



Parsons College E-News

Volume 10, No. 2/3

SPECIAL EDITION - 2018

The P.C.F.F. Presents The Wall Of Honor Class Of 2018

“Join us in Fairfield for the Celebration, October 6th”



*Cindy Thompson
Albers '71*



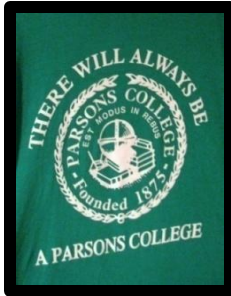
William Atkins '66



John Blackstock '64



John Braidwood '68



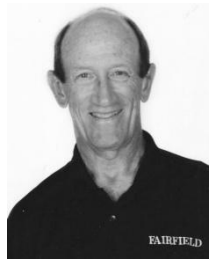
George Estle '73



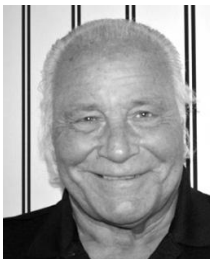
Robert E. Fox '66



Thomas Grooms '60



Ron Hunerdosse '72



Larry Marino '66



Don Samuelson '64



*Joyce Berlin
Witzenburg '72*

On Saturday, October 6 at approximately 10:00AM, the final 11 inductees who comprise the Wall of Honor Class of 2018 will be presented at the Stephen Sondheim Auditorium in the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. The induction of these honorees will bring the total number of Wall of Honor members to 100. The ceremony and their inclusion will also bring down the curtain on the WOH program as we know it today.

This year's interesting mix of inductees includes teachers, coaches, educators, managers, a banker, a business owner, an attorney, health care professional, computer program designer and community volunteer.

The WOH program was introduced in 2008 as a ten-year program to recognize and bring back 100 Parsons Students/Grads who posted distinguished careers, gave back to their communities and exhibited a lasting love and gratitude to Parsons College. Ten years have passed, 10 classes have been honored and 100 plaques mounted on the wall. We are happy to report once again that each and every member of the Class of 2018 is expected to be in attendance in October.

The WOH weekend will be held in conjunction with the Parsons Biennial Reunion (every 2 years), 'Wildcat Spirit Awards,' a 'Remembering John Denver Tribute' at the Sondheim (PCAlums Special \$20), 1st Friday Art Walk and the kickoff of Oktoberfest, all commencing Friday, October 5...

IMPORTANT NOTE:

***HOTELS/MOTELS ARE AT A PREMIUM,
RESERVE NOW!!***

**Best Western (1-641-472-2200)
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“Excellence in their careers and communities...”

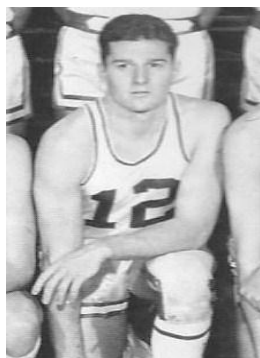
Class of 2018: “No Shortage of Love and Gratitude for Parsons College”



*Cindy Thompson
Albers '71*

CINDY THOMPSON ALBERS, PC'71 – Decorah, IA... Cindy is an ‘Educator/Coach’. She’s taught Physical Education and coached basketball, volleyball, track and softball, primarily in the Decorah School District for 42 years. Cindy is also responsible for the start-up of the basketball programs at Tama, IA and Decorah, IA. Her amazing career has earned her the ‘Roushar-Evans Award’ from the Iowa Basketball Coaches Association; the ‘Friends of the School Award’ presented by the Iowa High School Athletic Association; and the ‘Distinguished Service Award’ from the Iowa Football Coaches Association for her contributions to their program. Although currently retired, Cindy serves on a number of boards and committees, helps with church activities and is Vice President of the Decorah Parks & Recreation Board, where she’s contributed for 27 years. Her Parsons

memories are vivid: “Parsons provided a faculty that ‘walked the talk’. I got to see, hear, and feel their enthusiasm, knowledge and passion for Physical Education. Their influence impacted my teaching and love of teaching for 42 years. We were welcomed to campus my senior year when a number of us came from John F. Kennedy College to visit before starting in the fall. That visit made it very easy to enjoy the excitement of a new campus and new experiences which is why I’m so proud to be a Parsons Wildkitten.” Cindy is married to Mark Albers, has three children and four grandchildren. Her presenter will be former teammate, Sandy Konrad McCullough...



