

# The Gum Dippers

Our 42<sup>nd</sup> Reunion Newsletter Oct. 2023

## WELCOME

Welcome to our **42nd Gum Dipper Reunion** (our 43<sup>rd</sup> year). We have many events planned for you and hope that you will be participating in them. We leave plenty of free time for shopping, sightseeing, sunbathing, and relaxing in general. Pick up information in the Hotel Lobby near the elevators for local activities, sightseeing, points of interest, discount coupons, brochures, etc.

**Spend some of your free time in our Hospitality Suite.** From the lobby walk DOWN THE HALL to the **COASTAL ROOM**, **hosted by Sue and Bob Meyer**, your committee members and many Gum Dippers that volunteer to help out. You will find complimentary snacks purchased by Sue and Bob and beverages, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic, purchased by our beverage chair **Russ Burr**. Coffee, Tea, donuts, and pastry are served 9:00 to 10:00, Friday and Saturday. Sandwiches 12:00 to 1:00 Friday and Saturday, all self-service. This is where you will have plenty of time to talk about the good old days while having a light collation. The more drinks the better the stories.

**SPECIAL NOTE: Hotel Management has asked that food served in the Hospitality Suite (breakfast and lunch) not be removed from the suite as they have their own facilities that serve and sell these items. Breakfast and lunch are served for your convenience and enjoyment and it was never intended that it be picked up and taken to rooms, the pool or the beach. Our intentions were that attendees enjoy an additional perk while remaining in the suite and socializing with other members. Food and drinks can be brought out to our adjoining patio.**

You may have received an agenda when checking in which details all of our activities. Additional copies and much more information is provided in this Newsletter. Check at the Gum Dipper registration desk for any changes as this newsletter was finalized on 10/5/23 to get it printed in time. Have a great time and be sure to tell your friends that did not come, what a great time they missed! In 2022 the committee had many volunteers to help our Hospitality Chairs **SUE AND BOB MEYER** and their helpers **Rhonda Ferestad, the Wonsetler's, the Mucciolo's, the Johnsen's, the Burrs', Jean Sanders, Nancy Spencer, the Markferding's, the White's** plus volunteers who we always appreciate and are now so proficient that a large load is taken off us and the committee can concentrate on other chores. In 2022 we had **Ted & Sue Welsh, and Betty & Eli Neidert** (who have been doing it for years). So far, we have

more in 2023, including [Dawn and Bob Amman, Jody and Rob Abigando, Jackie and Tim Childres and Jackie and Gary Webb.](#)

## **2023 GUM DIPPER REUNION AGENDA**

**CHECK THE HOTEL LOBBY FOR SHUTTLE SERVICES & LOCAL TROLLEY SERVICE. CHECK IN ANYTIME THURSDAY/ FRIDAY/ SATURDAY REGISTER ANYTIME, AFTER 2pm THURSDAY IN THE GUMDIPPER HOSPITALITY SUITE. (COASTAL ROOM).**

Registration hours Thurs. 2-6, 7:30-9, Fri. 9-4, Sat. 9-4

***Please do not come earlier than 2pm on Thursday as we are very busy setting it up for your enjoyment.***

\*Fri & Sat night receptions are for member and significant others...there is a \$100 fee per person for additional guests!

On Thursday and thereafter, pick up Reunion News with all the information about the reunion PLUS pick up your gifts and meet members checking in.

## **HOSPITALITY SUITE Hours (in COASTAL ROOM)**

THURSDAY	2pm to 6pm	7:30pm to closing
FRIDAY	9am to 3:30pm	9:00pm to closing
SATURDAY	9am to 5pm	9:00pm to closing

## **SPECIAL HOSPITALITY SUITE EVENT**

[Jennifer Andreola](#), *Lead Archivist, Description and Metadata Services of the History Factory* will once again be in attendance with 100 years of Firestone/BFS history. She will be here Thursday, Fri & Sat. She will also have access to all materials that have been converted to digital format which are in excess of 200,000 assets/captures so she will also be able to use that while she is here. This will make this reunion very exciting for all in attendance.

