at the

Reunion, and how wonderful it was to see all of you. I am really looking forward to the next reunion.....also, I

hope we can have a few mini-reunions before the next major one.

Debbie (Brown) Neiman '73

There are some AMAZING emails going around (after Wichita). these events have enriched all of our lives.

Cate Speer '85

I'm in for 2003, regardless of where it is; ...I'll be there if it's on the moon.

Larry Speer, '83

We Berliners had a great time --- I think the top 20 countdown at the Saturday dinner and the resounding #1

cheer (from BAHS) was the highlight for many of us.

John Freeman, '71

I had a great time. I thought this weekend was like medicine. Thank you so much!

Tom Carey, '87

The Reunion was outstanding.... especially for us Berliners.

Rick Martin, '77

As I sit here at my new computer in my new apartment, I feel compelled to write to everyone and, yes, add to the spam/love fest going on. Yes, I'm in for 2003, regardless of where it is; ...I'll be there if it's on the moon. I continually search for the words to describe the connection, atmosphere, camaraderie, energy, and the ability to pick up right where we left off

that exists among the Berlin clan.

Larry Speer, '83



Cate Speer '85 & Yhoshekia (Loftin) Lowe '83
Swimming in the fountain in Wichita

The Reunion was so much fun! I am so glad that I was able to make it to Wichita---because it was worth it! I will never, ever, ever miss a Reunion...

Michelle (Shellie Lamb) Iossa, '89

What a reunion---especially the Berlin group. The Wall was neat.

Glenna Harrison, faculty '70-'72

Well done!

Lee Angel, '64



Saturday AOSHS Meeting:
Ms. Mary Muhring - Berlin
Teacher '56-'58, with Jeri

Jeri, you did a fantastic job gathering your people together and the Spirit was so fun to watch. It was easy to pick out Larry Speer because he was such a great sport and participant! I think I put together or overheard that he is the brother to Catherine Speer? I heard someone say he was Cate's brother, so I looked at the list and figured that must be Catherine? I think she surely was the sweetheart who

The Reunion was outstanding....especially for us Berliners.

Rick Martin, '77

spoke claiming the brain-storm that you all reproduced the Berlin Wall. Maybe I'm wrong about all that,

but that's how I have it put together. I was going to write and ask you for Larry's email address, so that I could



Sunday Morning, we met for Breakfast and Goodbye's. Billy Jordan '76, Diane Westrom '79, Kris Keller '76, Linda (Waters) Keeler '80, Caroline (Trautner) Gray '76, daughter Kristen, Rick Martin '77, Stephen Dussetschleger '76, and daughter

"Homecoming 2001"

(Continued from page 7)

write him a note, but you all may have a privacy thing going that would prevent you from giving out his address. I don't need to correspond with him, but I'd like to send him a note. I'll just add my note to him at the end of this note; will you forward it to him for me, please? If he doesn't have email, just send it back to me and I'll know that I need to write him a snail mail note when the directory comes out in December.

Thanks for your fantastic contribution to the Homecoming!

Mary Jo Shnell
Itazuke High School, '66

Hi, Larry, I just wanted to write a note to say thanks for giving so much of yourself to the Homecoming. I'm one of those people who mostly sits back and watches, and you were a delight to watch. I loved it when you sang, but when you danced and collected the dollars, you were such a great sport! Then to do the Alligator Roll and show up our 'old guys' with the push-ups; that was too cool! Your genuine smile was great. I didn't want to take up your time with your classmates to tell you this while we were there, but it was really fun to be in the same room with all of you. Even when you were checking out, it was fun to watch you all. If everyone sat back and watched like I do, there would be nothing to watch. We'd be like a bunch of 7th graders at a

dance all lined up against the wall. It's wonderful that someone will stick their neck out and take the lead. There were lots of great people at the Homecoming and many people made lots of contributions, but if we were voting for a MVP, you'd get my vote.

I know nothing about you, except that you were in Berlin and you were in the class of '83. That makes me old enough to be your mother, so please don't take this wrong! I just wanted you to know that I'm so glad you came to the Homecoming and to encourage you to continue to participate with whatever events will bring you together with those 'kids' with whom you have such a great bond. These events are never in anyone's budget and they are always hard to explain to civilians in our lives. I hope it was as enjoyable for you as it always is for me. I've only been to three OSB events, but I never miss an Itazuke reunion. We do those every couple of years and we have lots of little gatherings around the country whenever any of us are close enough to get together. People like you break the ice for everyone and you help to make fantastic new memories for all of us.

