



# Crater Alumni Newsletter

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## ALUMNI FEATURE

### CRATER FOUNDATION HONORS LARRY BIGHAM

Once again the Crater Alumni Newsletter is proud to feature a Crater High School graduate who has made a difference in the world. Our feature is 1954 Crater graduate, Larry Bigham. During his high school years, Larry excelled in sports, participating in basketball (4 years), baseball (3 years), football (1 year), and track (4 years). He was also a top student and President of the Crater chapter of the National Honor Society. His senior year he was the winner of the school Decathlon competition.

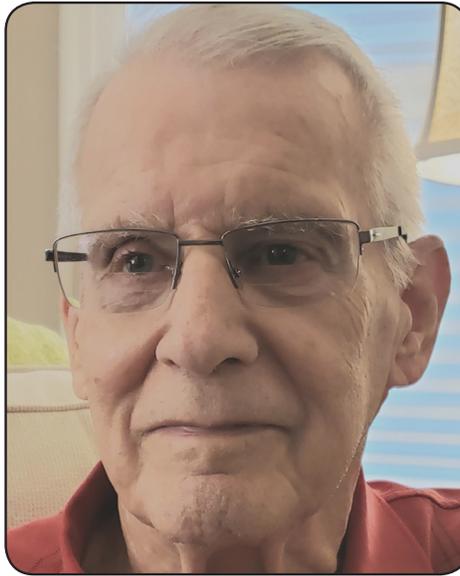
Larry attended Linfield College one year, and then San Jose State University for one year before joining the U.S. Air force for pilot training.

While on active duty, Larry graduated from the University of Nebraska Omaha campus and later earned a Master's Degree at the Auburn University Montgomery campus.

Larry was assigned to the U.S. Air Force Aviation Cadet Program in 1957. In May of 1958, after 15 months of officer and flying training, he received his pilot wings and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. After initial assignment as a single engine fighter pilot, Larry was diverted to the Strategic Air Command in support of the Cold War. For the next six years he flew the B-47 Stratojet, a nuclear bomber, and became a Captain and an Aircraft Commander. His 24-hour nuclear alert duties took him to Guam, Alaska, and Spain in addition to several locations in the United States.

When the Vietnam War was heating up, Larry was called back into fighter aircraft to fly the F-4 Phantom. Assigned to a base in Thailand, Larry flew combat missions into the heavily defended Hanoi area of North Vietnam and received two Distinguished Flying Crosses and twelve Air Medals.

Next came three years of staff work at Tactical Air Command HQ in Virginia and three years at a F-4 Combat Crew training wing in Arizona. Larry was then promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and moved to Taiwan for a year as Chief of Flight Test for F-4 aircraft after major maintenance and/or modifications at a Depot there. After a year at the Air War College, the Department of Defense sent him to Iran as an advisor to the commanding General of Iran's eight Air Bases. Larry departed Iran just before the Iranian



Revolution that overthrew the Shaw. The Iranian General Larry worked with was executed by firing squad by the new government.

Larry then returned to the Air War College faculty for three years and was promoted to Full Colonel. Larry elected to retire after one year as the Deputy Division Commander at George AFB in California.

Larry retired from the Air Force as a Colonel after 25 years at age 62. Larry and wife, Linda then moved to Portland where Linda was a Realtor, and Larry accepted a Law Firm Administrator position with the Miller, Nash law firm. The firm grew to 120 lawyers during his tenure with offices in Portland and Seattle. After ten years in Portland, Larry and Linda moved to Salt Lake City

where Larry became the Executive Director of a law firm of about 100 lawyers for nine years. In his spare time he became an avid skier and mountain biker.

After the Salt Lake professional experience, Larry and Linda sold their home, bought a RV that they lived in, and traveled for the next five years. Seeing much of the United States and Canada in their travels. Larry and Linda, his wife of 60 years, now live in Dallas, Texas. Larry has been active in the Rotary Club in Portland, Salt Lake City, and San Antonio. He is a lifetime involved member of the Church of Christ and has taught Bible classes for many years.

Congratulations and kudos to another outstanding Crater graduate who has made a difference in many people's lives. Colonel Bigham, the Crater Alumni Newspaper salutes you.

## I Inside Features

- 🌟 **A Message from the Crater Foundation President**
- 🌟 **2019 Hall of Fame Inductees**
- 🌟 **Fall Athletic Results**



**THE ANNUAL CRATER HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 5TH WITH APPROXIMATELY 120 PEOPLE ATTENDING. THOSE INDUCTED INTO THE ACHIEVEMENT AND ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INCLUDED:**

### **Achievement Hall of Fame**

**RAY WHITE** – A 1964 Crater graduate, Ray was Student Body President and the State President for Future Teachers of America. He lettered in football and basketball and was named to the All-Conference first team his senior year in football. He was also the defensive captain his junior and senior year. 1981 he became a Circuit Court Judge for the Circuit Court of The State of Oregon for Jackson County. He remained in that position for 29 years, retiring in 2010. After retiring, he became Senior Judge for the State for the State of Oregon, retiring from that position in 2015. He was named with honors “Administrative Judge for the Criminal Division” upon his last retirement.