William Atkins '66

WILLIAM “BILL” ATKINS, PC'66 – Crown Point, IN... Bill is a ‘Sales Executive & Manager’. He built his foundation as a Top Performer, Captain and MVP on the basketball court at an early age. Bill overcame a severe injury suffered in a car accident, was discovered by Parsons coaching legend O.B. Nelson and distinguished himself as one of the all-time great Wildcat performers. Bill’s leadership and take charge skills at Parsons led him to sign a \$10,000 contract with the Chicago Bulls in 1966. He spent two seasons in the Bulls organization before moving into the business world. Bill continued to excel, dominating ‘Top Salesman of the Year Awards’ and moving into management with the Arquilla Corporation. After 23 years of selling to Architects and Contractors in Chicago, he left to open and manage their first branch in Indiana. Bill was inducted into the ‘City of

Hammond, Indiana, Sports Hall of Fame’ in 2011. In the community, Bill is currently substitute teaching, belongs to several service clubs and has coached kids baseball and basketball. He’s been married 52 years to Carol Clingan Atkins (PC’63-’65 Alpha Gamma Delta), has two children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild. What did Parsons mean to Bill? “It provided me the opportunity for an education; to play basketball with possibility of advancing to a professional career; joining Tau Kappa Epsilon and having life-long friends; AND meeting my future wife, Carol Clingan...” Presenting Bill will be former teammate Ken Rice..

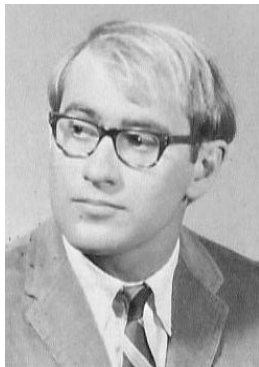


John Blackstock '64

JOHN BLACKSTOCK, PC'64 – St. Charles, MO... John was a ‘Retail Management Executive/Writer’. Following Parsons, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Portfolio (weekly paper), he went to work for the Boston Herald as a Sports Writer. Several years later he switched to Retail Sales Management. John launched his retail career with the JCPenney Company, a career that took him to NYC as the Company Meeting Coordinator. His career culminated 26 years later in the specialty stores field with his retirement from the Limited Inc at age 49. During his stint with Limited and the Lerner New York Division, he was recognized as a top sales performer and earned membership to the Presidents Club numerous times. At the pinnacle of his career, John was the Regional Sales Manager of 111 stores, 12 districts and responsible for 1,200 associates, covering 11 states. He is most

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proud of his role in the training, development and promotion of 30 District Sales Managers. Following retirement, aside from a 25 year affiliation with the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation as a board member, John has dedicated his time and efforts to the Parsons College Foundation Fund as a Fundraiser and the Alumni Association as Editor & Publisher of the Alumni E-Newsletter. He is also Co-Founder of the Wall of Honor and has served as Alumni/Reunion Chairman of his Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity, and of his North Hills High School class. Regarding Parsons, he said, "Had it not been for Parsons, I don't go to college! How could I not give back with all of the opportunities Parsons afforded me. Who I am, what I am, and the successes I've posted in life are directly related to Parsons College. The education in and outside the classroom was of the highest level. Millard G. Roberts and his 'Parsons Plan' were the saviors to many of us, so-called, marginal students! So, I shall work to perpetuate our mission of keeping the memory and legacy of Parsons College alive for the rest of my life." John has two sons and twin boy/girl grandkids. He was nominated by David Harting and will be presented by Dave Neff...



