



# The RED & BLACK



RICHARD (CHAD) BALWANZ, CLASS OF 1970

## 2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

**R**ICHARD (CHAD) BALWANZ, Class of 1970 has been chosen the 2016 Outstanding Alumnus by the Bellaire High School Alumni Association. A coal miner after graduation, Chad soon decided that digging coal was not in his future and joined the U.S. Army in January of 1971. Ft. Knox, Kentucky was the start of a military career that would see him begin as a Private and rise to the highest Chief Warrant Officer rank. He progressed rapidly with increasing responsibility, specialized training, and leadership skills that were widely chronicled including, the article Veteran Valor: A Green Beret Legend of Desert Storm detailing his mission at the outset of the Gulf War, 25 years ago.

Chad led an eight-man Green Beret "A" Team that was covertly dropped 150 miles behind enemy lines on the night before the start of the ground war in Iraq. Inserted at night near an

"abandoned ruin", they soon found it was actually a village. While farmers tended their crops, a curious child soon found the camouflaged "hide-hole" occupied by the soldiers. Knowing their discovery could lead to capture or death, a silenced gun was made ready. As the commander, Chad quickly and decisively acted by declaring he was "not going to shoot children or unarmed civilians".

That discovery shortly led to truckloads of Iraqi troops. Outnumbered 150 or more to their 8 Green Berets, there began a daylong battle for survival. In the end, superior fighting skills and later arrival of air support allowed movement and extraction after dark. While many dozens of Iraqi soldiers died that day, all of the Green Berets survived to fight again.

Chad's gallantry in action earned him a Silver Star, the nations 2nd highest award for valor, but his decision to spare the life of an innocent and risking of his own life is still cited in teaching military ethics. The battle itself is in documentaries shown on Discovery and the History channels as well as numerous books and articles such as Douglas Wallers "The Commandos", Al Santoli's "Leading the Way", Tom Clancy, and "Desert Storm: A Forgotten

War" to name a few.

Chad's education includes degrees from Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC and Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, KY; CIA Field Operations Course; Department of Defense Interrogators Course; multiple Special Forces schools; Counterintelligence Courses and Advanced Officer Staff courses. In addition to the Silver Star, he earned a Legion of Merit and 16 other medals, awards and military decorations.

He has served multiple tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, including the Middle East and The Horn of Africa assigned to the Intelligence Directorate of the US Special Operations Command Central. After retiring from the military, he was in Afghanistan as a Senior Intelligence Officer in support of anti-terrorism and targeting of senior al-Qaeda leaders. He was also a Liaison for the Defense Department in the Detroit Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Chad is married to the former Janet Lee Tapp of Catlett, VA and the father of a son, Brandon; two daughters Maggie and Krystin and a step-daughter, Samara Tapp. He currently resides near Glencoe, Ohio and maintains active association with the American Legion.

## Spring BANQUET 2016

The banquet is May 21st at Undo's West in St. Clairsville. Cost is \$30.00. Social hour 5:30-6:30 with dinner to follow.

We will honor the 50 year class of 1966, The Outstanding Alumnus, Achievement Award Winners, honor the graduating Class of 2016 and announce the 2016 Senior Service winners. Also scholarships will be awarded to students from the Class of 2016 by our sister organization, the Endowment Association. To make your reservation, fill out the banquet portion of the enclosed form. (Dinner tickets are NOT mailed. Your reservation will be at the door).

Mail your reservation to the Bellaire Alumni Association, PO Box 307 Bellaire, OH 43906 or visit our website [www.bellairebig-redsalumni.com](http://www.bellairebig-redsalumni.com) to make your reservation.