6:00 to 7:00pm RECEPTION POOLSIDE– (open bar)

7:00 to 9:00pm GRAND POOLSIDE PARTY AND Barbecue

Dress attire: Pure casual: ***Time to wear your sand in the sandals clothing***

## **FRIDAY Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Please do not remove food from the Hospitality Suite*

9:00 to 10:00am Coffee, Donuts, Tea & Pastry served in Hospitality Suite  
12:00 to 1:00pm *Self-serve sandwich platters, help yourself. Hospitality Suite.*  
4:00pm **Official opening ceremonies Bay Room lobby hall  
& ALL prize drawings.**

## **FRIDAY GOLF, October 27<sup>th</sup>, Clearwater, FL**

7:15 Players need to make their own arrangements to get to the Clearwater Country Club located at 525 N. Betty Lane Clearwater, FL 33755 (727-446-9501) by 7:45 Friday morning. There is no transportation scheduled. **If you have any questions or need a ride, please call John Johnsen at: (727)-365-1151.** At the present time no one has reserved a slot. If there is no interest or response John may have to cancel the tee times a week in advance as a courtesy to CCC.

## **FRIDAY, OPENING CEREMONY 4 P.M. ---ISLAND 1 BALLROOM**

At present we do not know who our guest speaker from Bridgestone one will be as he had not been selected when this newsletter went to press. Whoever it is we can be assured the presentation will be interesting and rewarding. **Keith Cawley, BSA Director of Communications, and Steve Kincade, BSA VP Communications** will attend. In addition, we will provide you with information about the reunion. **YOU DEFINITELY SHOULD ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY** hosted by **Dave Wonsetler** and we hope that all attending the reunion make it their business to be at the opening ceremonies. Come and **WIN ALL of our opening day PRIZES including sets of tires, gift cards, golf balls, cash\$\$\$**, and a **2-night stay at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort** plus a review of our reunion events. This event is about an hour, and you have plenty of time to run up to your room and return for cocktails at the pool area at six. Without the generous help and support of Bridgestone we could not have a reunion that is as great as it is. Without the participation of the executives our event would not be what it is! **PRIZES ARE AWARDED at FRIDAY OPENING MEETING ONLY. (You must be present when your name is drawn)**

## **SATURDAY REUNION TRIP**

You should have signed up for this when you registered for the reunion. The cost is \$20.00 per person and includes transportation to and return. **We will meet in the lobby at 10AM** to board

trolleys and be transported to Johns Pass Boardwalk and village. **Attendees will receive \$20 cash to be used to purchase lunch at the many restaurants on the boardwalk and adjoining areas.** Our two busses are not yet full so we can accept a few additional reservations on Friday. Check with our registration desk for availability.

### **SATURDAY – Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>**

***Please do not remove food from the Hospitality Suite***

9:00 to 10:00am      Coffee, Tea, donuts & Pastry served in Hospitality Suite  
10:30am              Meet in hotel lobby to board trolleys for today's trip.  
12:00 to 1:00pm      *Self-serve sandwich platters, help yourself.*  
6:00 to 7:00pm      PALM/BAY ROOM RECEPTION-(open bar)-  
7:00pm                ISLAND BALLROOM – Greeting, RP Mucciolo  
7:02pm                INVOCATION, Vincent Donovan  
8:00pm                DINNER, DANCING TO MUSIC OF  
                             JOHNNY MONDELLO

**MEN ARE REQUESTED TO WEAR DRESSY COLLARED SHIRTS AND SLACKS. (no shorts OR jeans)**

**NEXT YEARS “2024” REUNION IS October 24<sup>h</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> @- \$212.00, PER NIGHT...YOU KNOW A YEAR AHEAD OF TIME...MAKE PLANS.**

Room rate is based on an increase due to brand new renovated room fees.

