

JOYFUL  
*Echoes*

ISSUE 20

SPRING 2025

*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.

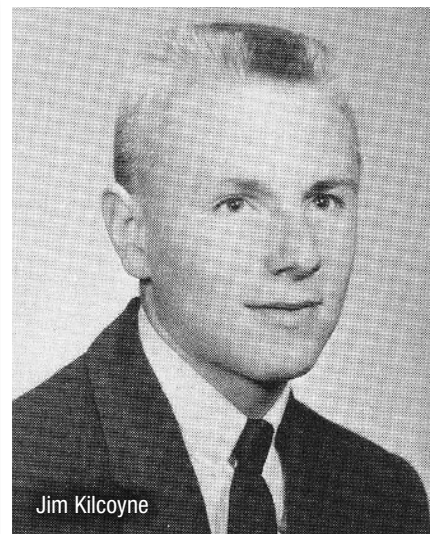
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OVERTIMES!*by Jim Molloy Sr., Class of '68*

Many fans of Syracuse University basketball remember a classic game the Orangemen played in the 2009 Big East tournament. Syracuse and the University of Connecticut Huskies played six overtimes, with S. U. finally prevailing 127-117.

Summaries of the game list the date played as March 12-13, 2009—two days!—because it didn't end until 1:22 a.m.

Jim Kilcoyne (OCS '65), a friend of the OCSEF, gave *Joyful Echoes* an idea for a story. Did we remember the OCS basketball team playing a similar multi-overtime game in March of 1965? Might be interesting to look back, Jim suggested. So we did.

Earl Fletcher coached the Tigers in the 1964-65 season, his third year at OCS. Fletcher coached a fast-break offense that encouraged players to take the first open shot, and he had the team peaking at the right time of the year. The Tigers took on an excellent Clayton team in the Section III (Class C) quarterfinal played at LeMoyne on Friday, March 12th, the second game of a double-



Jim Kilcoyne

header. OCS outgunned Clayton 91- 87, with Don "Mort" Luchsinger scoring 28, Chuck Walters 26, and Jerry Hourigan 22.

OCS trailed after three quarters but scored 28 points in the fourth to defeat Clayton.

*Continued on page 4*

**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: [ocseducationfoundation.com](http://ocseducationfoundation.com)

# HAPPENING NOW



**THE OCS EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE THE OCS COMMUNITY WITH THIS 20TH ISSUE OF *JOYFUL ECHOES*.**

The OCSEF began publishing *Joyful Echoes* in the Fall of 2016, hoping to keep OCS alumni engaged and bring back memories of our years spent at Onondaga. Our thanks goes out to the many contributors responsible for the content of the articles.

**We look forward to providing the newsletter to you for years to come!**

## 50+ YEAR OCS REUNION

# *Reunion* ANNOUNCEMENT

**FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025 • 11:30AM**

The annual OCS 50+ reunion will be held on Friday, May 23, 2025 at The View Restaurant. Alumni are welcome to begin gathering at 11:30 for registration and renewal of friendships. A tasty buffet luncheon will follow at 12:30. We do expect another large turnout as we welcome the Class of 1975 to our 50+ group.

To enhance what promises to be a memorable event, this year's reunion will feature entertainment, a door prize and a silent auction. Silent auction proceeds will benefit the OCS Foundation Scholarship Fund and cover any unexpected reunion costs.

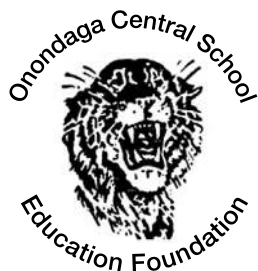
The \$40 per person fee covers the cost of the luncheon, dessert, entertainment and a door prize ticket. Spouses or guests are welcome to attend.

**Prepayment is required and checks can be sent to:**  
**Charles Molloy • PO Box 87, Morrisville, NY 13408**

**Questions? Contact me by mail, email or phone:**  
**(315) 427-8818 • [cmolloy@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:cmolloy@twcnny.rr.com)**

Sincerely, on behalf of the committee,  
Chuck (Charles) Molloy, Class of '62

**HEADED TO THE REUNION? FLIP TO PAGE 7, JOT DOWN YOUR OCS MEMORIES, AND BRING IT WITH YOU!**



# OCSEF UPDATE

## SCHOLARSHIPS!

The OCSEF would also like to announce that we are awarding graduating seniors of the class of 2025 with 24 scholarships totaling \$34,350.