This note requires no answer. Just accept the knowledge that you were special to people you don't even know at the Homecoming; I hope you'll always be the same guy you were last weekend and enjoy every day of life. Homecoming hugs,

Mary Jo Hodge Shnell
Itazuke High School '66 (Japan)

P.S. If that was your sister who had the idea for the Berlin Wall reproduction, please give her a pat on the back for me, too. She, too, was so fun to observe. You two must have wonderful parents!

I loved the Wall and was happy to bring home 3 pieces of it! I'm going to store brat memorabilia in them.



Berlin Guys singing Karaoke Thursday Night.

For those of you who did not attend the Homecoming 2001 gathering, you missed a GREAT TIME! I personally, had a blast. Of the Berliners that attended, there was a small sprinkling from this and that year, but in the tradition that we all grew up with, there were no strangers! AND YES! THE PARTYING IS STILL A PART OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US! We got very little sleep, drank a lot and had a wonderful time. I have decided that I will never miss another reunion and/or gathering and I hope you will do the same. We missed you being there, so come join us next time.

Linda (Waters) Keeler
Class Contact ~ Class of '80



Berlin Gals signing Karaoke Thursday night



Larry Speer, '83 and Cate Speer, '85
Enjoying Berlin Hospitality Suite

"Homecoming 2001"

Thursday Night
Early Arrival,
Dutch Treat Dinner
The Brickyard Restaurant



Ken Reed '85, Amanda Reed,
Billy Jordan '76, Kris Keller '76



Jim Triplett '82, Cate Speer '85, Pete Murphy '84, Rose
(Hanson) Neel '84, James Miller '83,
Jessica (Jacolone) Killpack '84



Coach Byron Smith, Ron Harrison (Asst. Coach),
Mrs. Glenna Harrison (Teacher), Harry Smith '72



Linda (Waters) Keeler '80, Diane Westrom '79, Judy (Brown)
Laube '75, Debbie (Brown) Neiman '73, Coach Byron Smith,
Mrs. Glenna Harrison (Teacher)

Thursday Night
Karaoke
at the
Broadview Hotel



Donna (Berry) Bullock '65 Pat (Berry) Seesing '67,
Diane (Shaw) Orozco '66, Bob Orozco



Lee Angel '64, Donna (Berry) Bullock '65



Rose (Hanson) Neel '84, Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72,
Rob Ahrens '87, Larry Speer '83,
Jessica (Jacolone) Killpack '84



Cate Speer '85, Pleshetta Loftin '86,
Yhoshekia (Loftin) Lowe '83, Monica (Spohn) Welch '83



The 80's

"Homecoming 2001"

Friday Night Casual Banquet



Okay, Berliner's getting in trouble again! What's new? Cate and Y writing on the door.



Pat (Martel) Little '72
Glenn Goltz '72
Debbie (Brown) Neiman '73



Berlin Brats



Debbie (Brown) Neiman '73, Jack Hancock '73 and
Judy (Brown) Laube '75



James Mickael '79, and
Diane Westrom '79



Linda (Hoyle) Collins '72
Debbie (Brown) Neiman '73
Steve Brown '73



Ken & Amanda Reed '85



Mrs. Glenna Harrison ~ Teacher
and her former student,
Judy (Brown) Laube '75

Saturday Site Dedication Ceremony



Berlin Brats in (Breckenridge Polo Shirts)



Berlin Brats - Sea of Maroon!

"Homecoming 2001"

Saturday Night Banquet & Awards Ceremony



Steve Dussetschleger and Caroline Trautner '76

Sam McCuskey '71, Bonnie (Bates) Everett '73
and John Freeman '71Berlin Brats Group Picture
Ken Reed '85 is holding a
"Reserved Berlin" table sign up frontRick Martin '77, Linda (Waters) Keeler '80
and Steve Dussetschleger '76