### **JOLLEY TROLLEY....A GREAT TRIP IN YOUR FREE TIME**

**The JOLLEY TROLLEY**, has a route which operates daily on Clearwater Beach and south for many miles down to the famous turn of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Century pink DON CESAR hotel. The service also operates to the north stopping at the following locations: Clearwater, Old downtown Dunedin, Old Palm Harbor and the historical sponging and fishing village of Tarpon Springs. This is about a twelve-mile ride. You will be able to **board this shuttle right outside the hotel lobby** (show your room key for a free ride) and go north with a great view through Clearwater, home of the Scientologists (watch for them with black slacks and white tops) and then along the water with great water views to **Dunedin, a big tourist stop** for many visitors...with its restored downtown full of **shops and fine restaurants** (you many want to visit Dunedin on another day via ferry). From Dunedin, you will then proceed through Old Palm Harbor (not worth getting off). You may want to **stop in Dunedin, on your way back (or on another day on the free trolley)** from Tarpon Springs, if time allows as it is **a place worth visiting**, or for lunch if it is still early. **You can get on and off the trolley wherever you desire**

**and catch the next one.** You head north from Palm Harbor to the **antique district of Tarpon Springs**, a turn of the century village, where you may want to get off to visit the shops, re-board another trolley and then **on to the waterfront with its sponge docks**, shrimp and sponge boats, boat tours, **shops, great restaurants...**and magnificent history. The TROLLEY tour will take you past many old and historical landmarks. You **may want to get off here, especially at the sponge docks** to visit the shops and restaurants, **dine on the water** or just stay on for the tour through **this Greek Village in Florida**. This is a true ethnic Greek community as they exist in Greece. Of course, you can take the trolley to one place only and return to the hotel.

For **those of you that are adventurers** you may want to take the ferry from Clearwater Beach Marina to the Dunedin Waterfront stop in **Downtown Dunedin** and enjoy the views as you ride along Saint Joseph's Sound, Dolphins often swim around the boat. You can then go into the shops or have lunch in one of the many restaurants....We recommend Cafe Alfresco for lunch.

### **JUST A REMINDER - ANNUAL DUES – 2023**

Most of our Gum Dippers are members for the sole purpose of receiving our newsletters and rosters so that they can “stay in touch” with friends and co-workers. We appreciate all letters to the editor which makes it your newsletter. The primary purpose of our organization is to generate this information and pass it on.

**2023 Dues were due in January 2023**

**SPECIAL NOTE\*\*\*\* SEND \$100 FOR A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!**

PLEASE remit \$20, payable to **the Gum Dippers** and mail to:

**Mr. Russell Burr Treasurer P.O. Box 189**

We now have a method to e-mail all GumDippers. E-mails will be sent, and it is o.k. to open them in your browser. Some of you may hesitate if you don't know the sender, which will be Gum Dippers. Do we have your current email address?

*Our address* ***Gum Dippers, PO Box 189, Tarpon Springs, Fl. 34688***

Any **changes** to the roster: address, phone, e-mail address, should be shown with your payment...**REMEMBER---CHANGES ONLY!** or email changes to Russ: **toplinetire@mindspring.com**

### **SOMETHING ELSE TO DO AT THE REUNION**

We have an extraordinary and interesting sight at the enlarged and newly renovated Clearwater Marine Aquarium, which is only a short distance from our reunion hotel site and can be reached on the Jolley Trolley, if you are not part of the Saturday trip. Coming off the successful launch of the Scholastic book, Winter's Tail, Warner Brothers and Alcon Entertainment produced two full-length major motion pictures, the first in 2011 based on the true story of Winter the dolphin prosthetic tail, who was rescued by the aquarium and her life at the aquarium. The first film, titled “A Winter Tale” featured Winter's true-life story, with a fictional story written around it.



The cast included Ashley Judd, Morgan Freeman, and Harry Connick. The films have made the aquarium a huge tourist attraction with all the movie memorabilia.