**WENDIE DEMOTT** – A 1975 Crater graduate, Wendie entered Southern Oregon College (SOC) in 1975 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. She attended the University of Puget Sound School of Law completing her law degree in 1983. She then became the Jackson County Counsel (Assistant County attorney); and the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals (Referee then Chief Referee). She then worked for the large law firm of Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt in Portland and in 2001, opened her own law firm, Kellington Law Group in Lake Oswego. She is a member of the Oregon Legislative Workgroup on drones and airspace and on the Board –Association for Unmanned Vehicles Systems International. She is a 4 times Ironman.

**JORDAN SENG** – A 1985 Crater graduate, Jordan was in the top 5% scholastically in his class, a member of the Honor Society, was Valedictorian of his class and Student Body President. He was a three sport athlete in football, basketball and track and was named All-Conference defensive back in football. He attended Stanford University where he earned a degree in political theory then moved on to University of Chicago earning a Ph.D. in Political Theory and then was a National Security Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Jordan founded Bluewater Mission in 2008 after twenty years of Christian ministry leadership across the country. Currently he is the Senior Pastor, Bluewater Mission, Honolulu. He is a frequent guest teacher at churches and conferences worldwide and was the keynote speaker at the 2016 New Wine Conference in the UK, a gathering of 24,000.

**JOHN DIMICK** – John was the agriculture teacher and the advisor of the FFA program for 24 years at Crater High. During that time he developed the agriculture program recognized state wide and nationally. He was named Oregon Agriculture Teacher of the Year in 1984 and 2001. He coached 4 National Champion FFA Livestock Teams and 12 State Judging Champion Teams. He has been awarded Honorary Oregon State FFA Degree and Honorary American FFA Degree. He received the Oregon Fairs Association Distinguished Service Award, 2010 and the Crater Foundation Hall of Fame award for 1995 Nat'l Champion Livestock Team Coach. He has also received the Oregon Agriculture Teachers Association Lifetime Professional Service Award and Friends of the Fair Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **Athletic Hall of Fame**

**DARRYL CLIFT** – A 1982 Crater graduate, Darryl was MVP of the football team his senior year, and was voted to the 1st team All-Conference Team. He still holds the school record for most rushing yards in a game with 315 yds. He was selected to the All State first team in football his senior year and second team his junior year and

was a member of the Shrine All-Star team. He was District track champion in 1981 and 1982 in the 100M, 200M, 400M relay and 1600M relay. He was a member of the 1982 State Champion 400M relay team and placed 2nd in the 100M, 2nd in the 1600M relay and 4th in the 200M. He still holds the 100M Crater school record of 10.7. Darryl attended Oregon State University on a track scholarship and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Communications. Today, he is the Creative Director/Editor for Mentality Creative Advertising, Santa Barbara. Darryl has received 11 entertainment industry awards including an Emmy.

**KYLE ROGERS** – A 1995 Crater graduate, Kyle earned a total of twelve varsity letters and was 4.0 student at Crater High School. He earned letters in football, basketball, baseball, track and was named Male Athlete of the Year his senior year. He was named 1st Team All-Conference player in football leading the league in passing. In basketball he holds the single season rebounding record, led the league in rebounding and was named 2nd team all-conference. In baseball he led the team in batting average, RBI's and extra base hits as a junior. He attended Dartmouth University where he was captain of football team, was a 4 year letterman and 2 year starter at outside linebacker. Kyle graduated from Dartmouth College with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and a minor in Environmental Studies.

**HANS SMITH** – A 1996 Crater graduate, Hans was an honor student in the top 5% academically and a member of the National Honor Society. He was a four year letterman in both football and baseball, receiving All Conference honorable mention in football his junior and senior years and all conference 2nd team his senior year in baseball. He was voted team MVP his senior year. He received a baseball scholarship to Fresno State University where he spent the next four years and was a 4 year letterman in baseball. In 2000 he was named to the 2nd team All American and FSU Pitcher of the Year, the team's all-time career save leader and was named to the 1st Team All Conference in the Western Athletic Conference. Hans was drafted in the 11th round by the Tampa Bay Rays and spent the next four years with that organization.

**JODY MCLEOD** – A 2001 Crater graduate, Jody was a four year Varsity starter for Crater Girls Basketball from 1997-2001 when they won three Conference Titles. She is one of only two Crater athletes to play in 3 state title games. Jody was a two time All-Conference player, the SOC Player of the Year in 2001 and was also elected 2nd Team All-State. She is currently the 4th all-time leading scorer at Crater with 896 points, 3rd all-time in rebounding with 641. She attended the University of Montana and had a great career from 2001-2006 while playing in three NCAA tournaments. She finished in the 500/500 club in scoring and rebounding. She was voted their Most Improved player in 2005.