John Braidwood '68

JOHN BRAIDWOOD, PC'68 – Queensbury, NY... John is a born promoter, filled with an abundance of enthusiasm and energy. He is a 'Bank Executive & Humanitarian'. Following a successful 15 years as District Manager for 3MCompany's Magnetic Products Division, John found his niche in the banking industry. As his responsibilities grew, he became Vice President, and put in charge of new business development for three regional banks – KeyTrust Co., Bank Boston, and First American Bank in Traverse City, MI. Later as John's banking career progressed and he drew closer to retirement, his passion for giving back and caring for others surfaced. He became very much involved in fund raising and was good at it. John has participated in numerous campaigns including, Ellis Hospital Capital Fund, Union College, Schenectady Boys Club, Albany Boys Club's "Life Flight", and the local Little League. He is also involved with Big Brothers & Big

Sisters, serves on a number of boards, and has sponsored five children overseas for over 40 years through Children International & Hearth to Hearth Ministries. Currently he is mentoring a 12 year-old boy through Big Brothers & Sisters. Not to be omitted is John's role with Parsons College. He is Co-Founder of the Parsons College Foundation Fund, on the Alumni board, and played a significant role in the fund raising for the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center, paving the way for Parsons Alumni Hall. John was originally from Schenectady, NY, majored in Psychology and was a member of the Rum & Chowder Society. Looking back, he said, "All of us have had pivotal times in our lives, some by choice, others predestined. I embarked on what would become a life altering event and Parsons would be the springboard that provided me the lifetime skills to become the person I am today. I will be forever grateful to Parsons College for such a compelling, endearing experience." John has two sons and families, and will be presented by son, Clint Braidwood...



George Estle '73

GEORGE ESTLE, PC'73 – Solon, IA... George is a highly regarded champion of addressing children's mental and behavioral health care needs. He is the consummate 'Children's Health Care Professional'. George is directly responsible for growing the Tanager Place Center for children with mental and behavioral challenges from a center that initially affected the lives of 500 children, to currently impacting over 5,000 children in Iowa and across the country. At the age of 31 he was appointed CEO of Tanager Place and the center has soared ever since. George created the first Psychiatric Medical Institution for Children in Iowa. Beyond Tanager and creation of the Tanager Mental Health Clinic, he founded a Child and Family Policy Center in Des Moines. George has instituted an Expressive Arts Therapy Program, established summer camps for children with Hemophilia and Diabetes...started up an Intermediate Care Facility for the Intellectually Disadvantaged...and launched an Autism Disorder Program.

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George is regarded as an entrepreneurial giant in the field of non-profit organizations. He's overseen multi-million dollar budgets and led over 230 employees. His mission is simple and driven by what he believes to be in the best interest of children and their families. George serves on numerous boards, committees and councils, and was appointed by Iowa Governor Culver to serve on the Iowa Family Advisory Council. He has received major recognition and awards. Most significantly, the Tanager Place Board of Directors named the new Tanager Place Medical Center Building 'The Estle Center.' George, a local from Fairfield, graduated Parsons with Business Administration Degree and earned his Masters in Social Work from the University of Illinois. Three sentences sum up his Parsons experience: "The faculty at Parsons was outstanding, and unlike other universities I have attended, they were accessible. Their involvement, coupled with small class size, provided fertile ground for intellectual curiosity and development. I learned to always question, and be open to new ideas which are both important to good leadership." George will be presented by Jim Cornick..



Robert E. Fox '66

ROBERT E. FOX, PC'66 – Clovis, CA... Robert was an 'Educational Servant/Leader'. He not only graduated from Parsons with a Philosophy/Religion Degree but while there, he also served as Chief Justice of the Student Court and Head Resident of several dormitories. Immediately following graduation, Robert was invited to join the Dean of Students office where he spent the next six years. His titles included Dean of Men, Dean of Students, with the provision that in the absence of a Dean of Women, he would fill that capacity, too. Robert filled the advisory positions for the Delta Sig Fraternity and was advisor to the Circle K Club. He attended the Institute of Educational Management at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA in the early 1970's and left Parsons for a position at a community college in Minnesota in 1972. Next was his move west to California where he joined the first of two community colleges. Robert later retired from