### **WHY DO WE KEEP COMING BACK TO CLEARWATER???**

The Sheraton Sand Key has been our choice to hold the Gum Dipper Reunion for the last 19 years because it offers the Reunion members many pluses. We now consider it our home base. They provide discounted room rates that are difficult to get at a beach resort in Florida. The rates are extended for those that come early or want to stay a few days longer. The location is excellent for sightseeing, shopping, recreation, and restaurants for dining allowing you to come early and leave later and enjoy a vacation with a lot to do. In addition, **we cannot find another hotel in any city that will provide us with a hospitality room and allow us to bring in our own wine, beer, liquor, snacks, etc.** The other hotels want our hospitality food, drink and supplies purchased from them, which is prohibitive. With the help of BFS we have been able to establish a great relationship. They look forward to our coming in the fall. In addition, the wonderful facilities offer a magnificent resort area and destination point, with a beautiful beach, pool area and gym. The Sheraton Sand Key is part of all the activity in the Clearwater beach area. Just to the north is the main Clearwater Beach strip with its boat rides, restaurants, souvenir shops and tourist accommodations. The Beach Jolly Trolley Ride is a stop at the hotel that will take you on a great tour and is free if you show your hotel key, compliments of hotel. The Sheraton is also very close to St Petersburg where you can visit the **Dali Museum**, the historic **Vinoy Hotel** and now the racing site for the Firestone Grand Prix every March. To the south is Sarasota, another fine resort and shopping dining area. WE COULD GO ON AND ON AS TO WHY WE CONTINUE TO RETURN TO SAND KEY. SIGN UP FOR THE GUM DIPPER REUNION AND SEE FOR YOURSELF. Rated one of the five best in Tampa Bay. In reality, most of our committee is Clearwater local and it would be impossible to do all that we do outside of this hotel.

### **WHY ARE WE CALLED THE GUM DIPPERS?**

We are called the Firestone Gum Dippers. Do we all know where this name came from? Gum Dipping was a process that Firestone used in the manufacture of tires. Much of the credit for Firestones technological base goes to Chemist John W. Thomas. Thomas was hired as the company's first research director in 1908. His work was so respected that Thomas eventually led the corporation as its president and later as chairman of the board. One key development under Thomas's leadership was the process of **GUM-DIPPING** cord fabric.

In 1915, the search for increased tire strength led to the first experiments using cord fabric for tire plies instead of square-woven cloth previously used. More flexible and resilient, cords proved a great improvement, doubling a tire's life. However, internal friction created intense heat buildup, which caused the tire to separate. This could be a major disaster. We found this out again in later years with steel cord. In 1920, Firestone's engineers finally perfected a

method of “**GUM-DIPPING**” cords to completely impregnate them with rubber, insulating them against heat build-up and ply separation and increasing the life of the tire.

One good turn deserved another and along with dramatically improving tire wear and resiliency. “**GUM-DIPPING**” allowed for another major Firestone first, the balloon, or low-pressure tire. Softer balloon tires made the hard tire casing a thing of the past. Within a few years Firestone’s balloon tire was the standard tire for the world. All Firestone tires were branded “**GUM DIPPED**” for years and years. Are they still branded “**GUM DIPPED**”? *Take a look!*

Our group was originally called the “Twenty Year Club” when first organized in 1980, as you had to have been a Firestone employee that long. They began to refer to themselves as the Gum Dippers in some of the literature starting with a post reunion newsletter on November 1, 1984. In 1992 they started to call themselves the Gum Dippers.” The name “Gum Dippers” first appeared on our letterhead in 1995.

The GumDippers, at one time a small local Jacksonville District organization, is now a national organization. Now you come from the far reaches of our nation to participate in our reunion. Do you know of any other company that has an association like ours? As you know the main purpose of the Gum Dippers is not the reunion, but our roster and the communication system it creates for members to contact one another and keep in touch. Our newsletter tries to keep you up to date and informed. The Icing on the Cake is our reunion and the following members traveled the farthest to be with us.

### **WHO CAME THE FURTHEST TO BE WITH US**

Arizona	Bob & Bonnie Crowder
Arizona	John & Penny Krasnan
Rhode Island	Fred & Theresa Gralinski

### **WHERE WE CAME FROM TO GET HERE**

Alabama, Tennessee, New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Wisconsin, Ohio, Rhode Island, Delaware, North Carolina, Michigan, Connecticut, Mississippi, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, & Georgia

### **HERE ARE SOME OF OUR LOCAL (NEARBY) RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS.**

**The Columbia** (famous Cuban-Spanish with great food and ambience) across the street just south of the Sheraton “**Great**”. Next to Marriot.

