

# ***PAULETTE MILLER BERGER***

ZCHS CLASS OF 1970

EDUCATOR - 40 YEARS & COMMUNITY SERVICE



Paulette Berger was born to Maxine and Wilbur Miller July 15, of 1952. Following her parents' divorce, she and her mom lived with her maternal grandparents until her mother married Bill Hall and moved to Zionsville. She attended Zionsville schools and graduated in 1970, 4th out of a class of 86, a class officer and very active in other school activities.



Paulette's mother died suddenly in 1969 and she wondered how she would be able to attend college. Because of the Dollars for Scholars campaign in the community, she was given enough money to cover tuition and with jobs and scholarships from IU was able to finance her first year of college.

At Indiana University she won academic honors. She was the first of two women to be inducted into Alpha Chi Sigma fraternity for chemistry majors. She earned her BS in 1974 graduating Cum Laude with a degree in secondary education majoring in Chemistry.

She married Rob Berger, Class of 1970; in 1974 and began her teaching career at Zionsville Community High School. As a beginning teacher, she was given the least rigorous classes and was extremely glad when she finally got to teach chemistry!

In 1995, she was recruited by IU to teach a dual credit course through a new program called the Advanced College Project. The course curriculum was approved by IU as well as the labs and final exam. As an adjunct faculty member she was able to get software and hardware from Microsoft. She was also involved in the development of interactive problem solving software called CALM – Computer Assisted Learning Method.

Over her forty years in the classroom, Paulette sponsored many extra-curricular activities. She organized the Science Club and was the coordinator of the Super Bowl competitions in multiple subject areas. She was instrumental in getting ZCHS invited to be on the local TV show "The Brain Game." The 2010 team won the Brain Game competition and \$10,000. Her students also competed state-wide and nationally in academic competitions where they were champions in New Orleans and Chicago.

Paulette is on the Boone County Board of Health and was during Covid. She has volunteered for Boone County Habitat for Humanity and Boone County Retired Teachers Association. She and Rob regularly deliver meals on Tuesday evenings to shut-ins for Shalom in Lebanon and tutors high school students regularly.

A member since childhood of the Zionsville Christian Church, Paulette has served as a Deacon, Elder, Vice President and President of the Board. She sings in the choir, serves on the Worship Team and every year leads a science class during Vacation Bible School.

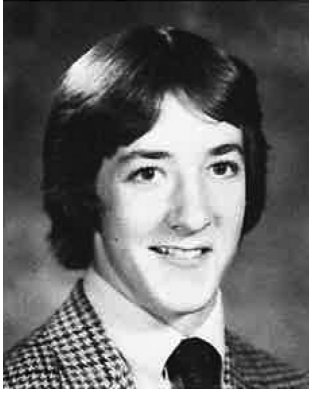
Rob and Paulette have two daughters, Cassie, a ZCHS Class of 2001 alumna who teaches English in Madrid, Spain at the high school level and Abby, ZCHS Class of 2007 alumna who is a talent management agent in New York City. Both daughters graduated with academic honors.

Nominated by Mary Grabianowski, ZCHS, "Class of 1968" and 2017 Soaring Eagle Recipient

# ***PHILIP BILDEN***

ZCHS CLASS OF 1982

## **INCREDIBLE BUSINESS & MILITARY CAREER**



Philip Bilden, Founder and Managing Partner of Shield Capital including firm governance, investment strategy and process, fiduciary fund management, capital raising, operations and administration, and the strategic partnership with L3 Harris. As a former founder and senior leader of a global private equity and venture capital fund management franchise. Philip brings an institutional



investor's experience, leadership, and relationship to SHIELD's investment management.

Philip was previously Co-Founding Member and Managing Director of HarborVest Partners (AUM \$100+B). He began his career in Boston in 1991 and relocated to Hong Kong in 1996 to establish the firm's Asia business. He was responsible for the firm's private equity and venture capital investment strategy and execution, capital raising, and client service activities throughout the Asia Pacific region, managing personnel and partnership in multiple countries and cultures. Throughout his 25-year tenure, Philip served in senior leadership roles in firm's global management, including the firm's six-person Executive Committee responsible for global governance. After 25 years at the firm, he retired as Senior Advisor in 2016.

