



# Onward!

Negaunee High School Alumni

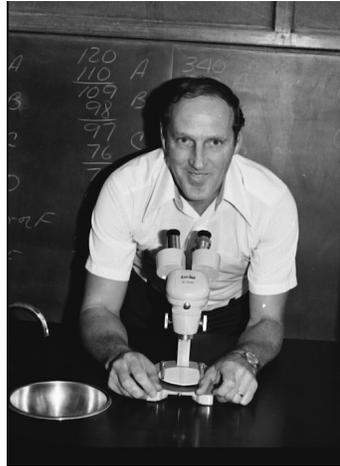
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## Memories of Pappy Ellis

By Dick Koski, David (Rabbi) Johnson, Alan Comensoli

I was very fortunate to have Pappy Ellis as my number one assistant when I arrived here in 1968. I remember the day I came here to interview for the Head Football Coaching position, and I paid him a visit at his classroom before leaving town. We hit it off right away, so I knew I would like to work with him. He had all the qualities of a winner. When the job was offered to me, I quickly accepted it mainly because of him. We not only would coach together but we also would teach the same subjects. I learned a lot about teaching from him. In later years he got me involved in cross country skiing and also officiating basketball. So we were almost joined at the hip there for many years.

Whatever Pappy did, he did it with a passion. Thus, he was good at everything he did. One of his traits that he possessed was loyalty. He was extremely loyal to his friends and family. As they say nowadays, I would have his back. To illustrate, there was a game in which this fan was really on my case right from the beginning. I couldn't do anything right in his eyes. Toward the half it got very quiet. No more yelling! At halftime as we left the field, I mentioned to another coach, I wondered why it got so quiet. He said "you mean you don't know? Pappy went after him. He was climbing the fence, and the guy took off." I found out later on that the guy was a FRIEND of his. In another game we were covering a punt and got called for CLIPPING, which is pretty hard to do. Pappy went nuts! The next week, the same officials were coming to town and I worried all week. When they got here we saw that the official



that called the clip was not there. I asked why and they said he decided to retire. I am sure he didn't want to face Pappy. Pappy was also a very good football and basketball official and people knew this. When calls were made I would ask Pappy "Is that right?" He would tell me whether or not it was, and I would act accordingly.

He was a very good student of the game of football and could come up with great game plans. One in particular was against Gladstone, they had a great tailback, so he designed a defense for the goal-line. I said, "Pappy you can't play this all over the field". He said, "Why not, they can't throw"? He was right, and we won the game. We held this great tailback to 50 yards.

A few years after coming here he got me into basketball officiating. It was great starting out with him because he took care of everything. Everyone knew who was in charge, and it wasn't me. I remember more than once officiating alone as he was having a "discussion" with one of the

coaches. One time a coach got on him for calling a ten second violation on his team and Pappy said, "I can count to ten". The coach said "and damn fast too". Even Pappy laughed at that one.

Next, came cross-country skiing. At one time we went every Saturday morning. His favorite saying was that he only used blue wax. If he had to use another wax that meant it was either too warm or too cold and so he didn't go. Thus, he only used blue.

In his younger days he was a ski-jumper. Pappy was also an avid golfer and I might add an avid hunter and fisherman. He was a man for all seasons.

One of my last experiences with Pappy was at Wawonowin Country Club. I was coming off the front nine, and ran into Pappy. He asked me to join him, Coy Hill, and John Gregory on the back nine. I proceeded to have a pretty good round. As we approached the 18th tee I added up my score and said to Pappy "I think I can break 40". He smiled and said "I know you can". I then did it and he was the first to give me that great big smile of his and a bear-hug. I think he was happier than I was.

One of his sayings that I used a lot was, "Victories come in cans. Defeats come in can'ts"

Pappy Ellis was a GIANT of a man, and I was so lucky to have had him as a friend. God Bless.

**-Dick Koski 1968-2002  
Negaunee Public Schools**

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### NHS Alumni Staff

- Joan Coduti
  - Patty Gagnon
  - Brian Peterson
  - Lani Duquette
  - Norma Greenwood
  - John Ennett
- And all those who have volunteered in the mailing of this issue.
- Thank You!

### Notice!

If you are having a class reunion in 2010 please notify us via e-mail at [nhsalum@maresa.org](mailto:nhsalum@maresa.org)

All reunion and alumni get-together information is posted at: <http://www.negaunee.k12.mi.us/alumni>

Class representatives can send address updates to [nhsalum@maresa.org](mailto:nhsalum@maresa.org). We will be glad to print your class labels for you.

## Memories of Pappy... Cont'd

I was fortunate to have Pappy as a coach for three seasons. He was able to motivate players and have them play to their potential. He wanted players to think about the game and the opponent. At each practice, he gave us the opponent's strengths and weaknesses and how we could exploit those to our advantage. His coaching made us all better players and teammates.

On a lighter note:

The one night that really stands out is the 1967 Ishpeming game. (Pappy was the varsity basketball coach, during our Sophomore year, and was beaten (badly) by Ishpeming with the Hematite fans screaming "We want a hundred." The Ishpeming coach left his starters in until the very end and the margin was around 50 points. Tough for Pappy. BUT...