Fresno City College, a college of 25,000 students, as Vice President & Dean of Students in 2009. Two years after retiring, Fresno City College came calling and asked Robert to return to his former district and appointed him Vice Chancellor with oversight of instructional and student services programs district-wide. In recalling his college days, Robert said, "Parsons dramatically changed the trajectory of my life from that of failure and profound disappointment to one of success and purpose. Many of the students I met came to Parsons because it was their second chance. For me it was my last chance. I had attempted in vain to achieve success at several other schools. In other words, it was a critical make or break point in my life. As a student and staff member, I was privileged to observe a faculty and staff united in enthusiastic and thoughtful support of the 'Parsons Plan'. Everyone worked together to provide a quality education to every student admitted. Parsons prepared me to make both a life and a living." Robert and wife Sandy, who have five children and families, currently serve as court appointed advocates (CASAs) for youth under the care of the social service system. Robert will be presented by his wife, Sandy Fox...



Thomas Grooms '60

THOMAS L. GROOMS, PC'60 – East Moline, IL... Tom is a labor attorney, who is held in high regard throughout the industry. He is an 'Industrial Relations Attorney,' who has spent a large number of career years on special assignment with the John Deere Corporation. Tom's assignments have included working as liaison with the company's overseas operations. His extensive travels have taken him to Rosario, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Germany, France and South Africa. Tom has also represented John Deere in negotiations, arbitration and the consolidations of three John Deere facilities. He's taken part in negotiations with unions representing overseas employees. And he later became the representative to the IEOPP and worked toward bringing equality to the non-white majority of South Africa.

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WALL OF HONOR – GROOMS cont'd

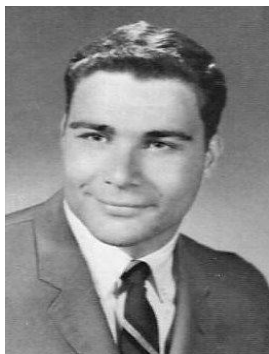
Tom served as Vice Chairman of the Industry Support Unit, Inc., seeking legislative changes to eliminate the odious laws controlling movement of non-whites through Pass Laws, and withholding opportunity from non-whites. The effort resulted in the FREE and FAIR elections that finally took place in June of 1994 when Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa. Tom has served on a number of hospital and health system boards prior to retiring totally in 2002. Looking back, Tom, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, remembers, "Parsons provided a tailored opportunity to explore academics at a higher level and to interact with, and be challenged by, professors and administrators. The small college atmosphere encouraged assessment of student needs and provided professional and personal assistance to insure success. The relationships between myself and several professors lasted well beyond graduation." Tom is married to Zilpha Woods Grooms (PC'60 – Delta Zeta). They have three children and families. Presenting Tom will be his wife, Zilpha Grooms...



Ron Hunerdosse '72

RON HUNERDOSSE, PC'72 – Fairfield, IA... Truly a man for all seasons...a 'Teacher/Coach/Volunteer'. Ron was recently named "Iowan of the Day" by the Iowa State Fair's Blue Ribbon Foundation. The award allows the state to recognize Iowa's most outstanding individuals who make a difference in the lives of others. Previously, Ron was named Fairfield, Iowa's "Citizen of the Year" by the Chamber of Commerce, "Fairfield Friend of Education" and "Fairfield Teacher of the Year." Well deserved awards for a man who has unselfishly given his all to his school, his town and his friends. Ron's enthusiasm, dedication and vision resulted in the founding and implementation of Fairfield High School's "Trojan Plaza." The plaza is an honor courtyard developed by Ron to honor graduates of Fairfield High, including and foremost, his dear friends – Fred Behner and James Evans. As a result of Ron's efforts, "Trojan Plaza" was recognized as the "Project of the Year" by the local Chamber of Commerce. Ron graduated from Parsons in three years and earned his