Philip presently serves on the boards of directors of SHIELD companies including GoSecure and Auhentic8. Philip previously served on the advisory and governance boards of numerous global private equity partnerships, non-profit organizations, and private and public companies including: Huntington Ingalls Industries (NYSE:HII), Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel, Chairman & Vice Chairman, Naval War College Foundation; Chairman, NWCF Cyber Conflict Studies Task Force; United States Naval Academy Foundation; U.S. Naval Institute; Asia Pacific Advisory Board and Dean's Board of Advisors of Harvard Business School; and the Board of Visitors of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

Philip graduated with a B.S. in Foreign Service magna cum laude as Distinguished Military Graduate, U.S. Army ROTC, from Georgetown University. He received his MBA from Harvard Business School. Philip served for ten years as a Military Intelligence officer, U.S. Army Reserve, supporting the Defense Intelligence Agency

Phil has been happily married for more than thirty years to his wife Trish. They met while attending Georgetown University. Trish went on to attend the University of Massachusetts Hospital. Trish is now retired and is involved with several non-profit entities. Phil and Trish have three adult children including Philip (age 30) who graduated from the Naval Academy in 2015 and is currently a pilot in the Navy. The second child is Andrew (age 27) who also graduated from the Naval Academy in 2018. The youngest child is Claire (age 25) who attended Georgetown University and is currently working for Goldman Sachs in London.

Nominated by Paul Sweeney, "Class of 1983"

**JOHN MARK CLELAND**, Posthumously  
EDUCATOR, COACH &  
MEDICAL SCIENCE TRAILBLAZER



“John Mark Cleland died peacefully on February 7, 2022. He was born on April 29, 1951 in Rochester, IN to Glenn Edward and Donna Castleman Cleland. After his graduation from Rochester High School in 1969, he attended Purdue University, receiving a BS degree in Animal Science in 1973. Later, he obtained a MS degree in Education. On June 2, 1973, John married Judith (Judy) Fritsch in Anderson, IN.

John loved spending time with his family – his parents and siblings, his wife, his three children, and his seven grandchildren. His parents were central figures in his life until their deaths and inspired many of his interests, including in agriculture and military history. He enjoyed coaching, encouraging, and watching his sons, Chris and Brice, and daughter Cecilia participate in sports. He enjoyed family vacations to the beach and to historic sites. Also, his focus was on watching his grandchildren grow and learn. He also was an avid fan of all Purdue University sports, a passion he passed down to his children.

John worked for Genetic Plus for 5 years partnering with Bob Bridge of Rochester. Afterwards, he taught biology for 31 years at Zionsville High School. He was known for his upbeat personality, friendliness, and corny “dad jokes”. At ZHS, he also coached cross country and track for several years. He loved following the athletic, academic, career and personal life successes of his athletes.

Agriculture, especially Animal Sciences, were key factors in his life. While attending Purdue, John was a member of the Dairy Judging Team. In 2014, he was awarded the Department of Animal Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award. After retiring from teaching, he authored a book on the history of the Purdue Creamery. John was a 50-year collector of milk bottles, and during the Indiana State Fair, he relished playing the role of the “milkman” at Pioneer Village.

John was a 47-year cancer survivor, of which he was immensely proud. He was the first person to be successfully treated for testicular cancer with cisplatin, now one of the primary treatments for the disease. After recovering from cancer, he strived to exude a “Carpe Diem” attitude for the rest of his life. In 1980, he received Dick Lugar’s Fitness Festival Come Back of the Year Award. In 2002, he was a torchbearer for the Winter Olympics and later was the first recipient of the IU Cancer Center Torchbearer Award. In 2004, he was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Indiana governor. “ 1.

I once read Purdue’s Agriculture Connections newsletter and John was featured under “Alumni Profile” entitled “Survivor Milks Life For All It’s Worth” and he surely did just that and we are proud to present this Soaring Eagle Hall of Fame Eagle to John’s family!2

Nominated by Ralph W. Stacy “Class of 1961” & Ralph L. Stacy “Class of 1990”

1. Information Source: John Mark Cleland’s Flanner Buchanan Obituary, 2/13/2022.
2. Purdue Agricultural Connections, Volume 15 Number 2 Spring, 2006



# **SHARON WHITE DELONG**

ZCHS CLASS OF 1965

EDUCATOR & COMMUNITY SERVANT



Sharon White DeLong was born January 19, 1949 to Paul, "Class of 1930" and Jewel Phillips White, "Class of 1932". She is a life-long resident of Zionsville and had two brothers the late Don, "Class of 1963" and her older brother, the late Phil, "Class of 1957".