Enjoying Berlin's Hospitality Suite



Cate Speer '85, Rose (Hanson) Neel '84 and Pete

80's Gang left to right, back row: Marcia
Spohn '83, Larry Speer '83, Cyndie
Duckett '83, James Miller '83, Cate
Speer '85, Pleshetta Loftin '86, Ken
Reed '85, Amanda Reed (spouse), Dan
Corder '83, Yhoshekia '83Gathered in the Broadview Bar for some more
visiting after the planned gala.After the planned festivities Berliners take a
"dip" in the fountains of
Wichita, KansasLeft: Cate Speer '85 and Rob Ahrens '87
Top: Jeanette (Martel) Jepsen '74, Ricky Goltz
'73 and Pat (Martel) Little '72 (foreground)Pleshetta Loftin '86 and
Yhoshekia (Loftin) Lowe '83Class of '83: l to r: Cindy
Duckett, Dan Corder,
Yhoshekia, James Miller,
Marcia Spohn, Larry Speer

Site Dedication

(Continued from page 2)

it just happens to be a wonderful place for us to call "Hometown USA" and for all the Overseas Brats. The City of Wichita Welcomed all of us in typical midwestern hospitality."

The City of Wichita, Kansas was selected as the site of the American Overseas Schools Historical Park by the membership of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) at its annual meeting.

The Wichita site was selected through a process which included soliciting proposals from 14 selected metropolitan areas in the United States; followed by site visits by a nine member committee to the three cities best qualified to have the park in their area. "The City of Wichita was a clear choice in the site selection competition," said Dr. Tom Drysdale, American Overseas Schools Historical Society President and Archives Director. "The five-plus acre, downtown river front site made available by the City of Wichita in the heart of their outstanding 'Museums on the River' cultural district is superb. Additionally, the show of support from city government, Wichita State University, the Wichita Public School System and local business and industry has been very strong."

"Wichita is very excited and honored to be selected as home for the American Overseas Schools Historical Park. The park and museum will be a wonderful addition to the Museums on the River district," said Wichita Mayor Bob Knight. Wichita won out over locations such as San Antonio, Phoenix and Orlando, partially because Wichita city officials made AOSHS members feel so

welcome.

"The Historical Park and Archives Museum will be a tribute to the millions who attended overseas schools, many of them while family members served their country in the US military. The facility will also honor the educators who taught in those overseas schools."

WSU President Eugene Hughes noted, "A Historical Park and Museum located in the 'heartland' of America will provide a synergy between the metropolitan area and the American Overseas Schools Historical Park, but especially between educational institutions at all levels."

The plans call for the site to include a landscaped historical park with a visitor's center, existing archives, a museum and memorials of overseas schools, alumni associations, educators and students. The selection of this site will begin a process of development, began with the dedication of the Historical Park Site on July 21st.

The origin, evolution and development of American education abroad is a remarkable human and educational success story that is finally being recorded. Graduate students at home and abroad, research scholars, historians, writers and educators, American and foreign, have expressed much interest in the project. All will benefit when the park, archives and museum are officially opened to the public.

The American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) was first established on the campus of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff in 1989. The AOSA is dedicated to preserving the history and

memorabilia of the kindergarten through grade 12 education of an estimated 4 million American children who attended more than 900 American overseas schools over the past 150 years." In 1995 the American Overseas Historical Society was incorporated as a non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) organization. At this time the archives are now located in Wichita, Kansas.

The selection of Wichita concludes a search that was begun in 1996 for a permanent home for the archives and a museum in a historical park setting.

A map of the future location can be seen below.

The museum, which will be built at Stackman Drive and Seneca Street pending a \$10 million to \$13 million fund-raising campaign by the American Overseas Schools Historical Society, would allow brats a place to gather, reminisce over memorabilia and share their common experiences.

Linda (Waters) Keeler
Class Contact ~ Class of '80

*Some of the information contained in this article was gathered from the AOSHS website.



If you have an article, subject or pictures that you would like to see in the Berlin Brats Alumni Newsletter. Please submit to: Linda Keeler via email at linda.keeler@home.com or Linda Keeler, 201 Amherst Drive, Nashville, TN 37214

You Asked.....

(Continued from page 3)

(small local get-togethers throughout the country). Our membership dues are \$20 annually, which entitles the member to four newsletters a year, a copy of the database published once a year and the opportunity to have a voice in selecting the locations for upcoming Reunions.

Q: SO who hosts "Regionals"?

A: OSB and the Berlin Brats..... separate from each other.