Master's Degree in Sports Administration at Truman State, Kirksville, MO. He then returned to Fairfield where he spent his entire teaching/coaching career in the Fairfield Community School District. His volunteer work and participation in the community is unmatched, and includes serving on the Parks & Recreation Board, hospital humanitarian, servant to the Knights of Columbus, his St. Mary's Catholic Church and as coordinator of the 'Lord's Cupboard', a Christmas Box distribution program. In describing Ron's legacy, Dave Neff said, "Ron has always been the guy to step in and give help and comfort in times of personal need. Scores of people can attest to this." Parsons was key to Ron's education, saying, "Parsons College, quite literally, was my only pathway to higher education, and in the end, was the main reason I was able to follow my passion of working with young people as a teacher and coach. Because Parsons existed in my home town, I was able to overcome two obstacles, a lack of funds, and a family history devoid in post high school education. I was able to stay at home, avoiding room and board payments, and I worked year-round to pay my tuition. Without Parsons College I am sure my life would have taken a far different path, so I owe a lot of my happiness to Parsons." Ron is a resident of Fairfield, married to Linda and has two daughters, one son and families. Presenting Ron is good friend Dan Breen..



Larry Marino '66

LARRY MARINO, PC'66 – West Palm Beach, FL... Larry is a 'Computer Systems Designer'. Larry made his mark at Parsons as a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity and as a 'Bartender' at the Den. At an early age, with the Bendix Corporation's Navigation & Control Division, he was responsible for the movement of components to the inertial guidance systems of Saturn V rockets which placed man on the moon. He eventually found his place in the Systems & Programming Department and began developing computer systems to run on the first big mainframes of the day. It was there he honed his skills in computer systems design. Larry played an integral role in developing one of the first Point-of-Sale systems in the country for Macy's Department store. At Federated, which owned Macy's, he and his team designed and implemented a paperless online system to move merchandise from manufacturer to the selling floor.

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In the 1980's Larry started his own company, offering consulting services for various Direct Marketing companies where he provided a host of supportive services. His group installed the first Shop at Home Channel and all the supporting systems in the Middle-East. Now retired, Larry has taken the reins of his Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and is heavily involved with the yearly reunions. In the community, he has been involved with the Pop Warner and Little League sports programs and is deeply committed to his community home owners association. Larry and his wife, Maryrose, have been married 30 years and are enjoying Florida. For Larry, one word describes his Parsons experience, 'Success'. "Left school with no job and a Liberal Arts Degree. I was hired by a large company. They took a chance on me and I found my niche in computer systems design and installation. This 'success' gave me the confidence that I could be successful at anything. Maybe that was Coach Westering saying, 'no matter how high in life you get, you will always have a boss, don't be concerned about others losses or successes, just be concerned about what YOU can accomplish'. It's amazing how those words have stayed with me and helped me grow. I will always remember my Parsons Brothers, friends and coaches," Larry said..." Dave Neff will present Larry to the Wall of Honor...



Don Samuelson '64

DON SAMUELSON, PC'64 – Ankeny, IA... While still at Parsons, Don got his feet wet on his path to becoming a 'Automobile Dealership Owner' at the Jefferson Motor Company, a franchisee of Ford Motor Company. Little did he know at the time that he would continue working in all areas of the dealership for the next 40 years and become co-owner. Under Don's leadership, Jefferson Motor Company became a sales leader with Ford. Perhaps the most prestigious was Ford's 300/500 award for "Top Hatters" (sales persons) recognition. Don won that award for an 10 consecutive years. While at Parsons, he was instrumental in leading his local fraternity to membership in the national Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. In addition to his successful business career, Don was equally immersed in the Iowa Army National Guard. He enlisted in 1959 and served over 42 years until mandatory retirement. Don's initiation and implementation of

programs involving weight control and marksmanship brought major recognition to his Army unit. His role as 1SG and Commanding Officer of the 34th Army Band led the band to winning the coveted Eisenhower Trophy three times. From 1990 to 2002, the 34th Army Band was awarded Superior Unit Designation 11 out of 13 years, a record unmatched by any other unit in Iowa. Don's involvement in Overseas Deployment Training in Italy was major, and he has overseen numerous projects, performances, missions, renovations and relocations. Locally, Don is past president of Rotary Club, served on the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, played 1st trumpet in the Fairfield Municipal Band and has successfully overseen and supervised the administering of several state and federal welfare programs. Don and wife Jeanne Ann Tracy have two children and families. Presenting Don will be Rodger Gillaspie...