Sharon started elementary school before Eagle Elementary was built and is a 12-year Senior. During high school she was in the band, Booster Block, Eaglettes, serving as Majorette for two years. She was also involved with Future Homemakers of America and the Girls Athletic Association. She was a member of National Honor Society. After graduating with the Class of 1965, she matriculated at Purdue University majoring in Education specializing in Home and Consumer Science.

In the summer of 1968, Sharon was recruited by her mom, Jewel, (secretary and Youth Sponsor at the Zionsville Christian Church) and Reverend Bob Anderson to help chaperon the Christian Youth Fellowship trip to Washington, D.C.. They also recruited a young man named John DeLong to help with the trip. Sparks must have been ignited because after Sharon graduated from Purdue, she and John were married. They had three children, Julie, "Class of 1992" and now kindergarten teacher at Union Elementary, Mike, "Class of 1994" now a Carmel firefighter and RN at Carmel St.Vincents, and Jaci, "Class of 1996" an office manager for Indiana Gastroenterology. Sharon is now widowed, but enjoys spending time with her children and their seven grandchildren.

After the kids were old enough, Sharon began teaching. Although she wanted to get a job at Zionsville High School, there was not one available in her area so she applied at Indianapolis Public School and was an educator at Emmerich Manual High School and Arsenal Tech. High School for twenty five years teaching Family and Consumer Science. Her enthusiasm for teaching inner-city students was unbridled and she made a real difference in her career!

Sharon is a long-time member of Psi Iota Xi Sorority in Zionsville. She delivers meals for Meals on Wheels, has volunteered for years at Shalom House in both preparing and serving meals. She took a paid stint as the Assistant Director for several years at Shalom House and while now officially retired, still tirelessly continues to help with the Kids' Sack Lunch Program as well as meals at the house in Lebanon.

Sharon is a true leader at Zionsville Christian Church. She has served in many capacities including Deacon, Elder, President of the Congregation or funeral dinners or outside groups like the Boone County Retired Teachers who gather at the church for meetings. In addition, she has served on many committees and is a go-to person for advice and counsel.

Sharon White DeLong is a respected and revered person whose quiet leadership has influenced many people, young and old in her life. I am so proud to present this Soaring Eagle to my mom!

Nominated by Mary Grabianowski, "Class of 1968"; Bonnie Klingler, "Class of 1959"; Lori Overdorf, "Class of 1973" and Dana Bacon "Class of 1973"



## **TIM & JENNI EAST**

PRINCIPAL, EDUCATORS  
AND GREAT DUO  
46 YEARS OF SERVICE



Tim became Principal at Eagle Elementary School in 2002, then opened the new Zionsville West Middle School in 2005 as Principal until he became Principal

of Zionsville Community High School in 2010. Tim retired in 2024. Jenni retired after 24 years of teaching Language Arts and Math at Zionsville Middle School.

Tim and Jenni have two adult children, Lauren (East) Smith is married to Patrick Smith. They have two children, Judah and Teegan. Tim and Jenni's son is Tony East. Both of the children and grandchildren live nearby.

Tim graduated from Ball State University in 1986. He and Jenni married and moved to Moreno Valley, California where he taught and coached at Canyon Springs while earning a Masters Degree in Administration from California State University. In 1990 the family moved back to their Midwestern roots to the Harlem Consolidated School District in northern Illinois where he served as a middle school teacher, high school assistant principal and principal of the B.A. Hoffman T.E.C.H. Academies High School.

After the birth of their son, they returned to the Indianapolis area where both are from. Tim was Principal of Speedway Junior High School in 1998 prior to accepting the opportunity to become the Principal of Eagle Elementary School and then on to Zionsville West Middle School as the Principal before the Zionsville High School Principal position.