# Message from the President



Your President,  
**Amy Busic**  
Class of 1989

Hello Big Reds! I am crossing my fingers and hoping that the worst days of winter are behind us and spring will be upon us soon! Of course, that means it is time for serious spring cleaning. The Board of Trustees of the Alumni Association are working diligently to clean and spruce up our Archives Room. We are finishing our move to the former band room or typing room (depending on your graduation year) located on the third floor. This has been a massive endeavor. We hold and display wonderful pieces of our high school's history. Old band and cheering uniforms, game

films from as far back as the 1960's, band recordings, and a Beljuan from every year since the early twentieth century are just a few of the treasures we maintain and upkeep. Bob Koteles, Class of 1964, has spearheaded the move. We are grateful for the time and effort he devotes to maintaining the Archives Room.

Our annual Alumni Banquet will be held May 21, 2016 at Undo's West in St. Clairsville, Ohio. We will be honoring an Outstanding Alumnus, Alumni Achievement Award winners and graduating seniors. Of course,

we will also be celebrating the Class of 1966, our honored 50 Year Class! You will find more details regarding banquet reservations included in this newsletter.

Over the last few years, the Bellaire Local School District has faced serious financial struggles. As an organization, we have discussed the variety of needs within the district. Recently, we took action to modify our purpose and allow us to become more involved district wide. The new purpose of the Bellaire High School Alumni Association is to promote the interests of the schools within the Bellaire Local School District, the students thereof, and all alumni of Bellaire High School. We will continue to put forth our best efforts towards assistance with the upkeep of the historic high school Bell Tower and Alumni Auditorium. We will continue to support our high school athletic and arts programs. However, with the establishment of the Education Assistance Committee, we will also do our best to assist all students in the Bellaire Local School District, including elementary and junior high students. Any donation made to the Alumni Association can be designated to specific projects, such as the Bell Tower Fund or the Education Assistance Program or can simply be made to the Alumni Association's general funds. Please feel free to contact any Trustee if you have specific questions regarding our new, modified purpose. We are here to serve!

In closing, we look forward to seeing you at our May banquet, where we will celebrate the accomplishments of our Alumni and welcome the newest members to our organization, the Class of 2016! Come celebrate and share our spirit, pride, and tradition!



## BHS Photo for Sale

The Bellaire Alumni Association is selling a beautiful ink jet reproduction of the entire front of the High School which faces the city park. This photo was taken at dusk and is absolutely breathtaking! The photograph, taken by Scott Rataiczak of R & C Photography, is on display at the high school and can be checked out on our website at [www.bellairebigredalumni.com](http://www.bellairebigredalumni.com)

Prices are as follows and are available immediately:

20"x 30" print \$55.00 plus the cost of shipping

20"x 30" black framed print \$85.00 plus the cost of shipping

11"x 17" laminated print \$10.00 plus the cost of shipping

Special orders available upon request

If you would like to purchase a photo, send your request to BHS Alumni Association P.O. Box 307 Bellaire, OH 43906 or e-mail us at [www.bellairebigredalumni@gmail.com](mailto:www.bellairebigredalumni@gmail.com) or contact Kathy Wallace at 740-676-9150.

## BHS Alumni Association

# EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees of the Bellaire High School Alumni Association has recently established The Education Assistance Program. This program has been established to support development of technology and to promote other classroom projects that directly affect the day-to-day learning of the students in The Bellaire Local School District.

A committee of alumni association trustees will be working directly with the administration to support those programs that will help students be better prepared for their futures through education, encouragement and empowerment.

Tax deductible donations to help support this program should be made out to BHS Alumni Association, earmarked EAP.