The 1967 football game against Ishpeming proved to be Pappy's turn. We won 61-0 and Pappy, during the end of

the game, shouted to the Ishpeming coaches, "We want a hundred." We didn't score a hundred but I think Pappy was alright with 61.

**-Dave Johnson, Class of '68**

I'm reminded of the post-football game celebration on the bus after we beat Marquette (or Ishpeming?) and Pappy announced "The hay is in the barn!!"

Well, Coach Ellis, you helped put it there, with your curiously animated defensive signals from the sidelines and your good cop / bad cop with Coach Koski. The team knew they could do no wrong by doing the things necessary to be successful on the field or in the classroom.

Pappy was always supportive of us in any sport and went out of his way to pat us on the back, coming into the post-game locker room after our basketball wins and congratulating us...even us reserves....because he knew what made a team work.

When I was a sophomore and injured my leg in the JV intra-squad game on Friday, I went thru the weekend on hand-me down crutches as our coach insisted it was just a "sprain", (including a trip to a Packer-Raider preseason game at Lambeau). On Monday I trudged into the coaches office and there's Pappy, concerned like a step-dad and he insisted, in a very spirited rant, that I get it x-rayed. Sure enough, broken leg.

I was jealous of not getting assigned to his junior high science class when I transferred from St. Paul's. Most students loved his fun style of teaching, skeleton and all, just like his coaching style was so effective.

He was a Negaunee Miner and helped make us proud to be Champions in athletics and academics.

Rest in Peace, Coach.... The Hay is truly in the Barn, thanks to role models like you.

**-Alan Comensoli, Class of '74**

## The Negaunee Historical Society by Virginia Paulson

The Negaunee Historical Society was founded in 1982 as a non-profit, educational and historical organization. Our museum is located in the former American Legion clubrooms on Main St. In keeping with our purpose and bylaws, we have a display of memorabilia from the schools, sets of yearbooks from 1908, also artifacts that remind us of the homes of our ancestors, those who served in the military, and also former business' that once thrived in Negaunee. We were given copies of the Iron Heralds dated from 1884 -1968 from the Pellow family. Remember the slogan, "The only paper that gives a darn about Negaunee." If you are interested in reading any of those papers we have them on DVD's through a grant received from Plum Creek. We also have other items of interest for sale. Following is a list and ways to obtain them. Iron Herald DVD \$10.00, a book, Negaunee's Early Years Dominated by Mining 1842-1930 \$18.00, men's hat pins, one depicting the old ore cart and one depicting double jack mining \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Plus \$5.00 shipping. You can contact

Roland "Foo" Koski 475-7622 kipfoo@charter.net

Virginia Paulson 475-9641 paulsonvirginia@sbcglobal.net

Or write to Negaunee Historical Society P.O. Box 221 Negaunee, Mi 49866

Please visit our museum when you're in the area. Our hours are Monday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. We open daily from June 1st until Labor Day. We will also open during the off season if you call Roland or Virginia.

Visit our website.: <http://www.negauneehistory.com>

## Negaunee High School Alumni Scholarship 2009

This year's \$500 Alumni Scholarship was presented to Angelina Juidici. Angelina is furthering her education at Northern Michigan University. Due to the generous giving of the NHS Alumni, the Association was able to give out its 2nd annual scholarship to a graduating senior. Angelina is the daughter of Robert & Patty Juidici. Her father Robert is a member of the Class of 1972 and her grandmother Elaine Hill Juidici graduated in 1947.



## “A Tribute to Veterans” By Milly Talo Balzarini—Class of 1966

I remember as a child seeing several of my cousins going off to join the military. My cousin Bob was a Marine and spent time in Okinawa, his brother Richard was a paratrooper who was sent to Germany. Bob and his brother Richard left home on the same day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. I'm not sure I ever gave much thought about people going into the military at that time. I was young, didn't know much about history and had no idea what it was all about. Most veterans never really talked much about what they had experienced. How many people never really give any thought to what a soldier goes through for his country? Many of our veterans have never received thanks for the sacrifices they have given.

After leaving home for the military and becoming a soldier, life takes an abrupt change. This is perhaps best described in Dan Forrester's forward, when he compares a soldier to a wave. "Like waves on ruffled water, driven by the wind to a fate, not of their own making, but by the power they entrusted, they rose up to meet the wind and were carried to whatever destiny awaited them. Restlessly enduring until spent by the experience, used up by the power that spurred them on, they were finally dissipated on the shore of the home they had left."