Jenni also had several accomplishments through her 24 years of employment with Zionsville Community Schools. She began as an instruction assistant at Eagle Elementary for 2 years and then instructional assistant at Pleasant View Elementary for 1 year. Then was a 6-8th grades Language Arts and Math teacher at Zionsville Middle School for 21 years. She was named language arts teacher of the year by the Letters About Literature group; she led the National Junior Honor Society for 8 years. In that role, she facilitated the donation of over \$10,000 to UNICEF and supervised tens of thousands of student service hours. She also coached the Math Bowl team to 6 second place finishes and organized the Spring Fling. She worked with high school students to help them offer free math tutoring for middle school students and sponsored the Philanthropy Club. She trained and mentored 4 student teachers and 4 cadet teachers. She is also very proud of her role in Money Matters, an experience that helped thousands of seventh graders learn the basics of financial planning. She is proud of her library of math career videos to show students the practical application of math to students.

True to their personalities, neither wanted to have Retirement Parties. Instead, they chose to have a Golf Outing at the Golf Club of Indiana on June 12 as their way of sharing their appreciation for the important role ZCS and this community have played in their lives, the lives of their children and the lives of thousands of students who have passed through their doors.

They hosted the "Easts Give Back" Golf Outing in 2024 to raise funds for ZCS' programs to enrich students' experiences. Well done Tim and Jenni !!!!

Nominated by Tim Ottinger, "Class of 1972" and Lori Overdorf, "Class of 1973"

**ROBERT N. GOSSMAN**, Posthumously  
EDUCATOR, COACH, PRINCIPAL,  
AND INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Robert N. Gossman enjoyed not only what he did for the Zionsville school system which at times included Eagle and Union Townships, but also his extracurricular activities. Robert married Wilda “Tommi” on January 23, 1948. They had four children Karen, Sharon, Ralph and Jill. At the Zionsville Methodist Church he was not only a member but an usher and trustee.



Mr. Gossman graduated from Broad Ripple High School in Indianapolis and was a World War II veteran. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Butler University where he also earned his Master’s Degree and Superintendent Licenses.

Some of his activities were: improving curriculum’s and service to students at both Eagle and Union Townships, establishing special education classes here, improve services to handicapped students, and upgraded “middle rooms” which served students in the 3rd to 5th grades who needed extra help with school work. He also broadened the program on student achievement and aptitude testing for the purpose of helping place students and working with parents and teachers to help children succeed to the best of their abilities. Mr. Gossman also increased guidance offered to children in the 6th through 8th grade. Libraries were also enhanced in elementary and junior high schools through his tenure. He also worked and began the use of Initial Teaching Alphabet System of teaching students how to read. More importantly near the end of his career, he was instrumental in blending Eagle and Union Township Schools, setting up bus routes, and establishing the school day. He was also interim superintendent from 1970-1971. Mr. Gossman passed in June, 1971.

If this wasn’t enough, he was a “work-a-holic”. The extra-curricular activities he was also involved in is the following:

- 1967 Zionsville President of Lions Club.
- Member of AF & M Masonic Lodge in Zionsville.
- March 1970 Zionsville Jaycees Distinguished Service Award for outstanding work for the Zionsville School Systems and community.
- Past president and coach of the Zionsville Little League.
- Board Member of Azionaqua Swim Club.

He also loved to golf and won a few trophies in the process. He was friends with fellow SEHOF members John Johnson, Sam Fix, Orlin Coleman, and Pete Paddock.

It is now my honor and privilege to present the 2024 Zionsville Soaring Eagle Award to Robert and Wilda “Tommi” Gossman’s son, Ralph Gossman.

Nominated by Randall W. Stantz, “Class of 1974”



**LEONARD GRIZZLE**, Posthumously  
ETHS CLASS OF 1954  
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER & MENTOR



Leonard D. Grizzle was born in Indianapolis, December 1, 1934 to parents Charles and Mary Grizzle. He was the youngest of his four siblings Bill, Glen, Stanley and Bonnie. His father worked periodically as a farm laborer and his mother cleaned houses.

Leonard lived most of his life in Zionsville and graduated Eagle Township High School now Zionsville Community

High School in 1954. His grandmother and mother emigrated from Newfoundland and his grandfather worked for the Hudson Bay Trading Company in Canada.