2 • 0 • 2 • 5

## ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The annual OCSEF Fund Drive is underway, and we are pleased to report that over \$10,000 in donations have been received to date. We are grateful to our community members for their generosity, which will further enhance our ability to provide scholarships to our graduating seniors. Donations in the form of checks can be made out to:

**OCSEF**

**4466 South Onondaga Road  
Nedrow, New York 13120**

## THE 2025 CHARLES MOLLOY OCSEF GOLF TOURNAMENT

*A longstanding fundraising tradition of the OCSEF, dating back to 1991.*

**Saturday, July 12, 2025**

*Orchard Vali Golf Course*

**9:15am** Registration

**10:00am** Shotgun Start

**Cost:**

\$100.00 per golfer

**Includes:** Golf, Cart, Lunch,  
Dinner Buffet & Prizes

**TO SIGN UP:** Send your foursome, along with the \$100 per golfer fee to Lisa Whitwell at: [ocsefgolf@gmail.com](mailto:ocsefgolf@gmail.com)

**BUSINESS OWNERS:** If you would like to sponsor a hole or donate a raffle item, please contact Lisa at the above email.

## TILE-BY-TILE PROGRAM

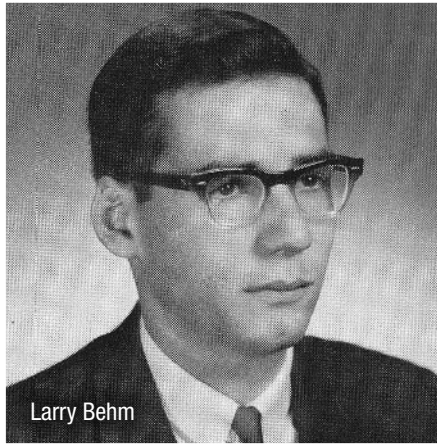
The OCSEF Tile-by-Tile program is a unique opportunity to raise funds for scholarships by recognizing individuals in the OCS community with 8x8 tiles on the wall at the OCS Jr/Sr High School. These tiles make excellent gifts and will enable you to preserve the memory of a cherished member of the greater OCS community. To honor someone with a tile, please contact Rick Brunelle for more information: [rbrunelle2@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rbrunelle2@twcny.rr.com)

**VISIT THE OCSEF WEBSITE: [WWW.OCSEEDUCATIONFOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.OCSEEDUCATIONFOUNDATION.COM)**

*Continued from page 1*

In the opening game that night at LeMoyne, General Brown defeated LaFayette 63-61 to reach the semifinals. OCS and General Brown would play the next night in Watertown. The stakes were high; the winner would advance to the Section III, Class C final.

*Joyful Echoes* contacted some of the Tiger players and asked them to stretch their memories back almost six decades. Larry Behm, the OCS center and future coach, remembers a cold, snowy night.



Larry Behm

"The Watertown HS gym was cold. There was a decent crowd, not overly hostile even though we were playing up north. Spectator buses brought OCS people to the game."

Roger Covey, a General Brown alumnus ('66), returned our call, and he also remembered the four-overtime contest, a "tense, tightly called game." Covey made one free throw on a two-shot opportunity in the second quarter. "I wasn't a starter, but I played in most of the games. You don't get into that many overtime games to begin with, but four . . ." he observed.

The Tigers raced out to a 48-32 halftime lead, but any OCS fan who may have thought the lead was safe gradually realized the game was getting tense. *Joyful Echoes* tracked down General Brown's point guard, Paul Hurd ('66), who scored 26 to lead both teams. He remembers the game vividly. "I told our coach [Sandy Hayman] that if we're going to get back in the game, we're going to have to use a full-court press the rest of the way." Hurd scored ten points in the third quarter to help close the gap, and General Brown steadily whittled away the difference, trailing by only 62-54 after three quarters. Hourigan mentioned the tightly officiated game was slowly taking its toll on the OCS starting team, which would see all five starters disqualified by the end of the game along with the sixth man, Mitch Tarbell.

Hourigan observed, "Fletcher pressed a lot, and we tended to pick up fouls." Tarbell recalled, "That was the only time I ever fouled out. Fletcher told me to foul somebody intentionally, and that was my fifth."