# REUNION NOTES

## CLASS OF 1966...has it really been 50 years?

The class of 1966 will be celebrating their 50th Class Reunion on Friday, May 20, 2016 at the Sons of Italy in Bellaire. A Meet and Greet will begin at 6:00PM with a photo taken at 6:30 sharp! We will get the picture back that evening. Dinner served at 7:00 with music and dancing to follow at 8:00. Cost is \$40.00 for the classmate and \$35.00 for the spouse/guest. Photo is included. Send all reservations to Rosemary Derry Durant at 4524 Harrison St. Bellaire, OH 43906-1337 740-676-6350, by May 13, 2016. The Alumni Banquet is being held the following evening Saturday, May 21, 2016 at Undo's in St. Clairsville. If you are a paid member of the Alumni, your dinner is free, but you must still make a reservation and pay for your spouse/guest. Cost is \$30.00. Mail your reservation and check to Bellaire Alumni Association P.O. Box 307 Bellaire, OH 43906 or go to their website, [www.bellairebigredsalumni.com](http://www.bellairebigredsalumni.com) to make your reservation and pay online. On September 18-25, 2016, we are planning a cruise to Bermuda aboard Carnival Pride. This is open to all alumni and friends of Bellaire High School. Join us as we sail from Baltimore (no fly), and sail to sunny Bermuda. Everyone is invited! Please contact classmate, John Smith at ATB Travel 877-885-7737 or 661-940-1165 for information and reservations. We are hoping for a great turnout for this reunion, so make your reservations soon so we can finalize everything. Reunion Committee: Pat McGee Heller (class president) and Rosemary Durant.

## CLASS OF 1976... can't believe it's been 40 years!

Classmates Betty Orlando Somerville, Dennis Delbert, Cathy Civin Stack, Skip Bauknecht and Rich Hans are making plans to celebrate the 40th class reunion. Wow! Where has the time gone? Make plans to meet up with old friends and classmates to reminisce the good old days at BHS. Friday evening, September 30th a social gathering held at Flanagans and Saturday evening, October 1st at the Sons of Italy. More details on the weekend to follow in the fall newsletter, if you have any questions, call Dennis Delbert at 740-676-5264.

## FEBRUARY LOTTERY FUNDRAISER WINNERS

Members sold lottery tickets based on the nightly Ohio 3 digit lottery drawing for the month of February. The following people were the lucky winners. We would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets. All profit from the fundraiser go to the new Education Assistance Program.

Madison Ice	Andrew Sabatino	Nancy Merryman
Barbara Hubbard	Erica Booth	Catherine Tuttle
Eric Booth	Matt Koteles	Rose Durant

# FAITHFUL AND TRUEHEARTED



## BHS 2015 - 2016 Alumni Association Board of Directors

**Row 1:** Bob Koteles '64, Past President; Brooke McVey '07, Recording Secretary; Amy Busic '89, President; Dennie Bland '64, Past President; Penny Smelko Frizzi '71, Past President

**Row 2:** Ed Good '77; Cindy Martin Badia '74; Kathy Wallace '70, Past President; Lorrie Althar Palmer '99; Catherine Boccabella Tuttle '53; Shauna Ray Walker '74, Membership Secretary, Past President; Toni Brunori Sechrest '68, Corresponding Secretary; Ben Doyle '02

**Row 3:** Arleen Brunori Sabatino '76, 1st Vice President; Cheryl Badia Wallace '70, Past President; Forrest Merryman '08, Treasurer; Luca Magistro '06; Erica Booth '02; Frank Hibbitts '00

# Give Back to BHS... SUPPORT YOUR ALMA MATER

All donations to the BHS Association are tax deductible.

*Class*  
**REUNION**  
B o o k l e t s

Class reunion committees are reminded to submit their class reunion books/ mailing list to the alumni association so we can keep our mailing list up-to-date!

Send to: Shauna Walker  
BHS Alumni Association  
PO Box 307  
Bellaire, OH 43906



Visit Us

**ONLINE**

[bellairebigredsalumni.com](http://bellairebigredsalumni.com)





## Seniors Nominated for SENIOR SERVICE AWARDS

The following members of the Class of 2016 have been nominated for the Senior Service Award by the BHS faculty:

**Sydney Badia**-daughter of Steve and Tracy Badia  
**Mary Garloch**-daughter of George and Carolyn "CJ" Garloch  
**Morgan Runyan**-daughter of Gary and Shelly Runyan  
**Olivia Tranovich**-daughter of Don and Robin Tranovich  
**Joshua Bumgardner**-son of Paul and Dawn Bumgardner  
**Tylar Eden**-son of Chris and Ann Arno  
**Dylan Marling**-son of Lynn and Richard Marling  
**Anthony Piper**-son of Carl and Velma Piper

Each nominee was interviewed by the Alumni Association's Senior Service Committee. One male and one female winner will be announced at the Annual Spring Banquet. The two winners will each receive \$1,000.00 and a lifetime Alumni Association membership.