Q: Where are "Regionals" held and when?

A: OSB Regionals are organized by it's president, Joe Condrill, and the listing can be found in their publications, their website or by emailing Joe.

Berlin Brats' regionals are held where and when we are informed that a fair number of Berliners are within a 2-hour drive of each other and are interested in getting together. Some times the Berlin Brats host the event, which is typically a picnic, BBQ or a dinner at an assigned restaurant and some times the event is hosted by an alumnus who is just interested in getting fellow Berliners together. Sometimes we know 9 months in advance when one will be held, sometimes as little as a week or two.

When time allows, the information is posted on our website and in our newsletter. When the Berlin Brats host

or co-host the event, those on our database (within the area) will get a personal invitation to attend via snail mail.

Q: Who hosts "Gatherings"?

A: Only OSB, every October, in a different part of the country. Gatherings are basically a reunion for all brats, from all schools but because all the attendees did not attend the same school, it is not called a Reunion.

Q: Who hosts "Reunions"?

A: Only the Berlin Brats! Our Reunions are for all classes, from all years... for everyone who ever attended BAHS.

Q: How often are Reunions held?

A: Every three years.

Q: Where are Reunions held?

A: In a different part of the country each time.

Q: Do we get a choice in the site location?

A: Yes, if you are an official member of the Berlin Brats. Current members are able to cast a ballot between two given locations usually 9 to 18 months in advance of the Reunion.

For our '99 Reunion, members had a choice between Breckenridge, Colorado and Dallas, Texas. This November the choice for the 2003 Reunion will be between Asheville, N.C. or Scottsdale/Phoenix, AZ.

In closing, we should point out that you need not be a member of any of the above organizations to attend their

events. They survive on paid memberships, however, and are totally separate entities. The Berlin Brats do endorse both AOSHS and OSB. AOSHS is protecting our heritage and educating the public regarding our unique experience of being educated on foreign soil, in our own schools, by our own teachers and administrators and frequently under adverse conditions.

This chapter in American history is rapidly coming to a close and AOSHS is ensuring our uniqueness is not forgotten. OSB on the other hand, has had influence on the current Berlin Brats method of organization and operation and have also helped us find many of our alumni. We will be eternally grateful.

We hope the above descriptions, questions & answers have been of some help to you. We encourage you to participate in any or ALL of the above events that are of interest to you.

Should you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact AOSHS at OverseasSchools@juno.com, call Dr. Tom Drysdale at (623) 935-3939 or visit <http://aoshs.wichita.edu>

OSB at JoeOSBPRES@aol.com, call Joe Condrill at (316) 269-9610 or visit www.overseasbrats.com

The Berlin Brats at BerlinBrats@juno.com, call Jeri (Polansky) Glass at (623) 551-1105 or visit: www.geocities.com/Pentagon/3328/bahs.htm

TIME CAPSULE

(Continued from page 3)

photo for AOSHS, providing full details.

By overwhelming request, Dr. Drysdale's speech will be included in the capsule. Additionally, AOSHS is developing a list

of all attendees; teachers, administrators and students for inclusion.

Finally, with your submission, fully identify yourself as a Berlin American High School student and the years you attended BAHS. Please submit your contribution no later than December 31, 2001 to:

**The American Overseas Schools
Historical Society
P.O. Box 777
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340**

The cylinder capsule measures 6"D X 24" so please do not submit items of larger dimensions.

Did You Know...

- President Reagan was honored by the German government to receive the first slab of the Wall to leave Berlin.

THE WALL

(Continued from page 4)

block letters on each brick. Across the top we ran white string and opened paperclips to point in opposite directions to simulate barbwire. (thanks to Diane (Shaw) Orozco '66 for that idea!)

When people entered the exhibit hall they immediately focused on the Wall....and each was encouraged to add their "own graffiti" to it. Before we knew it, everyone was clamoring to have their picture taken in "Berlin" at "The Wall!" By late afternoon even the teachers who were staying at a different hotel heard about the Wall and paid us a visit.

To continue their "pro-active" experience with the Wall we provided a half size step ladder for them to look at the top of the Wall....where they could then see the artwork of Susie (Sams) O'Neill '85.



Cate Speer giving Dr. Tom Drysdale a brick from Her Wall.