After four quarters—32 minutes of playing time—the OCS Tigers and the General Brown Lions fought to an 80-80 deadlock, but probably nobody guessed they'd need another 16 minutes to establish a winner. The game stretched on, tied at 86 after the first overtime, 90 after the second, and 94 after the

## ...BUT PROBABLY NOBODY GUESSED THEY'D NEED ANOTHER 16 MINUTES TO ESTABLISH A WINNER.

third. With five players fouling out, General Brown also had to rely on subs, though Hurd managed to stay in the game, somehow called for only two fouls.

Kilcoyne was one of the reserves pressed into service and recalls making a two-handed set shot in the third overtime. "Fletcher just said, 'Couldn't you get any closer?'" he remembers with a laugh. Kilcoyne also remembers a tense moment with OCS behind by two in the third overtime. "Don Kowalski, our back-up center, was fouled and went to the line for a one-and-one. He was our worst free-throw shooter. We all thought 'uh-oh,' but he made both shots to tie the game again."

Behm recalls that Vocational High was playing in the second game, and their players were getting restless. Kilcoyne remembers, "Their players came out after the first overtime, went back to the locker room, came out again after the second overtime, went back—and finally they came out to watch the game."

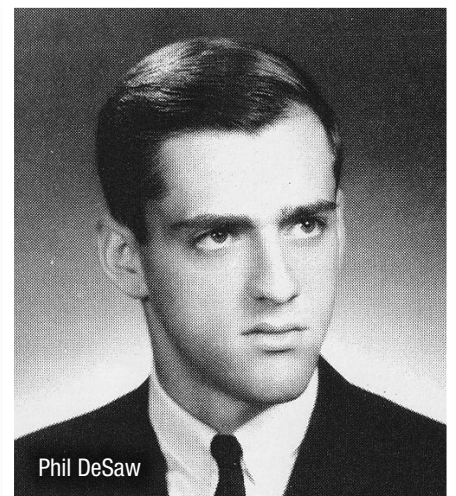
The OCS JV team had already finished its season, and the previous week Fletcher brought juniors Mike Gleason and Phil DeSaw up to the varsity. That decision turned out to be critically important. Asked whether he thought that he might get in the game if players kept getting whistled for fouls, DeSaw said, "It started crossing my mind after our second guy fouled out."

Meanwhile, Hurd, who had played every minute, wasn't accustomed to playing an extra half a game after regulation, especially defending full-court. Hurd recalls, "My legs literally gave out. Both legs totally cramped up, and my teammates had to carry me to the bench. The coach tried to get me back in the game, but as soon as I went in, I traveled. I just couldn't play."

Gleason was already in the game when Luchsinger fouled out in the second overtime. Behm remembers that Fletcher took his time replacing him, even though DeSaw was the last guy on the bench. "The referee told Fletcher to put somebody on the floor, and he said, 'Give me a minute. You've fouled out half my team,'" Behm recalls. "Fletcher finally said, 'Okay, DeSaw, get in there.'" DeSaw recollects Fletcher's specific instructions—"Don't shoot!" DeSaw added that the teams traded possessions in the fourth overtime, and then the

Tigers ran time off the clock, running its standard offense: pass, screen away, and rotate around, a common strategy in the days before the shot clock. Covey also remembers OCS holding the ball. According to DeSaw, "There was less than a minute left, and I got the ball at the elbow, wide open. I took the shot and it went in."

Unfamiliar with the Tigers' new bench players, the *Post-Standard* got DeSaw's name wrong the next day: "Bill [sic] DeSaw's jumpshot [sic] in the fourth overtime period broke a 94-94 tie at Watertown last night and proved to be the deciding basket as Earl Fletcher's Onondaga Central School cagers nipped General Brown of Mannsville, 98-94, to win the North-West Area's Class C Section Three championship." OCS won the battle of the subs: the Tigers held General Brown scoreless the last four minutes, and Mike Gleason added two free throws to ice the game. DeSaw said with a laugh, "I think one of the local papers called him 'Henry' Gleason." "Bill" and "Henry" got the last laugh.



Phil DeSaw

# Onon. Central Wins Title in 4th Overtime

Bill DeSaw's jumpshot in the fourth overtime period broke a 94-94 tie at Watertown last night and proved to be the deciding basket as Coach Earl Fletcher's Onondaga Central School cagers nipped General Brown of Mannsville, 98-94, to win the North-West Area's Class C Section Three championship.

