

J O Y F U L  
*Echoes*

ISSUE 13

FALL 2021

*Welcome!*

*Joyful Echoes* is an Alumni Newsletter published by the Onondaga Central School Education Foundation for the purpose of keeping alumni and friends of OCS engaged with the Onondaga community and informed of current activities happening at OCS.

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**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:**  
**TOM YOUNG**

C L A S S O F 1 9 5 4



I came to OCS from Onondaga Hill where I grew up on Young Road. One of the things I remember in the early 50's was the arrival of Coach Bob Sampson, who turned the sports program around and helped OCS become the team to beat in our league. As I recall I was one of the first athletes to earn a varsity letter in football, baseball, basketball and track, all in the same school year. The discus record I set in the County League lasted for many years after I left high school. I also remember making the winning shot in the last second against Camillus in the playoffs in 1954.

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**About the OCSEF** The Onondaga Central School Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, all-volunteer 501(c) charitable corporation whose purpose is to provide support to students, staff and academic programs at Onondaga Central through charitable donations. The OCSEF was founded in 1984 with a vision of growing an endowment over the years. Please visit our web page: <https://www.ocseducationfoundation.com/>

# HAPPENING NOW

'21 VALEDICTORIAN

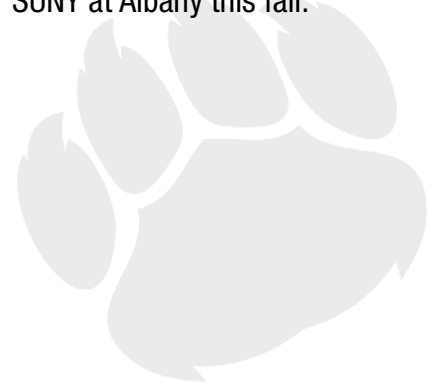


**EMMA RUMNEY**

Emma is the daughter of Kathleen Rumney and the late Squire Rumney IV. She graduated with a cumulative grade point average of 99.98 and completed a rigorous program of study comprised of honors, college, and AP courses while at OCS. She graduated with 20 credits from Tompkins Cortland Community College, 14 credits from Onondaga Community College and 3 credits from SUNY ESF.

Emma was a recipient of the Bausch & Lomb Science Award from the University of Rochester. She was a two-sport varsity

athlete and competed on the indoor and outdoor track teams. She was also an active member of National Honor Society and the Envirothon Club. Outside of Onondaga, she volunteers a great deal of her time at Our Lady of Hope Church. Emma is studying at SUNY at Albany this fall.



'21 SALUTATORIAN



**DYLAN PRICE**

Dylan is the son of Robin and Jacqueline Price. He graduated with a cumulative grade point average of 99.63, with 12 credits from Tompkins Cortland Community College, and 20 credits from Onondaga Community College. Dylan was a four-sport varsity athlete, competing on the Cross Country, Wrestling, Football, and Outdoor Track teams. Dylan competed and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in competition as a varsity wrestler and qualified for state competition as a cross country runner. He was president of Student Council, co-president of Key Club, editor-in-

chief of *Tiger Prowl*, a writer for *Joyful Echoes*, and the marketing director of the Tiger Branch of SECNY Credit Union. He has worked on numerous political campaigns, including Congressman John Katko's, and interned with Senator Bob Antonacci. Dylan is studying business at Dyson School of Applied Economics and management at Cornell University. The OCSEF board would like to thank Dylan for his many years as a contributing writer for *Joyful Echoes*.

