

Fruitport’s Class of 1983
by Larry J. Pellet



Beach Bunch class of ‘75, circa 2023

All hearts beat as one on a picture-perfect August 19th day as the mighty class of ‘83 gathered at the Melching compound to celebrate their 40th class reunion from Fruitport High School. On hand were upwards of 60 classmates originating from Beach School in Cloverville, Shettler and Edgewood Elementary to reminisce about the past, commemorate the present and cheer on the future in their own patented 80’s legendary style. Courtesy of Mr. Doug Melching and hosted by Leanne Johnson-Spoonas, the festivities included a well-prepared taco-bar, music by DJ and Fruitport Supervisor Todd Dunham, a pirate ship ride onboard the notorious Black Pearl, and many sight-seeing attractions, not the least of which



Doug Melching, Anita Curtis, Ami Ammond, David Horton, Larry Pellet

FRUITPORT REGULATORS

We were blessed with another beautiful day for our 16th Annual Regulator Motorcycle Run over Memorial Day weekend. It was a great turnout and folks enjoyed the sunshine. Thank you to everyone who came out to show their support and make this such a fun event! This August the Regulators sponsored a veteran to attend the Veterans Retreat at Legends Ranch, located in Bitely, MI. This program is designed to provide an environment for veterans to come together and connect with each other, learn about conservation and wildlife programs, and create lasting memories. Activities included rafting on the Pere Marquette River, a fishing tournament, skeet shooting, tours of the Legends breeding facility and Wildlife Center, and spending time enjoying the scenery and wildlife at the

of their youth. “I had a fantastic time, lots of fun and a good turnout”, glowed Nancy (Peterson) Villalobos. Annette (Egler) Aldridge “had a blast”, while Sharlene Stanhope had the “best time in months”. While laughter and joy abounded, the evening was not without its somber moments. As twilight turned into evening, the reunion committee lit floating lanterns into the air to memorialize fallen classmates no longer with them, in a touching homage. It is a tribute to the class of ‘83 that the comradery has transcended the generations, with its various leaders; and with some perseverance, good nature and a dash of old-fashioned luck, their place in history will remain the true source of inspiration that it has always been.



Doug Melching and Leanne Johnson-Spoonas

ranch. Nine veterans were selected (along with a companion) to participate in the program and were treated to a 4-day / 3-night stay including chef prepared meals. Participants developed a feeling of camaraderie with their group and were grateful for their experience. To learn more about the Legends Wildlife Center or if you would like to become a donor, please visit www.wildlifecentermi.org. As we move into the holiday season, our volunteers are getting ready to spread some Christmas cheer! Keep an eye out for us on December 9th, we’ll be dressed in our holiday best and caroling at several locations around town to raise funds to support our Christmas for Families program. Thank you for your continued support and generosity, Sincerely the REGULATOR COMMITTEE



2023 Legends Veteran’s Retreat (above)



2023 Regulator Run (below)



were a monstrous multi-level lookout tower, a suspension bridge, moat and waterfall. “It was the best venue ever...so much fun”, exclaimed classmate Ami Ammond. Hours went by like minutes as they always do when love is around, as the sun slowly set and surrounding lights set the ambiance. Brave and jovial dancers took to the dance floor as classic rock from their era instantly transformed them back into the glory

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