Leonard had a very strong work ethic from a very young age when he started with a paper route in the village at the age of five in order to earn money for his family. He worked at the South Side Market on Main Street after school stocking shelves and delivering groceries.

Working after school did not allow him the opportunity to be in extracurricular activities at school but he did serve as a patrol boy in the mornings and afternoons.

Leonard married Sharlene Bennington and they had two daughters, Lana and Lisa, both of whom graduated from Zionsville. He had a granddaughter, Sara, and two great grandchildren, James and Charolette. He later married Ruthann in 1976, giving him two step children, Tricia and Rob, and two step granddaughters and two great grandchildren.

He served in the Naval reserves for many years and was active duty in the Mediterranean for two years where he received several accommodations, one of which was for bravery during a storm at sea. He was honorably discharged in 1959 and returned to Zionsville where he was offered a job with the street department from then town marshal Maynard Moore. He continued in his role as street department supervisor for over thirty years and hired college students during summer breaks where he served as an inspirational influence and mentor to many young men.

During his long run serving the town and its residents he became known to many as simply "Grizz". He was called upon to do just about any task that could be imagined and was known to provide a favor or two for town people when requested.

Leonard was a dedicated volunteer member of the Zionsville Fire Department for thirty-one years and retired in 1992 as Assistant Chief of the ZFD. Much of his desire to become a firefighter was the result of losing his own father in a tragic fire at their home when Leonard was young. He was a member of the Indiana Fire Instructors Association, completed training as an EMT, taught classes to new recruits and conducted guided tours of the fire house to grade school students. One of Grizz's favorite roles was the preparation and setting off of the fireworks for the annual July Fourth display at Lions Park.

Leonard was a member of the Zionsville Jaycees and received an award for outstanding service. Two of his favorite hobbies were playing euchre and square dancing. He also enjoyed all patriotic events and celebrations. Leonard's friendly demeanor serving the town and its people allowed him to become one of Zionsville's all-time favorite servants and ambassadors of good will.

Nominated and Submitted by Mick Pyle and Dr. Jim Haines, both from the ZCHS "Class of 1972".





**WALTER H. HARMON**, Posthumously  
ETHS CLASS OF 1920  
EDUCATOR 48 YEARS, ZHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL,  
LAST BOONE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS



“Walter H. Harmon, notable local historian, began his education at the Royalton School, drove a horse and buggy 6 miles to Zionsville and graduated with the Eagle Township High School, Class of 1920 now Zionsville Community High School. In the summer of 1920

he received his “A” teaching certificate and began teaching that fall at what was known as Swamp College School. The next summer he received a “B” certificate from Central Normal College at Danville. Later a “C” certificate was earned for one year of study and a 2-year Normal Certificate. In 1930 he received an AB degree from Central Normal and in 1940 a Master’s Degree in Education from Butler University.

His 48 year career here in Boone County included 2 years at Swamp College, 7 years at Royalton, and 38 years at Eagle Township High School, several years of which he was Vice Principal. He retired in 1967 and served as the last Boone County Superintendent of Schools in the school year 1969-1970 during which he compiled his manuscript” 1. entitled “Early Schools, Eagle Township Boone County”. After he was retired from teaching, Mr. Harmon served as Deputy Assessor for Eagle Township.

Mr. Harmon’s parents were James and Zarelda Clements Harmon and was born in Boone County on May 10, 1901 and married Myrtle Mays. In the late 1920’s he and his brother were contracted to construct the rural electric line coming into Boone County. The line ran from Avon through Brownsburg, Fayette and Royalton. They had three children Nancy Stum, Terry Ralph Harmon and Bennie H. Harmon and had seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren; brothers Ivan, Guy and Dare Harmon. He passed August 17, 1989 and is buried at Salem Cemetery.

He was a member of Zionsville Christian Church, Zionsville Masonic Lodge No. 197, and the Royal Arch Masons No. 148 at Broad Ripple. He served on the first board of directors of the Patrick Henry Sullivan Foundation now named SullivanMunce Cultural Center and was a noted authority on local history.

Our family always appreciated his friendly manner, highly respected him and he always looked sharp even though he had a handicap from polio. We will always remember and appreciate his September, 1969 special eulogy at my father’s funeral who was also an educator at Eagle Township High School. His attributes to me were also “patience, kindness, dedication, willingness, quietness, integrity, and as a gentleman”. Mr. Harmon was an educator who gave his life, that this school may live in the hearts and minds of many!