**Backwaters** near the Marriot also across the street from the Sheraton south of Columbia.

**Villa Gallace** (Italian) 109 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach. 4.0 miles on the left, an Excellent restaurant. You may even run into Mario Andretti here.

**Guppy's** (seafood) 1701 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach 4.5 miles on left

**Johns Pass** (many restaurants, ESPECIALLY SEAFOOD, a **quaint boardwalk & boutique/souvenir shopping**) 11.6 miles on the left just before the bridge to Madeira Beach.

**Clearwater Beach** Many, many restaurants, beach shopping, hotels everything you would find at a Beach Resort. Try **Frenchy's** (the one on the beach, there are three of them) or the **Palm Pavilion** (It was Don Olson's and is our favorite one on the beach) for lunch. Try **Jimmy's Iguana** in the Holiday Inn just over the bridge on your left and **order a Bloody Mary**, you have not seen one like it. Just make a left turn out of hotel and go north over the bridge. Go a little further to the **Hotel Pier 60** on the right going north just before the marina and have cocktails on the roof with a great view. **Rusty's** (continental) **right here at the hotel** and it is **great food and service!** Voted one of the best restaurants in Tampa Bay...We agree and know from experience.

## **THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE GUM DIPPERS**

Thanks to the research of our late historian, **Charlie Wilbourn**, we know the original founding fathers and mothers of the "Gum Dippers" were: **Richard (Dick) Holland**, **Paul Caudill**, **Bill Strickland** and **Clydie Riles** of Jacksonville, FL, **Allen Huff** of Melbourne, FL., **Ray Murphy** and **Frank Dow** of Savannah, GA. They originally called themselves the "Firestone-Twenty Year Club". They continued to call themselves "The Twenty-Year Club, until 1992, however referring to themselves as the "Gum Dippers" in much of the literature starting with a post reunion newsletter on November 1, 1984. The name "Gum Dippers" appeared on the letterhead in 1995. The group was organized in 1980 and was made up of the former employees of the old Jacksonville Florida District, which covered all of Florida, parts of Georgia and some of South Carolina. When the group was started the old Jacksonville District became part of the Tampa District. Membership was limited to Jacksonville District employees who were retired or had 20 years of service in the district. Eligibility was eventually changed to include any former Firestone employees who had knowledge of the Gum Dipping Process. Mrs. Riles, who was the District Managers (Homer Scott) Secretary, wrote the original letter announcing the first reunion, which took place on December 12, 1981, and was attended by 43 members.

## **THE "GUMDIPPERS" ON FACEBOOK**

The GumDippers is a social network of retirees and friends of Bridgestone Americas and its subsidiaries including the former Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Firestone Complete Auto Care, Tires Plus, Total Car Care and various manufacturing and distribution operations. We now have our own closed group on FACEBOOK, log in to "Gum Dippers". Sign up now to be up to date daily on Gum Dipper and Bridgestone/Firestone activities To sign up go to:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Gumdippers>**

Signing up for a Facebook account—if you don't already have one—is easy and free. You just need to go to Facebook.com and follow instructions. (Naturally, you have to first have a Facebook account before you can join the Gum Dippers group on Facebook.

**Any questions, email Ritch Mucciolo, Administrator, [rpmucciolo@gmail.com](mailto:rpmucciolo@gmail.com)**



## **We Get Letters**

I am an old retiree, but a new GumDippers member; Need some info to share with my wife, who is a little reluctant to attend the 2023 reunion. What is the price for a couple per day & could you please send information on what is included? Received the Spring newsletter but did not find any names I remember. I want to bring my wife to this event but need a little help!