Onondaga Central will meet undefeated Waterville Saturday in Utica for the Section Three Tournament's Class C championship.

Fletcher's squad jumped off to a 21-13 first period lead last night and led 48-32 at the half-way mark but General Brown cut the margin to 62-54 after three periods and the end of regulation time found the score tied at 80-80.

The two squads scored six points apiece in the first overtime period and four apiece in both the second and third overtime stanzas before DeSaw, recently moved up from the OCS junior varsity team, scored the decision-clinching basket in the fourth overtime period.

Don Luchsinger led the winners with 24 points followed by Chuck Walters and Jerry Hourigan with 19 apiece and Larry Behm with 14. Gerald Hurd was high for General Brown with 26.

Onon. Central		General Brown		
	F	T	F	T
Tarbell	1	0	2	7
Hourigan	7	2	16	6
Walters	2	15	19	26
Behm	6	2	14	0
Weyand	0	2	2	7
Clark	2	2	6	3
Luchsinger	10	4	25	3
Kilcoyne	1	0	2	0
DeSaw	2	2	2	16
Kowalski	2	2	2	2
Gicason	1	3	5	

Totals	33	32	25	34
Score by Periods:				
OCS	21	48	62	94
General	33	31	54	94

## Section 3 Playoffs North-West Area

North-West Area  
Class A  
Jamesville-DeWitt 68, Nottingham 54.  
Central Tech 66, Central Square 58.

Class B  
Vocational 65, Lowville 61.  
Class C  
Onondaga Central 98, General Brown 94 (four overtimes).

Class D  
Copenhagen 61, Hounsfield Central 33.

South-East Area  
Class A  
Oneonta 58, Utica Proctor 48.  
Class D  
Brookfield 54, DeRuyter 32.

# SOME PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT THE FOUR-OVERTIME CLASSIC

by Jim Molloy Sr.

Thanks go to Larry Behm, who provided the original pages from the official OCS score book. The unfortunate scorekeeper that night had to improvise and draw extra vertical lines to accommodate all the overtimes.

Larry remembered the final score precisely before looking at the old score book, as did both Roger Covey and Paul Hurd. (The *Post-Standard* was having a lot of trouble reporting first names from that game; it referred to Paul Hurd as "Richard.")

Hurd's story would make an article in itself. He graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis; flew for the U. S. Navy for seven years; piloted for Northwest and Delta for 31 years; and once appeared on *Jeopardy*. (I asked him how he did. "Finished second," he said with a laugh. "My fifteen minutes of fame.") In addition, Hurd built a second career in photography. His post-graduate work was in photojournalism, and he has been the primary travel photographer for Getty images. His website—take a look—notes that he has published thousands of photographs and contributed hundreds of articles for travel magazines.

Folks who remember high school basketball prior to the era of 3-point baskets might find it remarkable that the Tigers scored 189 total points in successive nights.

Behm and DeSaw both observed that Mort Luchsinger and Jerry Hourigan made most of their shots outside of the current three-point line. (Hourigan scored 22 points on eleven field goals the night before; certainly at least a few of those were from behind the current three-point line.)

I was looking for a way to determine whether any other teams in that era scored as prolifically, and I also became curious as to whether any other Section III games needed four overtimes to determine a winner. I asked Hurd whether he recalled any games going that long, and he replied, "Never!"

I contacted the *Post-Standard* for answers, but it provided no help at all. (Routine phone calls to the *PS* are answered by a machine and then get routed to a call center in Arizona. It also did not respond to my emails.) I called Section III, which has an office in East Syracuse, and a courteous person there took my call but explained that Section III has not compiled historical records. Behm thought he might have coached a four-overtime win against Weedsport, but it turned out his Tigers needed "only" two overtimes to prevail 96-93, January 19, 2001.

So I'll leave it our readers: Does anybody recall a local game that required four or more overtimes to decide a winner? And did OCS ever score more than 189 points in consecutive games? Please let us know . . .

**FOLKS WHO REMEMBER HIGH SCHOOL  
BASKETBALL PRIOR TO THE ERA OF  
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189 TOTAL POINTS IN SUCCESSIVE NIGHTS.**

Syracuse  
Post-Standard,  
March 14, 1965,  
p. 71.