## Forever IN OUR MEMORIES

**Barbara  
Jeannie Magdon**

Class of 1960  
*March 2, 2021*

**John Russell**

Class of 1977  
*April 17, 2021*

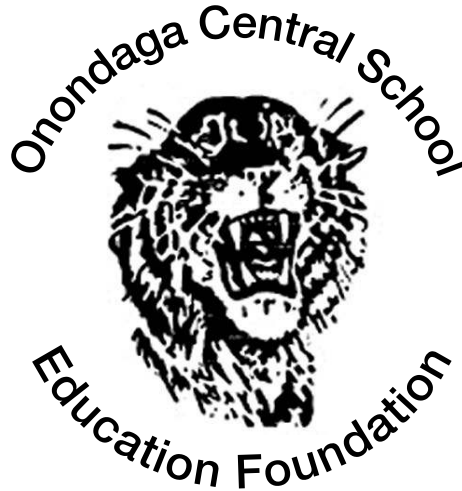
**Peter J. Clarke**

Class of 1963  
*January 3, 2021*

**Katherine  
Hill Campbell**

Class of 1965

# OCSEF UPDATE



the school this would show to all visitors who attend events.

The tile sales are one of the fundraising sources for OCSEF scholarships. You or a group of classmates or someone who has had a family member enrolled in the early years of OCS may purchase a tile to be permanently installed on the wall. We also offer memorial tiles to recognize someone special or a memorable event in your life.

Hello, my name is Rick Brunelle (OCS '74), an OCSEF board member and Tile Committee chair. This is an appeal to all alumni: I would like to see a tile from each graduating class on the tile wall. The tile wall is located at the entranceway to the high school gym, and what a great symbol of support to

You may access the Tile Order Form at the OCSEF website or contact me at [rbrunelle2@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rbrunelle2@twcny.rr.com) When you visit our website, browse through the numbers of scholarships and the total dollars awarded by the Foundation to deserving students. Thanks to all of you who support our mission!

VISIT THE OCSEF WEBSITE: [WWW.OCS EDUCATION FOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.OCS EDUCATION FOUNDATION.COM)

## CLASS OF 1972 *Reunion*

The Class of 1972 will be holding its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion the weekend of July 22-24, 2022. A dinner will be held at The View in Vesper, NY on Saturday, July 23. Check out the Class of 1972 Facebook Page, or contact Cindy (Graham) Vales, 315-382-9156 or Mary (Horton) Ryan, 315-469-3637.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TOM YOUNG

## CLASS OF 1954

*Continued from page 1*

After high school I joined the Navy and embarked on a 20-year career in the Submarine Force. This was a time when the country was winding down from the war with Korea. This led to mounting fears of more military action as we entered into the cold war with Russia. The Submarine Force was a leader during these times, I was involved with many highly classified missions, some of which remain secret today. In 1962 I became very lucky and married the love of my life, Shirley. She was willing to put up with the military for the next 12 years with me. We are the proud parents of four children and five grandchildren. We have been married for 58 years and still going strong.

Now back to my story: In 1969 I was sent to the Submarine Squadron in Japan. As I had been in the Navy for a long time, I was allowed to take Shirley and our three daughters along. We spent the next four years there. The first two years we had to live

off base in a Japanese-style house located in a Japanese fishing village. We did get to move onto the base after two years. This proved to be a very busy time for me due to the Viet Nam War. I had to complete many classified trips on submarines during this time. Based on these operations, the Secretary of the Navy awarded me the Navy Commendation Medal. Along with this I was awarded the following medals: Navy Unit Commendation, China Service, Viet Nam Service, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary medal.

I retired from the Navy in 1974 and we moved to Syracuse. We then built a home on Young Road where I had grown up. At this time, I was going to

school in Morrisville on the G. I. Bill and needed a part time job. I applied for a bus driver's position at OCS. I started driving the Navarino route. What amazed me was to find Harold Volles was still driving a bus. He was still driving the route on which he picked me up and now 20 years later he was picking up my kids. It was also good to see Dennis Dole and Max Metcalf still teaching at OCS.