On the lid of each box...(i.e. brick), was the silhouette of the state of Kansas in maroon silk-screening with the Berlin Bear standing inside the outline also in maroon print. Underneath the Bear, but still inside the state of Kansas it read "Berlin Brats 2001 Wichita, Kansas."

As the Wall went up it also came down....so each person received a "brick" to take home. On Saturday night during our dinner/dance program we called up Dr. Drysdale and Cate presented him with the first brick of the Wall to include in the Time Capsule. Later that night as everyone was beginning their long good-byes in the hospitality suite, we noticed Brats having their bricks signed by all the other Berlin attendees at Homecoming. It was a very moving experience. For Cate and I, it brought back memories of having our yearbooks signed in the cafeteria at BAHS!



Berliners cheer as we are announced the winner of the school exhibit. Bonnie (Bates) Everett '73 in foreground.

Zweibucken High School had the key to the front door of their school and Berlin High School had the sign from the British Sector.

However, since there can only be one first place, the judges have declared the winner to be Berlin American High School.

Berlin provided a chronicle of history known internationally with the creativity and personal interaction with their Wall ~ which reflects a philosophy of being a Brat.



First Berlin Memorabilia tables in Exhibit Hall

Jeri (Polansky) Glass
Class of '72

Below are the Judges comments from the School Exhibit Competition.

In recognition of understanding the true value and appreciation of the meaning of the words "Midnight requisition" there is a tie between Zweibucken and Berlin.



Second Berlin Memorabilia table in Exhibit Hall

My Invisible Past Created...

(Continued from page 4)

those who wish they had gone (especially those who wish they went ~ enough that they'll go to future reunions). Thank you.

I am forever thankful that I was lucky enough to live in Berlin. They truly were defining parts of my life. Now I realize it a little more, I've put my finger on it a little more, I enjoy it a little more, and I enjoy it now a lot

more! Somehow these reunions have helped me feel "caught up" in my life.

A special thank you to my friends: Jeri (Polansky) Glass '72, Ricky Goltz '73, Jackson Hancock '73, Ken Moseley '75, Dan Wallis '81, Pete Murphy '84, Susie (Sams) O'Neill '85, Amanda Reed '85.

(Continued on page 15)

My Invisible Past Created...

(Continued from page 14)

Please forgive me if I have overlooked anyone who helped me conceive, design, finance, transport, build, and paint THE WALL.

Thank you to each person who was truly amazed when they saw it, to each person who signed it, to each person who wanted to take a piece home and to those who wanted others to sign "your piece of the Wall."

Let us, when we meet again, rebuild that Wall as a circle that bonds us, our foundation - eternally Berliners!

I thank all of you for making that week-end especially enjoyable for my brother, Larry ('83), who is going through one of the toughest times of his life. I think some people may not have gone to a reunion with such raw pain, but it was the best decision he could have made.

I trust each of us were positively affected by this reunion in our own ways.

And one last HUGE "THANK YOU" to Jeri for gathering us for these amazingly powerful occasions. As Larry said, "I don't care if the next reunion is on the moon, I'm going!"

Forever proud to be...

A Berliner & Larry's Little Sister

Cate Speer

Class Contact ~ Class of '85

Berlin Sweethearts

(Continued from page 6)

college.

For them that meant commuting two hours to see each other while Linnie and Dan attended separate colleges. They became engaged in December of 1985 upon receiving the news that Dan would soon be stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Linnie writes, "The commute would be crazy! We decided to get married after he finished his training. He came home on Valentine's Day and gave me my engagement ring."

The Short's firmly believe in the staying power of young love and have close friends that were also high school sweethearts. "We believe that you can find true love at a young age," she writes, "however, the person you were in high school definitely changes." They feel fortunate to have had such supportive parents and she jokes, "The Shorts really find it difficult to remember a time when I wasn't in the picture."

While stationed in Southern Germany, they visited Berlin in 1991 and stayed with Coach George Pepoy during their trip. Linnie and Dan live in Salisbury,

NC and have been married for 15 years. They have three children; Madeline, 8, Erin, 5, and Daniel, 2.

Julie Davis ('87) and Steve O'Hearne ('85)

Julie and Steve share a touching story of how their Berlin connection and the power of fate brought them together after several years of trial and error. While they dated in Berlin, they made the decision to break up once Julie moved back to the States. Although they stayed in touch, they each went on with their lives—yet, always felt as if something were missing.