# IN LOVING MEMORY

# JOHN LAROSE

1 9 4 2 - 2 0 2 5

## *Personal memories from Craig Moberg, Class of '79*

John LaRose was my 6th grade science teacher in 1972, and continued to be a friend and mentor through my high school years and beyond. He is quoted in his obituary as saying, "I love teaching. I love working with kids. I think God just put me here to teach and coach." He once told me he knew he wanted to be a teacher when he was nine.

In high school, a group of us would sometimes walk over to Wheeler after school to visit him. Always glad to see us, he would sit with us and loved hearing how we were doing.

I think he saw that I could use a friend and a guiding hand during that time and helped get me involved in many activities. He put together a talent show at Wheeler one year, along with a musical group to feature in it: he played piano; Scott Lathrop (I think) played the trumpet; Glen Wagner (I think) played the bass; and I played the drums. He was also involved in county talent shows and enlisted me to help, setting up or playing in them.

Later, he started the high school tennis team, somehow finding money to restore the decaying tennis courts at a time when the school was on an austerity budget. At his urging I joined, but not being athletically inclined and being in a bit of a slacker phase, I didn't stick with it. If only I'd known that within two years they'd be winning championships! Even before that he would sometimes invite me to play tennis at his apartment complex and we would have lunch and talk afterward.

He started the OCS drama program, of course, and began the tradition he continued in his coaching at OCC, of fighting like a warrior for every penny to improve and expand programs for his kids against bureaucrats who only saw him as a thorn in their side.



My life after high school had many twists and turns, and our contacts became less and less frequent, although my father would sometimes send me clippings of the accomplishments of his teams. I returned to Syracuse only occasionally, but whenever I did I would call him, and his first words would be, "Well, as I live and breathe!" We would meet for dinner and catch up. He joked that I took up most of his address book with all my moves and crossed out addresses.

I still have a letter that John sent to every member of the graduating class of 1979, congratulating us, wishing us the best, and sharing a quote from "The Art of Taking Time to Live," by Wilferd Peterson. On the back, he wrote a personal note to me, full of encouragement and insight. I kept it folded up in my wallet for years and took it out and read it whenever I needed an antidote to my troubles or doubts.



I told him this once, but other than that I don't know if I ever really expressed to him how much his friendship and support had helped me. **The world is a poorer place without him in it.**

# Forever IN OUR MEMORIES

## Mary Austin

Teacher & Coach

September 1, 2024

## John LaRose

Teacher & Coach

January 19, 2025

## Gloria Prugger Boice

Class of 1965

October 27, 2023

## Peter Gasparini

Class of 1954

December 10, 2024

## Sally Pieterek May

Class of 1970

February 12, 2025

# A Twilight Zone- CHRISTMAS?

By Sharon Brooks

Class of '68 alumnus Jim Molloy Sr. has adapted two of Rod Serling's original *Twilight Zone* episodes for the theatrical stage.

The two episodes, "The Changing of the Guard" and "Night of the Meek," will be performed at CNY Playhouse as a *A Twilight Zone Christmas* this coming December.

Working with the permission and encouragement of Rod Serling's daughters, Jodi and Anne, Jim updated "The Changing of the Guard" from 1962 to 2012, revised some references, and added four speeches. "Night of the Meek" is still set in 1961. This will be a world premiere, the first time the two episodes have been performed as a single Christmas show. Jodi Serling has already indicated that she will try to attend the premiere on Friday, December 5th, 2025.

CNY Playhouse has moved from its original home in Shoppingtown and now presents its shows at the Atonement Lutheran Church theater on West Glen Ave. in the Valley.

Jim says the show needs seven high school students in "The Changing of the Guard," and he's hoping some OCS students or recent alumni will audition this September. More information will be available at the CNY Playhouse website.



# Echoes FROM THE HALLS

Joyful Echoes invites you to share your favorite OCS memories with our readers! Just take a moment to fill out the form—answer as many questions as you like. You can send it to our Alumni Coordinator or bring it with you to the 50+ reunion!

Your Name (including maiden name):

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

I'll always remember this OCS teacher. He/she enhanced my life by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

OCS prepared me well for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This classmate remained a good friend over the years because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I'll never forget this OCS game/match when \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When I was a student at OCS, I always laughed when \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

One time at OCS, I got into trouble when \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# 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: [ocseducationfoundation.com](http://ocseducationfoundation.com)