In 1975 I started working for a medical company, Instrumentation Labs, based in the Boston area. I was doing service work on their medical instruments in upstate NY hospitals. In 1979 they asked me to move to the home office and take over managing their

**I WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ATHLETES TO  
EARN A VARSITY LETTER IN FOOTBALL,  
BASEBALL, BASKETBALL AND TRACK,  
ALL IN THE SAME SCHOOL YEAR.**



international service operation. We then moved and settled in New Hampshire. This started me on 13 years of traveling the world from the Far East to Australia and New Zealand. It also took me all over Europe and to South Africa. Over the years I compiled almost 2 million miles. This was mostly on United Airlines, which still treats me very well. I got a chance to stop traveling so much when I accepted an offer from Sun Microsystems to run their east coast service operation, which started me on my third career. As time passed with Sun, they asked me to start traveling for them. I was off to Singapore to open up an office there. Then it was off to the UK and Scotland for them. After 13 years with Sun, I decided in 2000 that I should retire.

I had been boating a lot during the past years with the Portsmouth Yacht Club. I had always thought about taking our boat around the great circle route in the US. Then in July of 2000 Shirley and I left on a 6000-mile trip around the great circle. It took a year to complete. We were back in June of 2001. We then sold the boat and left the Yacht Club. We still go back to the Yacht Club once a year for the Past Commodores party as I was the Commodore of the Yacht Club at one time.

I remain active in the VFW, The American Legion, US Submarine Veterans, and the Navy Fleet Reserve. I mentioned I had retired, but not quite—at 85, I still work part time at a golf course and play golf. I feel very blessed and fortunate that Shirley and my children have been very supportive of my desire to travel so much. We met many wonderful people on our world travels and still stay in contact with them. We plan to continue to travel as long as our health allows us to.



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## RICHARD “DICK” PERRY

AKA “RON REDNECKSKI”

by Mary (Russell) Molloy, Class of 1969

In the spring of 1963, a number of my sixth-grade classmates at Wheeler School coaxed my gym teacher to race me in a fifty-yard dash. I'll tell you how that race turned out, but first let me tell you about my interview with that former teacher, Mr. Richard “Dick” Perry.

The more senior readers of *Joyful Echoes* will remember Coach Perry as a Wheeler School gym teacher from 1961-65 and the coach of the OCS Varsity Football team for three seasons, 1962-64. If you didn't know him well back then, you get a hint of the fun and humor he brought to class when you picture him in a flat-out race with a sixth-grade girl. That sense of humor and enjoyment of life is still evident in the 82-year-old former coach, who smiled as he described some of his hilarious and off-beat endeavors outside of his work in public education in the late 70's and into the 80's. His early years and his path to OCS, however, were quite conventional. He was born in Syracuse but moved with his parents to Webster, N. Y., and then East Syracuse. That Dick became a teacher and coach isn't surprising: both of his parents were educators who worked at various CNY districts including ES-M and Cato-Meridian, the district where Dick graduated from high school. Dick said he enjoyed his high school days at C-M, a school and community he remembers fondly.

Dick earned his undergraduate degree and teaching certification at Cortland State, and he accepted his first teaching job at the Falconer School District (near Jamestown) in 1960. He and his wife Carolyn moved closer to home

when Dick accepted the position at Wheeler in 1961.

Dick had high praise for the staff at Wheeler, in particular the first-grade teachers, whose work with children Dick described as “magic.” He specifically mentioned Lillian Linsky and Kathleen Cameron as being exceptionally good with kids. Dick told me that he loved coaching football and recalls being highly competitive, the stereotypical coach of those days, a “drill sergeant,” in your face, tough. “That's what I thought a coach was,” Dick acknowledged. A Class of '65 alumnus told me that Dick wasn't afraid to put on the pads and scrimmage with his players.

After the 1965 school year, Dick accepted a split position, working in both the Tully and Pompey school districts as a guidance counselor. Later he took on the additional position of Tully football coach from 1967-70. Dick remarked that his coaching style slowly transformed, became a little less intense, and of course he brought a gentle demeanor to his personal counseling sessions with students. His fourth job in the public schools was in the West Genesee District at Camillus Junior High.