## In Memory of... In Honor of...

Throughout the year, the Alumni Association receives donations "In memory of" and "In honor of" fellow classmates, family members, or other alumni. We have chosen to publish the name of both the donor and the alumnus being honored or remembered in a new section of our newsletter.

<i>Donor</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
BERT PIATT	WANDA MILLER (mother of Patty & Monte Miller)
BERT PIATT	ROGER LOVRAK '67
BERT PIATT	BARBARA JEAN DAVIS '66
BERT PIATT	JOE CIVIN, JR. '41
GARY & TONI SECHREST	TOM POE '68
KATHY WALLACE	TOM POE '68
DAN & PENNY FRIZZI	TOM POE '68

## REVERSE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

The Annual Reverse Raffle is Saturday, September 24th at the Sons of Italy. There will be two different prices for tickets. \$25.00 ticket includes admission to the event, dinner and an entry in the drawing. \$15.00 ticket includes an entry in the drawing only and does not include dinner or admission to the event. To purchase tickets fill out the enclosed form (tickets will be mailed to you).

## ACHIEVEMENT AWARD *Winners*

### **BUSINESS:**

#### **DOUG HAVELKA - CLASS OF 1978**

Assistant Professor of Decision Sciences and Management Information Systems, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; BA and MBA Miami University; PhD at Texas Tech University; extensively published while he has served as a Communications Specialist and Systems Analyst for ATT.

### **CIVIC:**

#### **JAMES COCHRAN - CLASS OF 1972**

West Liberty State College, BS in Accounting; MBA University of Pittsburgh; Certified Public Accountant; CFO for H.E. Neuman Company, Wheeling, WV; donates his time as Treasurer at the Bellaire Presbyterian Church; trustee of the Bellaire Public Library Board of Trustees; Treasurer of the Great Stone Viaduct Society and a member of the GSV Board of Trustees; donates his accounting services to the Bellaire High School Alumni Association.

### **ARTS:**

#### **DAVID DOAN - CLASS OF 1992**

Theatrical Agent CESD, New York City where he serves as a Theatrical Agent for actors of all ages; Previously the Head of the Theatrical Dept. at Generation TV and casting director at Nickelodeon; Nominated in 2012 for Daytime Emmy Award for Casting "Nick Jr. Bubble Guppies". His specialty is discovering youth and breakout talent, with clients on Broadway, TV and film.

### **EDUCATION:**

#### **CHARLOTTE EXNER - CLASS OF 1970**

Ohio State University undergraduate; Masters from John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; 16 years as Dean of College of Health Professionals, Townson University, Executive Director for Hussman Center and Strategic Initiatives dealing with adults with autism, Chair of Occupational Therapy Department and Faculty.

### **MEDICAL:**

#### **THOMAS TUTTLE - CLASS OF 1975**

Ohio Northern University, Ada Ohio 1980 in College of Pharmacy; Pharmacist at Save-Rite, Super X and Ohio Valley Hospital; Director of Pharmacy Martins Ferry Hospital; Part Owner of Lorraine Surgical Supply, which is now known as Wheeling Medical Supply Company; Serves as a member of the Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health and Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center; member of the Imperial Glass Museum Board.

## Joyful & Ever Loyal



L-R Emile John, Louis Bernardi, Lucille Fitch and Elsie Battistone Bizzari all from the Class of 1945

They started first grade together in September of 1933, They attended First Ward School. Miss Bright was the no-nonsense principal who forbade any student from walking on First Wards' perfectly manicured grass. They are still proud of their south Bellaire (below the bridge) origins. They are still loyal and spirited Big Reds. Most importantly, they are still dear friends who enjoy each others company as much today as they did 83 years ago.