Nominated by Ralph W. Stacy, “Class of 1961”, and a Soaring Eagle Recipient

1. Source: David G. Ruffer, Ph.D., “Schools of Eagle and Union Township Boone County Indiana





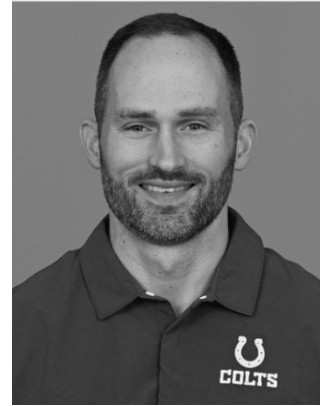
# **BRIAN MASON**

ZCHS CLASS OF 2005

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR



Brian Mason is the son of Jeff and Mary Mason who reside here in Zionsville. Brian has two brothers that graduated from Zionsville Community High School; Scott, “Class of 2009” and Chris, “Class of 2013” Brian is married to Rachel and they have two sons, Graham and Noah.



I have known Brian since he participated in the Zionsville

Middle School Football program, coached him in the ZCHS football program and have the privilege to follow his career as a coach, and learned from him as he presented at football coaching clinics. Brian’s keen interest in high school football developed this interest into a career. He is an outstanding example of hard work, determination and perseverance.

Brian experienced two injuries that required surgery in high school. This type of injury usually requires a year to recover. He was determined to beat the expected timeline and devoted himself to rehabilitation. While many people would have written off trying to participate, Brian poured himself into his recovery. In a demonstration of his hard work, determination and perseverance, Brian was able to play and contribute to the team by the middle of his senior season.

While playing football in college, the same injury occurred forcing him to immediately begin coaching the team he had been a part of and pursuing a profession that would become a career.

In the following years, Brian demonstrated the same drive and zeal for hard work. He continued to learn and improve his knowledge and coaching abilities. He was an asset to the football programs he coached and gained the trust and respect of some of the best younger college coaches in the nation. He was hired to be part of their coaching staffs, as they ascended to head coaching positions. His expertise as a Special Teams coach earned him professional recognition by being nominated for the Frank Broyles Award recognizing the best college assistant coach in the country. After coaching for one year at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, he was contacted by the Indianapolis Colts of the N.F.L. and was hired as their Special Teams Coordinator this past season.

Brian has B.A. degree in Economics from Denison University, M.A. in Education from Bluffton University, a Masters from Purdue University in Recreation and Sports Management and a Masters from Ohio State University in Kinesiology and Sports Management. His coaching career spans from Student Assistant at Denison University to Special Teams Coordinator to present.

I consider it a privilege to nominate and present this nominee!

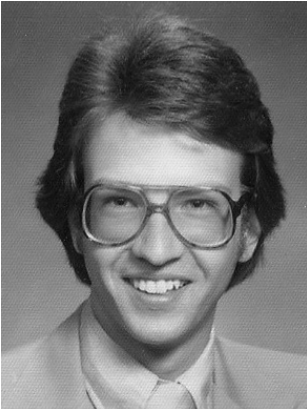
Nominated by Larry McWhorter, Brian’s ZCHS High School Coach, ZCHS Head Football Coach, 1996-2013.



# **TIM OTTINGER**

ZCHS CLASS OF 1972

ZAA PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER



Tim Ottinger was born September 14, 1954 to Burl and Mary Jean Ottinger, the younger brother of sister, Tina (Ottinger) Hand. His ancestors span eight generations in Boone County. He grew up on a small farm four miles west of Zionsville which now is the Royal Run community. After 30 years between Cincinnati and Los Angeles, Tim currently resides today in his childhood home.



Tim graduated Zionsville Community High School in 1972 as a 12 year senior following a very active school career involving being a percussionist in concert, marching, dance and pep bands, member of the concert choir and Royallaires, Aerie yearbook staff, art club and the photography club.

Following high school Tim attended Purdue University receiving a B.A. in Industrial Design and shortly after an M.B.A. in Marketing from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He subsequently obtained a G.R.I. with the Realty Institute and was accredited with the National Association of Realtors.