Joyce Berlin Witzenburg '72

JOYCE BERLIN WITZENBURG, PC'72 – Fairfield, IA... Joyce was a 'Mathematics Teacher/Coach'. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. Degree in mathematics at Parsons and was elected to Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. In college, she played in the Final Four Collegiate Basketball Tournament all four years: and she played in the Women's College Softball World Series. Not only did Joyce play in those prestigious tournaments, but she also coached her basketball and softball teams to recognition. As head softball coach at Cardinal High School (Eldon, IA) she became only the second Iowa woman head coach to reach 200 victories. Joyce also took her competitive spirit to the classroom, taking select math students to college sponsored high school math competitions.

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Over the years and picking up her Masters of Arts in Math Education at Truman State University, Joyce taught Calculus AB at Carleton College, and earned a Certification in Secondary Administration at Northwest Missouri State. She is a member of National TTT Society which focuses on sending girls to summer camp and served as president for four years. Joyce and her husband were involved with youth softball and have taken teams from Cardinal School and Fairfield to tournament play. Perhaps Joyce's most distinguished honor is having been selected numerous times to 'Who's Who Among Americas Teachers.' Joyce and husband Robert live in Fairfield and have three children and families. She will be presented to the Wall of Honor by her daughter Penny Witzenburg Foore..

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Editor's Note: To submit Greek, social, or personal news, send request to Nancy Wirtanen at: nwirtanen@yahoo.com for consideration. E-News reserves the right to edit all material and downsize due to limited space. Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily represent those of E-News or the PCAA. The Parsons College Alumni E-News is not affiliated with the Parsons News-line, or George C. Jordan III.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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WALL OF HONOR -- CLASS OF 2018

**YOUR DUES ARE
DUE NOW**

**Please send a Minimum of Five Dollars
– Cash or Check
Payable to: Parsons College
Foundation Fund**

**to:
Dave Neff
c/o Parsons College Foundation Fund
2272 Glasgow Road,
Fairfield, IA 52556**

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!!!!
(additional donations accepted)**

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**PARSONS COLLEGE FOUNDATION FUND & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2018 WALL OF HONOR AND STUDENT/ALUMNI REUNION
REGISTRATION FORM**

Who: Parsons College Students/Alumni and Friends

What: 2018 Wall of Honor and Student/Alumni All-Classes Reunion

When: October 5-7, 2018

Where: Fairfield, Iowa

***Name** _____

Please include maiden name if applicable _____

***Address** _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone numbers: Home _____ **Cell** _____

***E-mail** _____

Class of _____ **Affiliation(s)** _____

***Spouse Name** _____

Class of (if applicable) _____ **Affiliation** _____

*Student/Alumni **ALL EVENTS** Inclusive.....**\$80.00 per person** x _____ = \$ _____

*Friday Reception & Happy Hour (**ONLY**) at**\$30.00 per person** x _____ = \$ _____

Fairfield Arts & Convention Center (Includes draft beer, house wines, soft drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres)

*Saturday Wall of Honor Lunch (**ONLY**) at**\$20.00 per person** x _____ = \$ _____

Fairfield Arts & Convention Center (Hot buffet lunch, cash bar)

*Saturday Reunion/Buffer Dinner (**ONLY**) at.....**\$30.00 per person** x _____ = \$ _____

Fairfield Arts & Convention Center (Three course buffet dinner, cash bar)

*Sunday Optional 'Farewell Breakfast'..... **On your own**
At Hy-Vee Store Restaurant

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Please return form and include check payable to: Parsons College Foundation Fund

Mail to: Parsons College Foundation Fund, 2272 Glasgow Road, Fairfield, IA 52556

No refunds after September 21st. An additional \$10.00 late fee for walk-ins will be charged at the door on day of the event

