CLASSMATE PROFILES

Getting to know Classmates all over again!

So what have you been doing for the past 50 years?

My Favorite Pictures in the Past 50 Years







In 2005







In 2008



Baby Dave In 2007

In 1965 In 1985
Anne & Fred Over the Years

Mary's Wedding In 1998

Jim, Dave & Mary, Joseph In 2003

FRED ALLEGRETTI

My business experience began at the age of 14 in the family owned restaurant businesses. After High School graduation I owned and operated the Classic Bowl snack shop and Roll-a-Dog drive-in businesses. Both turned out to be two of the biggest losers since Hitler! I took business courses at Northwestern and Hotel and Restaurant Management courses from Michigan State. In 1962 I enlisted and became a cryptanalyst for the U.S. Army Security Agency. My training took place in Boston and Washington D.C. After training I was then assigned to work with the National Security Agency, which required me to live in the Middle East, Europe and in Washington D.C. During this time I traveled to 30 countries and 80 cities, towns and villages before age 26.

Upon my returning to civilian life, I tried my hand at the family business, only to arrive at the conclusion that there had to be a better way to make a buck. In 1968, now married with our first child on the way, I began what turned out to be a 35-year career at Allstate Insurance Companies. Starting as Sales Agent in Berwyn, Illinois, then promoted into Sales Management with seven field sales assignments and in 1979 I was appointed to Allstate's Home Office Marketing in Northbrook, Illinois where I spent the next 25 years.

In 1984, as a Marketing Director with life time experiences as an entrepreneur, computer-base code breaking, business problem solving, along with extensive Allstate field sales background I was asked to create a point-of-sale sales automation system. This assignment resulted in the industry's first PC-based integrated sales workstation. This was at a time when desktop technology was almost nonexistent. During the remainder of the eighties and early nineties I was one of Allstate's principle architects for agent and sales management automation. As the user advocate and project leader I took my role seriously, attending eleven industry, IBM, Apple and university graduate level courses in system design, development, implementation, training, strategic planning, human behavior and change management. The success of these efforts led to my appointment as an Assistant Vice President for the Allstate Insurance Companies in 1986.

I retired from Allstate Insurance Company on June 1, 2003, after 35 years of service. I was one of the 160 officers responsible for the success of the Allstate Insurance Companies, a Fortune 100 company that employs over 57,000 people countrywide. My particular contribution was that of officer in charge of Sales Technology Solutions.

My position at Allstate allowed me to contribute in government, non-profit organizations and institutions outside the company; such service included:

- Senior Executive Vice President for enabling technology for Sales & Marketing Executives International,
- Executive Board of SMEI Youth Education Foundation,
- Executive Board of the Academy of Achievement in Enterprise USA, Oklahoma, (The American Business Hall of Fame).
- Syracuse University Graduate School of Sales Management & Marketing
 - 1982 Graduate of Syracuse University GSSMM MBA Program,
 - 1984 Syracuse University Graduate School ENCORE Program Associate Instructor,
 - 1987 elected to the Syracuse University Graduate School Board of Trustees, then in 1990 elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees where I served for 10 years.
- In 2003 I was recognized by the National Congressional Committee, in Washington, D.C., as "Businessman of the Year... for my work on the President's Business Advisory Council".
- In 2004 I received the Ronald Reagan Gold Medal Award, "Based on his outstanding leadership in business and displaying a commitment to President Ronald Reagan's vision for an entrepreneurial America".

While still looking for the retirement off ramp, I am Chairman and CEO of "The Callahan Group", a consulting firm with expertise in business change management, President of my own consulting company "Sales and Marketing Solutions" and I am having fun as the Webmaster for the Taft High School 50th Anniversary Reunion website, www.taftreunion1959.com.

I consider my greatest achievements to have been lucky enough to have found, and smart enough to have married my life partner Elizabeth Anne McKenna in 1965. Anne was an RN and operating room supervisor at Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. We have three great children, Joseph, Mary and Jimmy. All three children graduated from college and currently have careers in quality control consulting, (Joseph), interior design and full time Mom, (Mary), and management at Allstate, (Jim).

Joe and Jim live on our family farm in Lake Villa, Illinois, which is only 20 minutes from our Pistakee Lake home. Mary was married in 1998 to Dave Kalesz, an Allstate Agent business owner in Barrington, Illinois, and they live in Lake Zurich, Illinois. They have blessed us with two wonderful grandchildren, McKenna, age 5 and David, age 3.

I live in Johnsburg, Illinois, with my wife and partner of forty-two years, Anne. Our lakeside home is the regular gathering place to enjoy spending time with our three children and two grandchildren.