**Thank You. Steve DeJacimo**

*Editor's note: I sent a lot of info to Steve and advised him the summer newsletter would fill him in.*

Dear Russell, the recent issue of Gum Dipper newsletter arrived a few days ago and reminded me that I should let you know of Luther's death a few months ago. He died on September 20 at the age of 94 after a long life well lived. His two daughters and I will miss him forever and will always think of him with great love and admiration. His 30-year career with Firestone International played a big part in our family experiences. The years we spent in France, Italy, Spain, Costa Rica and most of all the Philippine's were very important to our family. In particular the years spent in the international school in Manila were very important to our girls. They went off to college in America very well prepared and secure in life long friendships they formed in those school years. In December I made the decision to sell our long-term home in Bonita Springs and move to Boca Raton near our older daughter, Susan Taylor. I am living independently in a continuing care community. It is an adjustment but for the most part is going well. I hope that our many friends from around the world will have an opportunity to pay me a visit. My new telephone number is 561-409-2445 (could be 408 not clear). Thank you for all you do.

**Very truly yours, Nancy McElhaney**

6152 North Verde Trail, Apt B201, Boca Raton, FL 33433

Dear Russ, Please find enclosed check #2175 for \$20 to cover dues for 2023. Unfortunately, both Norma and myself will not be attending the Gum Dipper meeting scheduled for October 28-29, 2023. We have had quite a few appointments with medical personnel and hospital visits that while results were positive, have reduced our capability to travel this year. We send regards to our Gum Dipper friends and wish all of you another great time as we have enjoyed over the past several years. **Best regards till next time! Jerry and Norma Eigenfeld**

## **IN MEMORIAM**

We have lost the following members since our last reunion. We ask that you take the time during the reunion to remember them in your prayers as well as in your thoughts.

Ed Warner, Donald Krumich, Howard Andrews, James DeTorres, Rebecca Morse, Joseph DePaolis, Donzaleigh Dowell-McCord, Anthony Vetter, Barbara Chapman Carpenter, Ruth Caler, Richard Hagen, Anita Carmanico, Jack Picton, James Nelson Spencer, James Grady, Michael "Mike" Walker, and Gary Ferested.

**HASTINGS, WARREN**, passed away in 2022. Member of the Firestone Credit Card Division. When the first Firestone Credit Cards were established and sent out, Warren had something to do with it. He set up the Firestone call center in Arizona. He later moved on to Nissan and set up their national call center and ran the operation until he retired at 75.

**MCELHANEY, LUTHER 94**, passed away on September 20, 2022. He had a 30-year career with Firestone International. He is survived by two daughters and his wife Nancy.

**JOYCE, ROBERT (BOB) CHARLES 80**, of Mobile, AL passed away September 28, 2022. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary Sue Joyce, 2 brothers and spouses, a sister, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and one great grandchild. After high school in Orlando, FL and a stint in the Army, he joined Firestone in Orlando. He began his 47-year career at a store in Orlando, went on to become a store manager, then a district manager, and eventually a very effective Bridgestone OTR Corporate Accounts employee. He was instrumental in securing contracts with large OTR tire users like Martin Marietta, Vulcan Materials and Republic Services. After moving to Mobile early on, he became a staunch Alabama football fan along with his love for golf and NASCAR racing. He will be remembered for his dedication to his customers, whom he treated and valued like family. RIP Bob!

**KEAVENEY, JAMES VINCENT 93**, passed away on May 18, 2023 in Bedford, MA. Standing at 6'7", he earned a basketball scholarship to St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH and served in the Korean conflict. He served as a substitute teacher in Manchester upon his return from Korea. His students thought he played for the Boston Celtics which he never did. He switched from basketball to tennis and became a presence in the sport. He was a larger-than-life personality who rarely entered a room quietly. He had a quick wit and penchant for storytelling. An avid traveler of Irish Heritage, he visited Ireland and Italy on multiple occasions. James spent the majority of his career with Firestone in many leadership positions eventually as District Manager in Boston. He was a regular attendee at the Gum Dipper Reunions in the past. He was predeceased by his wife of 47 years Jane Lyons in 2001, who he married in 1954. They had four children. He was preceded in death by his brother, sister and son in law. He is survived by his four children, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren. He spent twenty years with his loving companion Joan Miller and her family. He was deeply rooted in his community and was active in his church serving as a Eucharistic Minister. He was and advisor to the Palace Theater in Manchester and the American Cancer Society.