After a disappointing end to her first marriage, Steve consoled Julie offering these words of hope, "Your best time with 'him' will be your worst time with me." What followed was a long distance relationship, with Julie in Georgia and Steve in Washington state. During one of their visits, Steve surprised Julie with a marriage proposal during a romantic picnic at Callaway Gardens. She said "Yes!" and they were married a month later.

"I have loved him from when I first met him," writes Julie. "My mother always thought I would marry Steve."

Married now for 8 years, they enjoyed a four-year tour in Spangdahlem, Germany from 1994-98 and attended the Berlin American Open. They both feel that it was a privilege to live overseas, travel, see history firsthand and meet interesting people. The O'Hearne's live in Surprise, AZ.

"After 14 years, he is still such a romantic guy. He tells me 'I love you' every day."

-Angela Rodriguez '87

Angela Coleman ('87) and Melvin Rodriguez ('87)

It was a thrill for me to find out that Angie and Melvin Rodriguez are married, since I remember them well from my days at BAHS. After all, they were voted, "The Couple Most Likely To Get Married After Graduation" so they just had to stay together!

Angie and Mel were friends long before they started dating but admit they had an "eye" for each other while dating other people. They began dating in September 1986 and faithfully sat at the "couple's table" during lunch in the cafeteria. Staying together throughout their senior year, they became very serious and made the decision to stay in Berlin for a year after graduation.

In August 1987, Angie took Mel to the Duckpond for a romantic picnic to celebrate his birthday. Instead, he surprised her by pulling out an engagement ring and asking her to marry him. Angie laughs, "I still tell him to this day that I was his gift."

Their wedding in August of 1988 was attended by a host of Berlin friends that they remain close with to this day. They feel that the secret to their relationship has been communication. "We enjoy each other's company and keep in

(Continued on page 16)

"The circumstance that we lived under in Berlin was so unique."

-Julie Ahrendt '76

Berlin Sweethearts

(Continued from page 15)

mind that 'we' are a priority." Angie explains, "We never put friends before our family...After 14 years, he is still such a romantic guy. He tells me 'I love you' every day."

Angie and Mel reside in Bellevue, NE with their two children, Travis, 11, and Kristine, 6.

A sincere note of thanks to all the couples that shared their stores with us that remind us of the special bond that all

Berliners share. Below is a compiled listing of known BAHS sweethearts:

Jennifer French ('90) and Brian Adams ('90); Vinnie Pearson ('81) and Raymond Asanger ('77); April Munger ('87) and Shawn Bingham ('86); Kathy Young ('87) and Brad Blewett ('88); Debbie Gerchak ('74) and Rod Bouchard ('74); Sonya McKnight ('85) and David Bryant ('83); Jennifer Allen ('90) and Dan Colon ('88); Shirley Rabasa ('77) and Rodney Dennis ('78); Kathy Sweeney ('72) and Jim Folk ('71); Tina Poteet ('88) and Donald Geimer ('88); Ruth White ('74)

and Bruce Gerlach ('74); Patty O'Brian ('73) and Rick Goltz ('73); Mary Houston ('87) and Jim Perry (JFK '87); Tina Rash ('77) and Jim Liptak ('77); Karen Hansen ('71) and Bob O'Neil ('69); Brenda Godward ('78) and Richard O'Sail ('78); Nicole Collins ('87) and John Perriello ('87); Katrin Lindroth ('71) and William Planz ('71); Page Wertenbaker ('76) and Joe Rears ('76); Susan Swedberg ('76) and John Shelton ('72); Charlotte Redd ('82) and Robert Wood ('83); John Adkins ('80) and Darla Shelton ('80); David Bryant ('83) and Sonya McKnight ('85)

OVERHEARD ON LARRY KING...

"Two days in dark, rainy, dreary BERLIN and I come home with a hundred new ideas."

Martha Stewart ~ February 2, 2001

***** UPCOMING EVENTS!*****

October 20 & 21st California Regional....celebrate OktoberFest at Alpine Village in Torrance.

Contact: Lee Angel at leea@bertco.com
or call 1-800-325-6855 ext. 832.

October 25 - 28th Berlin Brats are attending OSB's Gathering in Colorado Springs.

Contact: Berlin Brats at BerlinBrats@juno.com
or call (623)551-1105.