We have all had uncles or fathers in World War II or Korea, and we have seen our husbands, brothers, and classmates sent to Viet Nam. Now we are seeing our children being sent to Desert Storm, the Gulf War, Iraq, and now Afghanistan. Our government has tried and tested them, both physically and mentally, and discharges them into society assuming they will pick up where they left off prior to becoming soldiers. Over the years our veterans have faced not only the horrors of war, which live with them in their memories for life. They endure illnesses like malaria, are exposed to agent orange, and often live in environments that are cold and wet, or extremely hot and dry, with insects, rodents, and reptiles to keep them company. They eat rations out of a can, wash their faces in a steel helmet, and brush their teeth with sand and river water while being constantly on guard. Soldiers are brave, and endure what most of us could not. They proudly served their country with honor, and the majority, come back a better person. However there are the veterans who live out their lives in hospitals, have lost limbs, or suffer from psychological problems, because of the trauma they have experienced in war. Our cities are filled with homeless unemployed veterans who have served their country. Our Government has tried and tested them both physically and mentally, and shaped their new lives as civilians. As Americans, we must hold ourselves accountable to making sure we give them our respect, the best possible health care, a warm welcome home, and a great big thank you for serving their country which has preserved our heritage and secured our future. These are the men and women who are serving to protect the heritage and life style we all enjoy as Americans. We need to support our troops, and honor our veterans, because we owe them our best. So to all of you NHS Graduates, who have so willingly served or are presently serving our country, thank you. We salute you.

### **-About Milly Balzarini by Brian Peterson**

In her book, [The Lost Road Home](#), Milly willingly shares the effects on their family after her husband Ted's return home from serving in Vietnam. Milly's hope in writing this book is to provide help and support in understanding the effects of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to Veteran's, their families and the public. She shows the causes, symptoms and possible solutions to help Veterans and their families come to terms with PTSD.

[The Lost Road Home](#) is available through Milly's website <http://thelostroadhome.com> or locally at Snyder Drugs, BookWorld, Country Village Bookstore, Ezekial Books, Lighthouse Books, NMU and MTU Bookstores.

Thank you to the Milly & Ted Balzarini Family for sharing their experiences in hopes of helping us all understand PTSD.

## NPS Facilities Update by James Derocher, Superintendent

The Negaunee Public Schools continues to thank the residents of the school district for their support, back in 2006, of the building bond program that was used to build additional classrooms at Lakeview Elementary School, a new gymnasium at the Middle School and renovations to the auditorium at the High School. The new gym and renovated auditorium were completed in December of 2009 and are wonderful new additions to our educational facilities.

With the addition of the Middle School gym, the Middle School complex can now host all middle school activities such as basketball games, awards programs, school assemblies, and concerts. Physical education classes for all three-grade levels are being held in the new gym and students have an opportunity to use the new locker rooms and showers before returning to classes. The new gym has relieved an over used Memorial Gym as we now have another full size facility for practice during the winter sport season.

The renovated auditorium is the talk of the town for its comfortable seating, acoustical qualities, large stage and beautiful décor. The fine arts faculty of the school district is excited to be able to have such a fine venue from which to display the many talents of our students. The symphonic band and orchestra have been able to fill the room with music as all members can now comfortably fit on the stage. The new lighting and sound systems insure everyone in attendance can see and hear what is happening on stage.

The 550 seat capacity of the auditorium also allows the high school to have a place where all of the students and staff can congregate in a comfortable setting for assemblies and meetings. We have also added space for an in school store, operated by the NHS Sports Booster Club, so students and their families can purchase clothing and other articles to support the Negaunee Miners.

As has been said many times, these fine additions to the school district would not have been possible without the support of the community. The Board of Education, Administration, and staff wants to extend their appreciation to the community for the support they continue to give the school district.

## Negaunee High School Alumni Association Donors List

<b>1930's</b>	Mayme Remes Kifer	Nancy Thomas Johnson	Mari Bessolo Temple	Karl Weber
AnnMarie Levine Sorensen	Duane Stille	<b>1960's</b>	Auralee Method Bussone	Taryn Nelson Hetrick
Albert Jokela	Charles Stolnack	Stephen Adamini	Karen Kimar Johnson	Tim Healey
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Ray Pajula	<b>1950's</b>	David White	Susan Jacka Roberts	Rebecca Thomas Johnson
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Kathleen Trembath VanderVeer	Mary Jean Walimaa Lund	Richard Kent	Connie Paulson Scanlon	<b>Friends of NHSAA</b>
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Walter Huhtala	James Frederickson	<b>1970's</b>	Robert Lammi	Thank You to all who have donated! For a complete list see the website at <a href="http://www.negaunee.k12.mi.us/alumni">http://www.negaunee.k12.mi.us/alumni</a>
Ben Perala	Gail Kivela Gilliland	Debra Hallgren	Lesley Coduti Hildebrand	
	Elizabeth Cory Jewell	Ann Goodreau Dozzi	Natalie Bratek Sluja	

## Contribute to Your Association!

Would you like to make a donation to the NHS Alumni Association? Your monies will help us publish our yearly newsletter and continue to fund the scholarship for a graduating senior at NHS. Donations are non-tax deductible. For more information, email us at [nhsalum@maresa.org](mailto:nhsalum@maresa.org) or on the web at <http://www.negaunee.k12.mi.us/alumni>



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CLASS OF \_\_\_\_\_

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STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

All checks should be made payable to the Negaunee Alumni Association.

Please mail your donation to:

NHS Alumni Association, c/o Negaunee Public Schools, 101 S. Pioneer Ave., Negaunee, MI 49866