

# Vintage Times



The semi-annual newsletter of the USI Retirees

Winter/Spring  
2023

## EVENTS 2023

### February 2

Screaming Eagles Basketball Game

### March 25

Foundation Lunch for USI Retirees

*Griffin Center*

*Baseball game following*

### April 26

Thyme in the Kitchen

### June 15

Owensboro Adventure

### July 27

Annual Reception for USI Retirees

*Griffin Center*

### August 15

*Pizza Gathering*

### September 6

Timberview Flower Farm

### November 16

USI Retirees Annual Meeting

## COORDINATING COUNCIL 2023 MEETING DATES

March 16

May 18

July 27

September 15

November 17

## USI RETIREES COORDINATING COUNCIL

Linda Tribble M'03 '08, *President*

Rodney Watson, *President-Elect*

Cindy Brinker, *Past President*

Janet Duncan, *Secretary*

Sandy Hatfield, *Treasurer*

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

Christy Baker

Tim Mahoney

Phyllis Oeth '81, *Chair, Special Events*

## VINTAGE TIMES

Linda Cleek '82 M'99

*Co-Editor*

Sherrienne Standley

*Co-Editor*

## HONOR FLIGHT EVV13

by Terri Branson

NOTE: Due to space limitations, this article has been edited. The full story can be found at [USI.edu/retirees](http://USI.edu/retirees)

HonorFlight of Southern Indiana plans and executes the most heartfelt and compassionate day honoring our special veterans! October 29, 2022 will forever be etched in my memory as a special day spent with my 94-year-old father, Gearld E. Mourer, and 85 other deserving WWII, Korean War and Vietnam era veterans.

We arrived at Evansville Regional Airport at 5 a.m., and as we pulled away from the terminal, the sun was peaking over the horizon. We were saluted with water cannons from the airport fire department. Landing at Dulles International Airport in Washington DC we were once again saluted with the water cannons! We later learned this was the highest honor given by the fire department. It was very touching.

On the buses, a local tour guide gave background on each site we visited. At the World War II memorial, all the veterans were gathered for a group photo all holding a photo of themselves when they were in the service.

Dad and I spent time at both the South Pacific and Atlantic ends of the memorial and the Freedom Wall. There are 4,048 gold stars each representing 100 Americans who died in the war. The message in front reads: "Here we mark the price of freedom."

At the Korean War memorial, you see statues of 19 warriors from all branches of service are "on patrol" in the cold. The reflection of the 19 on the black wall, with etched faces of those soldiers who did not make it home, makes a total of 38 soldiers to represent the 38th parallel. A wall listing 36,000 names of Americans killed in Korea surrounds a Pool of Remembrance. The reverence with which visitors treat this memorial was impressive. At the Vietnam Wall, the quiet

reverence of the visitors at the memorial was poignant and an emotional experience. The highlight of the trip was to witness the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery as the guards march back and forth guarding our Unknown Soldiers from WWI, WWII and Korean War.

Back in Evansville, we were greeted by over 3,000 people, waving flags and holding signs to thank our veterans. If you know of a veteran from WWII, Korean War or Vietnam Era please have them go to [HonorFlightSI.org](http://HonorFlightSI.org) and register to go on this flight. There is no cost to the Veteran. If you are interested, you can register to serve as a Guardian for a veteran.



USI Retiree Terri Branson with her father in front of Lincoln Memorial



Gearld E. Mourer holding poster of himself in Army National Guard Korean War

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:



Hello and Happy 2023! The officers and members of the USI Retirees Coordinating Council are excited about the new year and look forward to planning events that interest retirees. Watch for updates via email and through our Facebook page. I want to congratulate outgoing president Cindy Brinker for a very successful and active year. She has worked tirelessly for the Council and for retirees. I also want to thank the members of the Coordinating Council for agreeing to serve.

Let us hear from you! You can send an email message to [USI.Retirees@usi.edu](mailto:USI.Retirees@usi.edu) with ideas, suggestions or an update on how you are enjoying retirement.

Best regards,

Linda Tribble, *President, USI Retirees Coordinating Council*

## Retiree Inducted into Hall of Distinction

USI retiree **Sandy Hatfield** was recently inducted into the Athletic Hall of Distinction for her many contributions to the success of the University's Varsity Programs. During the induction ceremony, Jon Mark Hall, Director of Athletics, explained the Hall of Distinction was created several years ago to honor individuals who are critical to the Athletic Department but who do not serve as a coach, a student athlete or athletic director. These individuals have a special place with USI Athletics and have made unbelievable contributions to the department and to the success of USI teams.

In presenting the award, Jon Mark Hall stated that Sandy Hatfield “epitomizes this award.” Sandy worked at USI for 24 years before retiring in 2007; 12 of these years were with the Athletic Department. After retirement, she served as the Chair of the Varsity Club and helped the club to flourish. He noted that Sandy was always a team player and contributed greatly, either directly or indirectly to the success of each team and student athlete. Mandi Fulton '06 M'10, Assistant Director of Athletics presented the award to Sandy.



*Mandi Fulton, Assistant Director of Athletics and Sandy Hatfield visit during a recent basketball game*

## FALL 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the USI Retirees was held on Thursday, November 17, 2022. In addition to a short business meeting, retirees, spouses and guests enjoyed an afternoon of good food, good friends and good music by the Old Guys Band. This band features retiree **Jim Bandoli** and plays music from the 60s and 70s.