## Send us your email address



We know that everyone is not tech savvy these days with modern technology and still love to wait on the mailman to deliver the mail. Modern technology has allowed us to make life simpler and faster with the use of computers, i-pads and i-phones. Would you like to help the Alumni Association be more cost efficient by receiving your newsletter by email? If so, PLEASE send us your e-mail address at [www.bellairebigredsalumni.com/contact](http://www.bellairebigredsalumni.com/contact)

For those of you who still love receiving the newsletter by mail we will continue to do that.

## COMMEMORATIVE BRICK SALE

Since the half-price brick sale was such a success, we have decided to keep the sale going for a while longer. If you have not purchased a brick for yourself or for a family member, now is a great time to do so. Personalize it with a name, date, in honor of or in memory of or whatever you wish it to say. The bricks also make a great gift for that hard to buy for person. The 4" x 8" brick is \$50, the 8" x 8" brick is \$125. If you ever get a chance, stop by the school and check out this beautiful project on Alumni Way.

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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 4" x 8" Brick @ \$50<sup>00</sup> (3 lines, 15 characters each)

\_\_\_\_\_ 8" x 8" Brick @ \$125<sup>00</sup> (6 lines, 15 characters each)

Please call for pricing on 16 x 16 and 32 x 32 granite pavers.

*Please print clearly in the boxes below. 4" x 8" bricks can have up to 3 lines of type. 8" x 8" bricks can have up to 6 lines. Each line can have up to 15 characters, including spaces and punctuation. If ordering more than one brick, please make copies of this form.*


*All purchase are tax deductible. Make check payable to the Bellaire High School Alumni Association and mail to: Commorative Brick Project, P.O. Box 307, Bellaire OH 43906.*

TO PURCHASE BRICKS, USE THE ATTACHED ORDER FORM OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT

**WWW.BELLAIREBIGREDSALUMNI.COM**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **BELLAIRE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND MAIL TO P.O. BOX 307, BELLAIRE, OH 43906**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT **BOB KOTELES AT (740) 676-5490**

# HOME COMING

# 2016



**Friday, September 23rd**  
Alumni Social Sons of Italy Lodge

**Saturday, September 24th**  
Parade, Football Game, Reverse Raffle

- watch for details in fall newsletter -

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT -- Jack Cera



Jack was recently elected assistant whip by the Ohio House Democratic Caucus. His position is the fourth-highest ranking Democratic member of House Leadership. In August, Jack had taken over the informal leadership position as caucus dean, the longest serving member of the minority.

State Representative Jack Cera, a native of Bellaire, Ohio (Belmont County) first served in the Ohio General Assembly from 1983-1996. At that time, he represented Ohio House District 99, which encompassed Belmont, Monroe, Noble, and the northern part of Washington Counties. He returned to the legislature in 2011 when he was appointed to serve as the State Representative of then House District 95. With redistricting taking effect in 2012, he now represents Ohio House District 96, which includes all of Jefferson County, all of Monroe County, and portions of Belmont County.

Representative Cera is a 1974 graduate of Bellaire High School where he excelled in the classroom and on the football field. His 97-yard interception return for a touchdown was a school record for over 20 years. He was recruited to play football at Brown University, but his playing days ended after one year due to injury. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Brown in 1978. Representative Cera is married to his wife of 30 years, Becky. They have two daughters: Jaelyn, a graduate of Waynesburg University with both a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree; and Bethany, a student at the University of Charleston and member on the softball team. Recently, a son-in-law was added to the fold when his eldest daughter Jaelyn married USAF Captain Brent Yocum, a young man from Smithfield, Ohio. They currently reside in Texas.

## COACH MARK SPIGARELLI - OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

By SETH STASKEY *Times Leader Sports Editor* From the *Times Leader* February 2, 2016

BELLAIRE - Mark Spigarelli calls it "the opportunity of a lifetime."

And it's one he doesn't take lightly.

Spigarelli officially inked his coaching contract Monday, becoming the 26th head football coach in Bellaire High School history. He takes over for Steve Andres, whose contract wasn't renewed after two seasons and a 5-15 record.

