

# REUNIONS

**National  
Family Reunion  
Conference  
program**



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## 'Berlin Brats' reunion in a unified Germany

About 230 alumni and former teachers of Berlin (Germany) American High School attended a reunion in the German capital. Few had been back since German unification, so the novelty of moving about the city unencumbered was one highlight many of the "Berlin Brats" enjoyed.

This is one of the more active alumni groups for Defense Department schools, holding reunions every few years. Including family and friends, the alumni party was 380 people. The oldest alum attending was from the Class of '48, while the youngest was from the Class of '92.

A highlight of the reunion was "School Spirit Day." School colors (maroon and white) were the order of the day as alumni toured the elementary school and two sites where the high school existed from 1946 to 1994. Visit [www.BerlinBrats.org](http://www.BerlinBrats.org).

From an article by Kevin Dougherty in *Stars and Stripes*, Washington, DC.

## The life of a brat

Up to 20 million men and women were military brats at some point in their lives – the children of active duty soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines. They learned the elusiveness of permanence, because no matter how deeply they dug in, they were uprooted from friends and school every two to three years.

It's all part of being a brat, or a dependent, as military kids are officially known. They went where dad went, even if it meant leaving a week before the prom or the state cross-country meet.

Donna Musil has always been proud of her brat heritage, including living in Korea, Germany and several stateside Army posts.

After locating several friends from her pre-teen years in Taegu, South Korea, on the internet, Musil decided to create a documentary about the world of military children. She explained that brats really have no hometowns and friends are scattered to the winds.

*Brats: Our Journey Home* is a 90-minute program shown at film festivals. Musil has been asked to show the movie to reunion groups around the country.

Info at [www.bratsourjourneyhome.com](http://www.bratsourjourneyhome.com).

From a story by Mick Walsh in the *Bradenton Herald*, Bradenton, Florida.

## Teacher plans reunion with former students

Ila Ford, Lexington City, North Carolina, taught hundreds of students during her 31-year teaching career and she'd like one more chance to give them a big hug. Former students describe Ford as a teacher who "thought outside the box" and her class as "so much fun." She always made school exciting. Ford has scrapbooks with photos of almost every one of her former students. She often looks through them and wonders where some of her students are today.

Ford and six former students are planning a reunion of her schools. Ford taught at Eanes Elementary and Pickett Primary schools from 1962 to 1969 and Davis-Townsend Elementary School from 1969 to 1985.

In 1967, each of Ford's students adopted a US soldier to write to while he served in Vietnam.

From a story by Jill Doss-Raines in the *Lexington Dispatch*, Lexington, North Carolina.

## All-class reunion recalls distant ties

In the 1880s, Dunbar School was the first eight-grade public school for African American children in Brownsville, Tennessee. The school was destroyed by a fire; in 1922 it was rebuilt and became Haywood County Training School to accommodate more enrollments and allow returning World War II veterans to complete their education. By 1950, the school was integrated and became Carver High School. The school shut its doors after the 1970 graduating class. Nearly 800 people converged on Decatur, Illinois, to attend the week-long all-class reunion.

Many African American Decatur residents attended the school and migrated as parents sought work at factories during Decatur's industrial peak in the 1950s and 1960s. The Dunbar/Haywood County/Carver National Alumni Association has chapters in Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Missouri, Michigan, Washington, DC, and Tennessee. The alumni association leased the school building to preserve it and plans on turning it into a museum. The group also provides college scholarships to graduating seniors.

From a story by Sheila Smith in the *Herald & Review*, Decatur, Illinois.

## Host 50 plus reunion

Some 288 from 19 states attended the Sixth 50+ Reunion of Humboldt (HHS) and St. Mary's High Schools in Humboldt, Iowa. Those are classes who have celebrated more than 50 reunions. The earliest of 26 classes represented was the Class of 1923 and the newest, the Class of 1956, which just held their 50th Reunion.

A booklet with a list of attendees and copies of letters and notes from those unable to attend was handed out at registration.

A bus tour included stops at local parks, schools, industrial park and the Humboldt Historical Museum complex. History of area schools and families was displayed by the Humboldt County Genealogical Society and the Humboldt County Historical Association.

The popular calendar Humboldt County *As It Was*, published by the Genealogical Society, was available. Pictures from all HHS classes, some St. Mary's classes, and news accounts of other 50+ Reunions also were on display.

A social hour was followed by an evening banquet where classes were seated together, with table decorations and balloons in blue and gold. Alumni who graduated 70 or more years ago were honored.

The sixth 50+ Reunion will donate \$500 to Humboldt High School. The seventh 50+ Reunion will be on September 12, 2009. Contact Carolyn Saul Logan at 515-332-9037.

From a story in the *Humboldt Iowa News*, Humboldt, Iowa.

**Time to list your 2007 (and later) reunions now to appear at [www.reunionsmag.com](http://www.reunionsmag.com). Include the reunion name, date and place and contact info. Email to [reunions@execpc.com](mailto:reunions@execpc.com).**