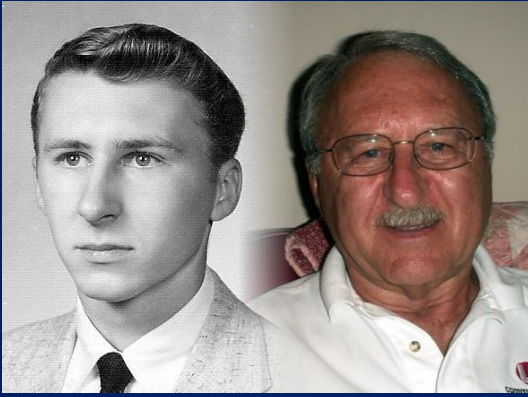




In Memoriam



Ray Houttekier: Born in Michigan in May 1940. Lived in W. Toledo from age 1, moved to Washington Township in the spring of 1955, and began 3 years at Whitmer in the fall of '55.

Following graduation from Whitmer in May 1958, I reported to the US Coast Guard Academy (New London, CT) in early July to begin a 26-year career as an "operations specialist" (otherwise known as a ship driver). I survived four years as a cadet earning a naval engineering degree, four wrestling letters, and a superb education in the art of racing sailboats ranging from 12 to 62 feet. In October 1959 met future wife,

Judy Hansen, who introduced me to the history and traditions of New England and her home town of Boston. I graduated on June 6, 1962, with a BS and commission as an Ensign in the Coast Guard. Because my first sea duty was a 327' CG Cutter based in Boston, Judy and I continued dating until agreeing on a wedding date in November of '62 (between ship patrols in the N. Atlantic). In the spring of '64 I was transferred to New York City to take command of a 95' patrol boat with a crew of 13. How strange to be called "captain" (or the "old man") at age 24. Over the next 20 years – 7.5 years of sea duty, including a "cruise" to Vietnam – the CG transferred me to Alaska, New Orleans, Boston, Newport (RI), CGHQ in Washington (DC), Alameda (CA), and back to HQ from which I retired in June '84.

In spite of all the sea duty, isolated duty in Alaska, and the 11-month deployment to Vietnam we are the proud parents of 3 children (Amy - Jan '65, David - Feb '70, and Jonathan - Dec '71). All 3 kids graduated from HS, college and currently live and work in Virginia. We have also been blessed with 5 beautiful and very active grandchildren (ages 5 to 9.5), and they all live within 5 miles of our home. Now you know why we continue to live in such a high cost of living and dense traffic area. The other good news is we live a little over an hour from Chesapeake Bay where we spend weekends and most of the summer aboard our 34' twin-engine cabin cruiser. We used to have a sailboat, but that became too much work for senior citizens. If the price of fuel keeps going up we may have to reconsider wind power. All of the grandchildren are on swim teams so I figure they are candidates for training as deck hands on whatever boat I can afford during the coming years, at least until they discover more exciting things to do with their friends. Judy retired from teaching 2 years ago, but I still work part-time as a consultant. We are both very active in our church and enjoy traveling in between consulting and baby-sitting jobs. We look forward to meeting classmates in Toledo, as well as attending Judy's 50th reunion the following week on Cape Cod.

My Favorite Memory of Whitmer High:

- #1 - Driving the brand new yellow Chevrolet convertible which towed the senior float (after talking the dealer into loaning us the car) and then being able to drive others around to parties that night
- #2 – Being suspended senior year (with Honor Society pal Larry Pool) for wearing Bermuda shorts to school one day.

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Ray Passed away in July 2012