"I appreciate Mr. (Darren) Jenkins (Superintendent), Mrs. (Kassie) Anderson (Principal), Mrs. (Molly) Feller (Athletic Director) and the entire Board of Education for giving me the opportunity," Spigarelli said. "I am excited to have the chance (to be the head coach) and hopefully I can do something good with it."

Spigarelli was actually formally approved by the Bellaire Board of Education, with a 5-0 vote, during a special meeting last Thursday. He, however, asked for the weekend before officially signing the deal.

"The delay (in accepting the job) was to give me time to contact some of the guys I had hoped to get on board with for the coaching staff," Spigarelli said. "I wanted to make sure they'd join me, work with me and that they had the same beliefs as me in all three facets of football."

The new head coach will have his first meeting with his players Wednesday after school and from there it's off and running.

"I am very excited to get started," Spigarelli said. "We're probably a little behind in terms of the weight room and getting to know the kids better, but we'll be OK."

The Nelson Field sidelines will be no place new for Spigarelli. The 1988 Bellaire High School graduate played three seasons of varsity football and then spent 12 years on the varsity coaching staff, working

under John Magistro and Gregg Bonar.

"We're trying to get (this program) back to where it was in the good ol' days," Spigarelli said. "I hear people say we don't have the caliber of athletes that we had back then. Well, we could if these kids put in the effort and the time with the commitment to being good."

During Spigarelli's time on the staff under Magistro, the Big Reds won four regional titles. He was an eighth grade coach during the Big Reds' two trips to the Ohio State Championship Games in 1995 and 96. His last two seasons on the Big Reds' staff, which were 2007 and 08, Spigarelli was the defensive coordinator.

"I've been working toward this position and goal for the past 25 years," Spigarelli admitted.

After graduating from Bellaire, Spigarelli attended Ohio University, earning a degree in education in 1992. He also owns a master's degree from OU, too. Spigarelli's teaching and coaching careers started at Union Local. He was an eighth grade football and assistant baseball coach. He then accepted a job at Martins Ferry and was eighth grade football and reserve basketball coach for a short stint.

Now, he's in his 21st year as a member of the Bellaire High School faculty. After taking the 2009 season off from coaching, Spigarelli landed a position at West Liberty, working with the strong safeties.

"I really appreciate everything Coach (Roger) Wailiae did for me the last six years," Spigarelli said. "I learned a tremendous amount of football during that time."

Along with his football experience, Spigarelli was also the Big Reds' baseball coach for two seasons. He guided the 2003 team to a berth in the Division III regional final in Chillicothe.

Spigarelli believes the biggest key to success is building relationships, whether it's within the staff, with the kids or in the community.

"Everyone needs to be on the same page," Spigarelli said. "The kids have to see that you care about them, both as people and players. If they do, I believe they'll play that much harder for you, the staff, the school and entire community."

As for the 2016 Big Reds, Spigarelli is excited about the talent that returns at the skill positions, but he knows depth must be created in the trenches.

"I think, at any level, the number one key in football is in the trenches," Spigarelli said. "I think we're kind of slim up there right now, but from this day forward, I expect the kids to work hard in the weight room."

Spigarelli, who will run the defense, hopes to employ a 4-2-5. Offensively, he expects a mixture of Big Reds' offenses of old along with some of the things he's learned with the Hilltoppers.

"I would like to get back to the days when Mark and Gregg (Bonar) were the offensive coordinators here," Spigarelli said. "We will obviously try to take what the defense gives us."

The Spigarelli era of Big Reds' football officially begins Aug. 27 against newly scheduled, River. The Big Reds don't leave the friendly confines of Nelson Field for four of the first five weeks, but road trips to Shadyside, St. Clairsville and Martins Ferry can be found in the second half of the season.

"I believe we'll be able to compete with any team we have on our schedule," Spigarelli said. "There's only one way for this program to go and that's up after a few down seasons."