November 1st Ballots mailed to current members for the 2003 Reunion site location.

December Vote outcome announced.
..... Year end newsletter.....

May 24 - 27, 2002 Florida Regional....Memorial Weekend in Melbourne, FL.

Contact: Pat (Martel) Little at bratsign@aol.com
or call (321)255-5155.

2003 The next BERLIN BRATS REUNION !

BERLIN BRATS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Berlin Brats Alumni Association
41630 N. Rolling Green Way
Anthem, AZ 85086

Publisher: Linda (Waters) Keeler '80
201 Amherst Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: 615-889-7635
Email: linda.keeler@home.com



***** **RE MINDER!*******

BERLIN BRATS
ARE DRESSING FOR THE
OCCASION AT COLORADO SPRINGS
GATHERING!

BRING THOSE
HALLOWEEN
COSTUMES
FOR
SATURDAY NIGHT!

We're on the web:
www.geocities.com/Pentagon/3328/bahs.htm

Meet the Publisher

Hello Fellow Berliners: I am Linda (Waters) Keeler, Class of 1980. Although I did not get to stay in Berlin long enough to graduate from BAHS, I was fortunate enough to have lived in Berlin from 1974 through 1978 and loved every minute of it!

I live in Nashville, Tennessee, with my husband, Michael. We have three beautiful children: Son, David, Step-daughter, Andrea and Daughter, Taylor. I am the proud Grandmother of a beautiful Grand-daughter, Desiree' Westrom, and a second Grand-daughter is expected in November.

I have volunteered to be the publisher for this quarterly publication,

which is intended to keep you up-to-date on the Berlin Brats happenings and, maybe some of life's experiences from some of those brave individuals that choose to share their past and present with us.

I graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1992 with a Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems. I am employed, full-time, by Vanderbilt University Medical Center, as a LAN Manager, for the Department of Pediatrics and will be doing this in my "spare time." There really is a little of that left from time to time.

I welcome each and everyone of you to

submit any article that you think will be of interest to your fellow Berlin Brat Alumni. It is my sincere hope that you will enjoy each and every newsletter that we send your way. Maybe even stir a little voice inside you that says, "Go Bears!"

We hope to see each and every one of you at our 2003 Reunion, as well as, at some of the regional gatherings that are planned here and there. We will do our best to keep you posted on those gatherings as we are notified.

In the meantime, keep those emails, cards and letters coming. Keep your membership and contact information current, so we don't lose track of you.

-Linda (Waters) Keeler
Class Contact ~ Class of '80



Websites and Contacts:

Berlin American High School Website
Developed by John Tuite '79 for the
Berlin Brats Alumni Association

Each Class has their own "Class Contact."
You can contact them directly by clicking on the Class Contact
Link at:

www.geocities.com/Pentagon/3328/bahs.htm

American Overseas School Historical Society
Contact: Dr. Tom Drysdale, President
Email: overseasschools@juno.com
Web: www.aoshs.wichita.edu

Overseas Brats
Contact: Joe Condrill, President
Email: JoeOSBPRES@aol.com
Web: www.overseasbrats.com

Berlin U.S. Military Veteran's Association
...for those who served in Berlin
Tell your parents about this site:
www.berlinveterans.com

Brat Attack
....a chat room by invite only....contact
Linda (Waters) Keeler at: linda.keeler@home.com

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Our nation has suffered a near incalculable loss.

Without warning, and in a manner previously unimagined, two of the most recognizable symbols of our country were damaged or destroyed, and thousands of our fellow Americans have lost their lives.

Our way of life may never again be the same. We grieve for all that has been lost. We remember in sorrow. Though a great curtain of sadness has descended upon our country, the resilience of the American Spirit has once again demonstrated its ability to SOAR from the depths of despair to new peaks of national unity and resolve as we move forward.

In grand gestures and small acts, we are seeing the very best of our Nation and its people.

September 11, 2001 will not prove to be our darkest day. Instead, we believe, that it can lead to our *finest hour*.

We must go forward.

In this time of national mourning, we reach out to those who know us best, perhaps seeking refuge from the horror that has engulfed us all.

In the days and months ahead, take time to reconnect with your fellow classmates. Take pride in who we are and face the future courageously.

"Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America"

President George W. Bush

God Bless America