**WHITLEY, EDDY NEAL 85**, passed away on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 in The Villages, FL He was born Thursday, June 9, 1938 in Cookeville, Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, a son, daughter-in-law and two grandsons. Eddy was preceded in death by his son Neal a brother and sister. He retired from Firestone Industrial Products Company in January, 2001, as Director of Operations, with 39 years of service. He was a graduate of Franklin – Simpson High School in KY. and attended Georgia Tech University. Ed's wife of 54 years, Marilyn (Coutts) Whitley lovingly took care of Ed during their many years journey with Alzheimer. Ed met Marilyn in Hamilton, Ontario, (Canada) where they both worked at

Bridgestone/Firestone. They lived in Calgary, Alberta for 5 years, Rome, Italy for 1 1/2 years, Noblesville & Cicero, Indiana for 40 years, & The Villages, Florida. He was active in Neal and Ryan's years in The Boy Scouts, loved to play golf, camping, skiing, wood-working, gardening and dancing.

**KING, ROBERT "DAVE" 74**, passed away July 4, 2023, at his home in Clearwater, FL. He was a member of the Gum Dipper committee. Dave was born in Waynesburg, PA. and graduated from Waynesburg High School in 1966. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. Upon his discharge from the Navy, he moved to Clearwater and worked for Don Olson Firestone in 1972 at the Court & Missouri store. He worked for Morgan tire, and then Bridgestone after they purchased Tires Plus in 2004. He managed several stores for Olson and was warehouse manager for Tires Plus for many years in Clearwater. He is survived by son Shawn & his wife, his son Brian and his father Robert, five grandchildren, one great grandchild and two brothers. Dave fought his battle against cancer for 10 long years. Despite spending much of that time in and out of the hospital, he never lost his sense of humor. Throughout his entire journey, he cracked jokes.

**SANDERS, SCOTT RICHARD, 75**, of Palm Harbor, FL was born in Waterloo, Iowa on August 29th, 1947, and passed away on August 21st, 2023. Scott was predeceased by parents John Sanders, Christina Christenesen, and brother Steve Sanders. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a loving husband of Emma Jean Sanders and Stepfather of Donald E. Mack and Donna Davis. He was Grandfather to Bethany McRae and Cody Mack. He was Great Grandfather of Reese McRae and Liddy Mack.

Scott was a manager for Don Olson Firestone and was an avid boater and lover of all things involving the water. Scott was a past Commodore, Rear Commodore and Fleet Captain of the Island Estates Yacht Club in Clearwater, FL. He was also in charge of their Christmas Boat Parade for several years.

## **YOUR GUM DIPPER COMMITTEE**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR LOCAL VOLUNTEERS to join our committee....we need help especially at the reunion. Some of us are up in age and need to be replaced.**

*We now have a method to e-mail all GumDippers. E-mails will be sent, and it is OK to open them in your browser. Some of you may hesitate if you don't know the sender, which will be Gum Dippers. Do we have your current email address? Our address: [gumdipper@gmail.com](mailto:gumdipper@gmail.com)*

## **YOUR GUM DIPPER COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN: Ritch Mucciolo**, Newsletter: Editor, writer & producer, Reunion; hotel arrangements, banquets, prizes. (727) 773-9017 [rpmucciolo@gmail.com](mailto:rpmucciolo@gmail.com).

**TREASURER: Russ Burr**, Dues, Finance & Roster. Beverage's reunion. (727) 943-8825 [toplinetire@mindspring.com](mailto:toplinetire@mindspring.com), please advise him on any roster changes.

**SECRETARY: Dave Wonsetler**, Newsletter, Photographer (813) 324-8273 [mabeandave@gmail.com](mailto:mabeandave@gmail.com), Reunion; planning, gifts, host and organization.