It is quite likely that more OCS alumni remember Dick from characters he invented than classes he taught. In the early 1970's, the closest thing Syracuse radio had to a “shock jock” was Dick (“Sweet Dick”) Burch, a morning announcer at “drive time” who relied on characters and humor that sometimes pushed the boundaries of appropriateness. Coach Perry frequently



phoned Burch on the air, then became a regular caller and participant at WHEN after local TV and radio personality Phil Markert took over the morning slot. Dick would phone Markert as gravel-voiced “Ron Redneckski” from the Otisco Valley, always pronounced with a very long “o”—“Ooootisco”—preceded by “Ron's” standard greeting, “Mornin', mornin', mornin'!” Dick would usually call in from his office at Camillus Junior High (before students arrived) at 6:00 a.m. The station would tape the segment and repeat it at 7:00 and 8:00. Redneckski's family included his wife “Miz” Redneckski, whose status as a liberated woman was contradicted by her writing for the mythical publication *Today's Broad*. “Ron” also had a son named Bright, who wasn't, and a daughter named Rita, who was somewhat “promise-cuous.”



When I asked Dick whether “Ron’s” stories and antics ever aroused controversy, he smiled impishly as he recalled Rita’s making out with her boyfriend at a baseball game. “He kissed her on the strikes, and she . . .” (Well, if you can infer the rest of Ron’s story, you can see why the WHEN switchboard lit up that morning.) Dick performed Ron Redneckski for eight years, but he mentioned that it was a grind to keep inventing new material. “I hated to give it up,” Dick told me, “but it gets to be a pain in the butt to be funny on demand.”

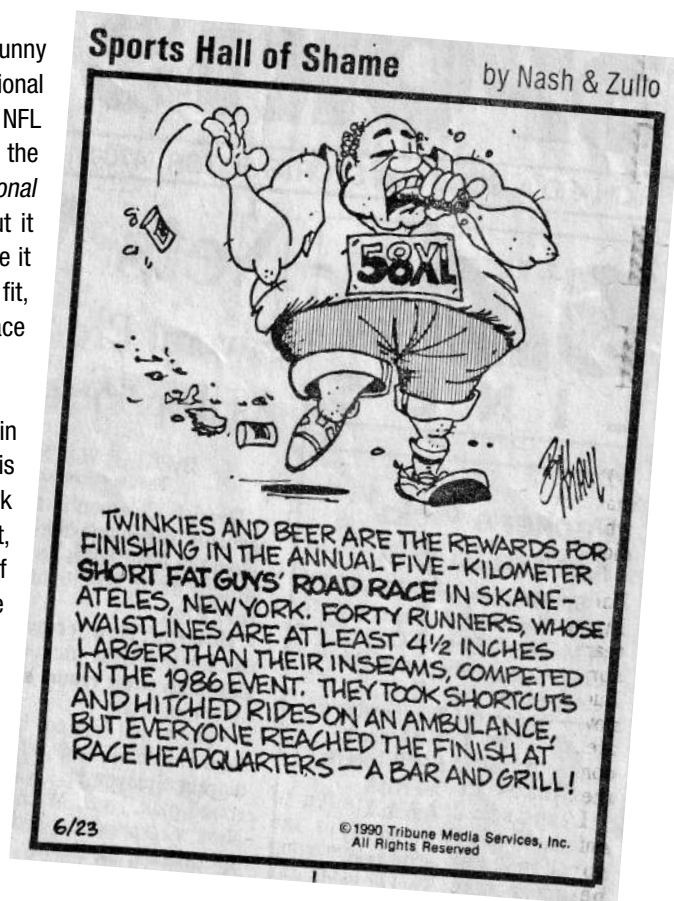
Another of Dick’s adventures occurred on the night the Carrier Dome opened in 1980. On a dare posed by some of his friends at Riley’s restaurant, Dick showed up at the Dome dressed in an orange cape and tights as “Super Bill” (Bill Orange). “They let me in for free,” Dick recalled, and then he reprised his role a few more times that first year in the Dome, before there was a Dome Ranger or “Otto.”