*Outgoing President Cindy Brinker thanks Craig Ehlen for his years of service on the Coordinating Council*

At the Annual Meeting, retirees voted to change the bylaws on membership to include, “employees who separated from the University in good standing with at least 10 years of service but did not meet the eligibility requirements for retirement.” We will be contacting these individuals and inviting them to join.



*Retirees enjoyed snacks and entertainment by the Old Guys Band (left)*

## NEW RETIREES

Welcome to the employees who recently retired from the University.

**Bonnie L. Beach**

**Andrew H. Black**

**Ernest H. Hall**

**Gregory J. Orth**

**Keely J. Porter**

**Elizabeth A. Walker Ramos**

**Mary J. "Jane" Swartz D'12**

**Richard K. Weaver**

MEMBERSHIP IN  
USI RETIREES

Membership in USI Retirees is open to retired employees, spouses and partners and surviving spouses and partners. Employees who separated from the University in good standing with at least 10 years of service but did not meet the eligibility requirements for retirement from USI may join the USI Retirees.

To become an active member or to renew your membership, complete the Retiree Membership Form online at **USI.edu/retirees** and send your information to:

**USI Retirees, c/o USI Foundation**  
**8600 University Blvd.**  
**Evansville, IN 47712**

Dues are \$20 per year per person (July 1 – June 30). Checks are to be made payable to **USI Retirees**.

Visit the USI Retirees website at **USI.edu/retirees** for an online payment option or more information about **USI Retirees**.

## Trip to Rome *by Sherrienne Standley*

On the other side of the world, we discovered we were not far from our USI and Indiana experience! It all began after our friend, The Honorable Joe Donnelly, former U.S. Senator from Indiana, became U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See (Vatican) in Rome. "Now is the time to visit," said Tony Goben, who managed Sen. Donnelly's southern Indiana Senate office; and Sarah Helming, who preceded Goben in that job, agreed. Off we went in mid-November, after the summer crowds and before the holiday rush.

Our hotel, two blocks from the Colosseum, was a perfect base for our 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. (walking 17,000-22,000 steps a day) excursions. Ambassador Donnelly and his staff advised on "must do" guided tours of the Vatican Museums and the Catacombs under St. Peter's Basilica. He warmly welcomed us to the Embassy, extending true Hoosier Hospitality. And then we encountered more reminders of home! As we toured the Vatican Museums, whose galleries contain a dazzling array of art and architecture, I stopped dead in my tracks when I recognized the Jacques Lipchitz scale model for "Between Heaven and Earth" (1958), his monumental sculpture that now defines the New Harmony Roofless Church.



*Roman ruins at night*

Throughout our visits to the multitude of ancient (think second and third century) churches and sacred places, museums, gardens, fountains, plazas, and carefully preserved archaeological sites, I recalled the touring advice of seasoned traveler and Professor Emerita of English and Humanities **Sherry Darrell** and I heard the Art History classroom voice of Art Professor Emerita **Hilary Braysmith**. In the Borghese Museum galleries, almost every famous historic painter and sculptor is represented. Throughout Rome, we marveled at the finest art, architecture, and archaeology in the world. And I loved remembering that we are never far away from our treasured USI family.

*If you go: Most churches (all containing superb art) are free to tourists and open daily. You must "advance purchase" tickets for the Vatican Museums, the Catacombs, and the Borghese Museum, but the beautiful Borghese Garden is free. The inexpensive "hop on and hop off" Rome tour buses are a great way to get a global view of the city and visit your must-see places. Brush up on your Latin and your Roman numerals. Do not miss the Roman Ruins illuminated at night!*



*Sarah Helming, Tony Goben, Sherrienne Standley and Ambassador Joe Donnelly*



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## IN MEMORIAM

*Wanda B. Hibbitts*  
Retiree

*Karen Luana Anderson*  
Retiree

*Barbara A. Marr*  
Spouse of Retiree Jackson L. Marr

*Jeannette A. Hickey*  
Retiree

*John R. McPherson*  
Retiree

*George Henry Curry*  
Retiree

*Donald Dayton Broshears M'00*  
Retiree

*Shirley Bryan '95*  
Retiree

*Oscar Ozete*  
Retiree

## USI RETIREES GROUP FACEBOOK PAGE

In Spring 2022, the USI Retirees Group Facebook Page was launched. The page is accessible only to USI Retirees. Information about special events and information important to USI Retirees is posted on the page. If you are on Facebook, search for **USI Retirees** and ask to join the USI Retirees. There are currently 64 members of the USI Retirees Group Facebook Page. We would like to grow our Facebook Page and encourage you to join the group!

## FALL 2022/SPRING 2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Ten USI employees have received \$100 grants from USI retirees this academic year. The dues paid by members of USI Retirees underwrite five grants each spring and fall semester. Congratulations to the recipients!

- **Stephanie Fifer**, Employer Engagement Counselor, Career Services and Internships
- **Amber Bean '22**, Senior Library Assistant, David L. Rice Library
- **Holly Delph**, Administrative Associate, Athletics Administration
- **Robert Gober**, Electronic Controls Technician, Facility Operations and Planning
- **Noah Lutz '17**, Front-end Developer/Programmer, University Web and Digital Content
- **Amy V. Wilkerson '13**, Adult Learner Support Specialist, Center for Adult Learner Success
- **Rhonda Woolsey**, Special Events Supervisor, Special Events and Scheduling
- **Nicholas A. Barnett**, Custodial Worker, Facility Operations and Planning
- **Emily Brinkmeyer**, Student Events Supervisor, Special Events and Scheduling
- **Daniel Wilkins**, Senior Accounting Assistant, Accounts Payable