**2007 STATE CHAMPION SOFTBALL TEAM** – The 2007 Crater Softball team finished the season as State Champions with a 27-3 overall record, the most successful season in program history. This group finished Southern Sky Conference play with a 15-1 record, ranked 2nd overall in the state. After defeating Hillsboro 9-5, the #1 ranked team, Churchill 1 – 0 and Corvallis 4-0, they moved into the State Championship game in Corvallis at Oregon State University. There, the Comets took on the Glencoe Crimson Tide, and successfully claimed their first-ever State Championship with a 7-5 victory.

# CRATER HIGH WINTER SPORTS HOME SCHEDULES

## VARSITY HOME SCHEDULE

### BOYS BASKETBALL

December 13	Mazama
January 3	North Bend
January 7	Eagle Point
January 24	Thurston
January 31	North Eugene
February 4	Ashland
February 14	Springfield
February 21	Willamette
February 25	Churchill

### WRESTLING

December 5	Eagle Point
January 9	Springfield
January 23	Crater Tournament
January 29	North Medford
February 5	Thurston

### SWIMMING

January 11	South Medford
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### GIRLS BASKETBALL

December 14	Henley
January 3	North Bend
January 7	Eagle Point
January 24	Thurston
January 31	North Eugene
February 4	Ashland
February 14	Springfield
February 21	Willamette
February 25	Churchill



## FALL ATHLETIC RESULTS 5A-3 MIDWESTERN LEAGUE

Crater is now playing in the 5A-3 Midwestern League. The league is comprised of Ashland, Churchill, Crater, Eagle Point, North Bend, North Eugene, South Eugene, Springfield, Thurston, Willamette, Redmond, and Ridgeview.

**Football** – As the regular season came to an end the Crater football team finished 1st in their division and qualified for a state playoff game. Ranked 2nd in the state, the Comets defeated Hillsboro 49 – 0 in the first round of state playoff games. As we go to press the Comets will be facing Parkrose in the quarter finals of the state playoffs on November 15th.

**Volleyball** – The Crater volleyball team finished the season as conference champions and qualified for a state play-in game. The Lady Comets were defeated by La Salle in the first round of the playoffs 3 – 1. They finished the season with a 16 – 5 record.

**Soccer** – The Crater boys and girls soccer teams also played opponents in the Midwestern League. The boys finished the season with a 2-11-1 record and failed to make the state playoffs. The girls soccer team finished the season with a 4-6-4 record and also failed to make the state playoffs.

**Cross Country** – The Crater boys and girls cross country teams are also in the Midwestern League. The boys finished the season placing 2nd in the conference. The team qualified for the state meet held on November 9th. The Comets finished the season placing 2nd in the state meet. They were led by Gage Reed who finished 7th and Tyrone Gorze who finished 9th.

The Comet girls finished 1st in the conference led by Presley Robison who finished 1st overall. The girls team qualified for the state meet and finished 5th at state. They were led by Presley Robison who finished 3rd.

•• Class Reunions ••

1980  
40 year reunion  
July 28th



## Message From The President

As I reflect on this past year, I'm awed by the accomplishments of the Crater Foundation once again. Our Board of Directors are an amazing group of people who are always ready to support our young people. We continue to keep that in mind while discussing new projects as well as continuing to work to make ourselves better in what we do. We are proud to remind our community that we support our young people with school supplies when they enter kindergarten and we support our seniors with scholarships as they leave the school district. Our scholarships for 2019 graduating seniors amounted to \$258,000 for 185 seniors. Another \$60,000 was awarded to former Crater High graduates who have completed at least 1 year of college. We had another successful year and looking forward to many more.

## Reminder!!! Alumni Dues

Yes it's the time of year that we annually remind everyone to send in their Crater Alumni dues of \$10. Remember, the revenue raised from these dues is used to help defray the costs of the Alumni Newsletter. We now are mailing this Newsletter to nearly 9000 alumni. The cost for three publications each year is approximately \$5500 and the dues received usually amounts to about \$3000. At this time the Crater Foundation picks up the remainder of the expense; however, we're not sure how long we can continue to do so.

Our goal is for the dues to pay 100% of the publication and mailing costs. As the mailing list increases so does the expense. Your continued help in meeting these publication and distribution costs is needed. Any additional amount over the \$10 annual dues will be greatly appreciated.

When paying dues, simply fill out the form on the back page of the newsletter, include your e-mail address, and send it in with a check for your dues.

**Also, please send information about yourself (if you haven't already done so); where you live, what work you do and something about your spouse and children. We like to share this information with all Crater alums.**

**CRATER ALUMNI REGISTRATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Crater Grad.  Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_  
Year

**Yearly \$10 Alumni Dues Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Contributions** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Crater Foundation and include information about yourself

Please return to: Wileen Bittle, Crater Alumni Coordinator  
P.O. Box 5172, Central Point, OR 97502  
(541)494-6308 FAX (541) 664-7589

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