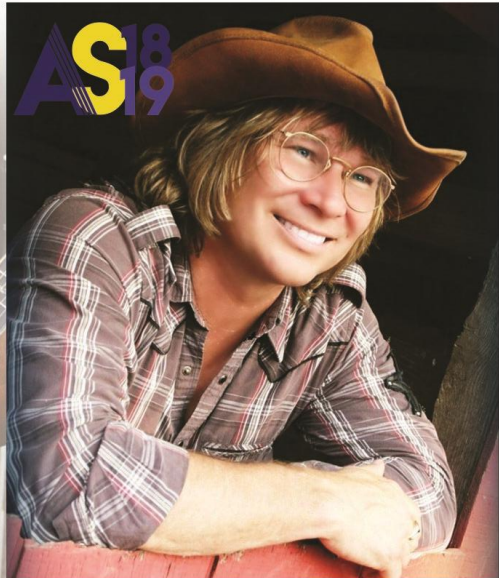
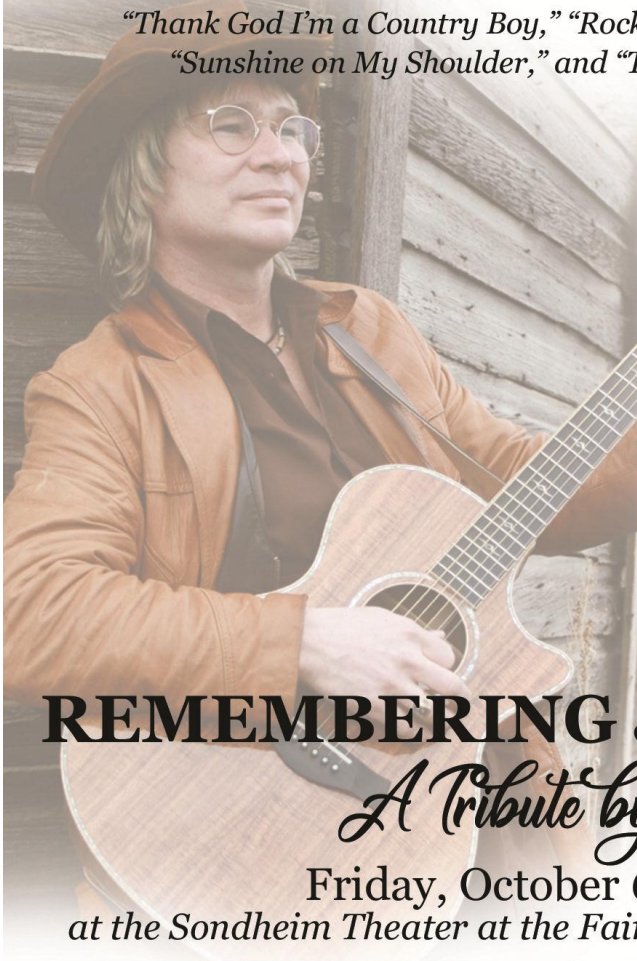
See Front Page for overview and details of the Reunion Weekend. GO WILDCATS!

MAIL BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

Welcome back to Fairfield

You're invited to celebrate the life
and music of the late John Denver...

*"Thank God I'm a Country Boy," "Rocky Mountain High," "Annie's Song,"
"Sunshine on My Shoulder," and "Take Me Home, Country Roads,"*



REMEMBERING JOHN DENVER

A Tribute by Ted Vigil

Friday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m.

at the Sondheim Theater at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center

Ted Vigil, whose remarkable physical and vocal resemblance to Denver will charm you in this inspirational tribute to John Denver and his musical legacy. The legendary John Denver evokes memories of an era in music which was both inspiring and influential. His music was a combination of romance – *"Annie's Song,"* folk, *"Leavin' on a Jet Plane,"* country, *"Thank God I'm a Country Boy,"* and environmentalist, *"Calypso."*

Experience this *"Rocky Mountain High,"* magical, marvelous tribute to John Denver at the Sondheim.

SPECIAL WILDCAT RESERVED TICKETS ONLY \$20

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE FAIRFIELD ARTS & CONVENTION
CENTER TICKET OFFICE, 641-472-2787,
MENTION **"PARSONS"** TO GET THE SPECIAL PRICE