## **REUNION HOSPITALITY SET UP AND ARRANGEMENTS:**

**Bob & Sue Meyer**: chairpersons ((941) 456-8131) [rhmeyer1@outlook.com](mailto:rhmeyer1@outlook.com)

**Russ Burr**: Beverages (727) 943-8825 [toplinetire@mindspring.com](mailto:toplinetire@mindspring.com)

**SPECIAL EVENTS: John & Glenna Johnsen** (727)-365-1151 [jjohnsen1@live.com](mailto:jjohnsen1@live.com)

**COMMUNICATIONS: Sue & Tom Markferding** (352) 368-6739 [tom11164@cox.net](mailto:tom11164@cox.net)

**INTERNATIONAL LIAISON: Rhonda Ferestad** (615-268-9440)  
[GRFERESTAD@gmail.com](mailto:GRFERESTAD@gmail.com)

## **DIRECTORS:**

**Vin & Ann Donovan** (239) 362-2497 [Ann.donovan64@comcast.net](mailto:Ann.donovan64@comcast.net)

**Nancy Spencer** [nana.spencer@verizon.net](mailto:nana.spencer@verizon.net) 727-207-8076

**Sandra & Richard White** 813-973-3045 [swhite53@MSM.com](mailto:swhite53@MSM.com)

**Harris & Sally Brown** (727) 393-0575 Retired as director

**Lorrie Lombard** (727) 595-1242 Retired as director

**GumDipper Reunion 2023****First Time Attendees Highlighted**

Robbie & Jody Abigando	Scott McMurray
Pat & Mary Abramovitch	Bob & Sue Ann Meyer
Robert & Dawn Ammann	Myles & Jo Morgan
Jennifer Andreola	Suzanne & Gary Mourton
Joe & Rene Barbieri	Richard & Chris Mucciolo
Russell & Donna Belcher	Betty & Eli Neidert
John Brady	John & Donna Nicholson
Jay Brauer & Barbara Bottone	Bill Northey
Ron & Mayilyn Brown	Jeff Northey
Russell & Holly Burr	Ron & Mary Novak
Diane & Dan Caetta	Jim & Nancy Olson
William & Barbara Cavendish	Jim & Teresa Padgett Jr.
Tim & Jacky Childress	Christopher & Kimberley Peters
Roger & Kay Cox	Frank & Kathy Racco
Keith Cawley	Brittany Rubin
Bob & Bonnie Crowder	Karen & Joe Ruttman
John & Candy Deschane	Steve & Vicky Sabol
Thomas & Judy Dippert	Jean Sanders
Vinnie & Ann Donovan	Frank & Pamela Satriano
Terri & Robert Eisenhardt	Harry & Carol Savarino
Leander & Lynn Faber	Ralph & Nancy Schubert
Rhonda Ferestad	Walter Seidel & Maureen Christensen
Gail France	Pete & Pam Sloan
Fred Frazier	Nancy Spencer
Fred & Theresa Gralinski	Wolff & Elizabeth Starke
Barbara Gray	Dave & Barbara Stewart
Bill & Lisa Headley	Ed Treusch
Ron & Mary Hensley	Ruth Ann Uhall
John & Cornella Humphrey	Edward & Debbie Uhlir
John & Glenna Johnsen	David Vaden Jr
Autumn & Walid Kahwaji	William & Cynthia Vorih
Steve Kincade	Dallas & Cheryl Vosburgh
Robert & Susan Kirkpatreck	Gary & Judy Wamsley
Jeffrey & Judy Koepkey	Gary & Jackie Webb
John & Penny Krasnan	Bob & Sherri Weber
Ralph Levy	Joanie Wehner & Dave Corum
Carol & Mike Long	Ted & Sue Welsh
Bob Lucas	Richard & Sandra White
Tom & Sue Markferding	Tim & Elaine Wilbourn
Michael & Katherine Martini	Dave & Mabel Wonsetler
Fred McCoy & Sue Stevenson	Sheryl & Rusty Wood
James McFadden & Dianne Privette	Bob & Bobbe Wyant