In 1982 Dick organized a unique and offbeat event, “The Short, Fat Guys’ Road Race.” A humorous contrast to the running and fitness craze of the day, the SFGRR was open only to men whose waistlines were four-and-a-half inches larger than their inseams. Dick described the annual event as “a small and tasteless affair.” Participants were offered Twinkies along the route. “I don’t think I’ve ever eaten one, but it seemed like the perfect non-nutritious snack to have on the course,” Dick observed. He held the “race” in Skaneateles, admitting that it was his way of tweaking the patrician reputation of the village.

An event with a name as funny as the SFGRR received national attention. John Madden, the NFL football announcer, covered the race one Sunday, and *National Review* told its readers about it in 1987. (Here I want to make it clear that Dick looks trim and fit, not a likely candidate for a race for “fat guys.”)

After fifteen years working in public schools, Dick left his first career and began work in golf course management, first leasing the Fillmore Golf Course in Moravia for three seasons, then operating Mid-Lakes in Borodino, and later working as golf course superintendent at Foxfire. In a busy “retirement,” he turned his past experience into work as a consultant for golf course operators and designers, working with OCS alumnus Mark Clark at Sunset Ridge and designing and overseeing the construction of the current back nine at Orchard Vali. At Orchard Vali, Dick worked with Mort Luchsinger, who was featured in *Joyful Echoes* last fall. Dick described Mort as a “magician with a bulldozer,” not to mention “one of the two best football players I ever coached.”

One who has been along for the ride for both the serious and silly aspects of Dick’s life has been his wife of 61 years, Carolyn Sweeney Perry.



Oh —

as for that race I ran against Coach Perry? Well, an OCS alumnus told me that after a football practice in the fall of '64, a player asked Dick about a race the coach had run against a girl back at Wheeler, one who, the player remarked, was a pretty fast runner.

“Didn’t she beat you?” the player asked as teammates laughed. “No,” said Coach Perry, according to the alumnus who overheard the conversation. “But I really had to hustle,” he admitted.

#### COINCIDENCES IN THE DICK PERRY STORY:

I enjoyed seeing Mr. Perry again after so many years (decades!) from the time I was enrolled in his gym class at Wheeler. In addition, the interview produced a couple of remarkable coincidences. One occurred when Dick recalled his high school days and spoke so fondly of the Cato-Meridian District. Dick looked surprised when I told him that my daughter Amy Molloy (OCS '99) is the current principal at Cato. The

second coincidence is worthy of *The Twilight Zone*. Three days before the interview, my husband Jim reserved a table at the Finally Ours diner where we could have breakfast when we met with Dick. What neither Jim nor I knew at the time was that Gary Gardner (OCS '65 and an OCSEF trustee) had also made arrangements to meet a group of his OCS classmates there at the same time—and the hostess seated them at the table next to ours! Gary, who played on

two of the teams that Dick coached, was with Mike Linsky and Richard Alexander, two more of Perry’s players. In addition, Jim brought a 1965 yearbook to show Dick, and that copy of the *Onondagan* made its way around Gary’s table. The morning proceeded as if the reunion had been planned, and Dick was pleased to see his former players.

# REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS & INFO

This newsletter is a product resulting from submissions made by our alumni. Please send us your stories and news! Do you have a favorite memory? An interesting story idea? Or an alumni announcement - wedding, birth, obituary - you would like to share?

For submissions of news, ideas and/or stories, please contact us at [ocsalum34@gmail.com](mailto:ocsalum34@gmail.com) or send to:

**OCSEF Alumni Coordinator**  
**3479 Cherry Valley Turnpike**  
**Syracuse, NY 13215**

The OCSEF has established an Alumni Database. It contains contact information of OCS alumni, community members and current and former staff members. If you know of someone who would like to receive future issues of Joyful Echoes and other alumni-related

communications, please forward the Alumni Data Form to him or her. You can find it on the OCSEF Web Page: [www.ocseducationfoundation.com](http://www.ocseducationfoundation.com)



A publication brought to you by the Onondaga Central School Education Foundation to enrich the lives of OCS alumni, students, staff, and community.