Tim began his professional career with Kenner Products in Cincinnati in 1977 when the company received the product licensing for STAR WARS. His first responsibilities was a product designer deeply involved in the rapid development for that franchise. But shortly after he took a position with a design consulting office, Design Alliance which enabled him to work in a variety of industries including Batesville Casket Company coining the phrase “I’ve designed toys to caskets”.

In 1983 he moved to Los Angeles and joined Alpine Electronics of America, widely known for car audio to develop their entry into the emerging cellular and mobile security markets. His experiences included trips to Japan, far from his roots as a farm boy in Indiana. In the 90s he took his design and marketing talents into the POP (Point-of-Purchase) display and packaging industries until the early 2000s, transitioning into residential real estate with one of the largest privately owned firms in the country, Shorewood Realtors. He sold \$20M in 2008 but with the recession and more open spaces calling, in 2009 he and his family moved back to the hometown of Zionsville.

In recent years, Tim served as Adjunct Professor at the Art Institute of Indianapolis instructing college level courses of “Entrepreneurship” and “Principles of Marketing”. But more importantly his volunteer interests kicked into high gear. He chaired several positions in his childhood church, Salem Methodist, chaired a county-wide Methodist program for 10 years, the 100th anniversary for the Lebanon Children’s Home, joined the Zionsville Optimist Club being president for 4 years, board member of the Boone County Senior Salute and president of the ZAA since 2017.

Tim has donated not only his time but his many talents in marketing, design and organizational leadership pro bono making each group he’s been involved with to be much more effective and successful.

Tim’s altruistic efforts are not limited to the many community organizations but also he has been a steadfast volunteer in assisting several senior citizens in the area. Tim is the proud father of his adult son, Justin, and his teenage daughter, Rebecca.

Nominated and submitted by Bruce W. Gaylord, ZCHS “Class of 1972” and Dr. Jim Haines, ZCHS “Class of 1972” and 2014 Soaring Eagle Recipient.

# **LORI HYPES OVERDORF**

ZCHS CLASS OF 1973

EXCEPTIONAL ZCS STAFF MEMBER,  
CONVEYS SCHOOL SPIRIT, VOLUNTEER,  
ZAA CHARTER OFFICER



Lori Hypes Overdorf is recognized for her many outstanding qualities. She has contributed to the Zionsville community with her unselfish service and volunteer work. She epitomizes what the Soaring Eagle Award represents.

Lori was born in San Diego, California to Bill and Jean Hypes. Her family moved back to Zionsville when Lori was 5 months old. She is a life-long resident. Lori has two sisters, Lynn and Lisa, and a brother, Rick. Lori met her husband Greg during the blizzard of 1978. She and Greg have two beautiful children, Leann and Jared, and four grandchildren. Tragically, Greg Overdorf passed away and typical of Lori she never left his side. To her credit, Lori remained strong and independent and serves God and her community with empathy and compassion.

As stated earlier, Lori is a small-town girl with big-time accomplishments! She was a 12 year Senior at Zionsville Community Schools where she served as a Varsity Cheerleader and a class officer of the great class of 1973. Lori was engaged in many high school clubs and was a member of National Honor Society. Even though Lori was considered one of the “popular kids,” she always found time for the lonely students who needed a kind word, a smile and validation that they too mattered.

Lori worked for Zionsville Schools as an instructional assistant at Union Elementary for 5 years and then an Administrative Assistant at Eagle Elementary for 18 years. She carried her school spirit into her adulthood and actually to her job. She loved her job, the students and their families. They were family.

Lori works tirelessly at various humanitarian organizations. She volunteers at LoveINC of Boone County, an organization that provides food, clothing and furniture and many other items for those less fortunate. She also has been a mentor to a single mom that LoveINC has helped escape homelessness. Lori volunteers at Shalom House serving meals and providing lunches to kids during school vacations. She also has been a Habitat for Humanity volunteer on several occasions including a Women’s Build.

Lori is an active member and leader at Zionsville Christian Church, where she serves as a Deacon, Liturgist and works in the nursery as needed. She has been involved with Vacation Bible School and She is especially active in the work of the Disciples’ Women and has helped lead studies, prepare and serve meals, and is currently the Treasurer (for the umpteenth time).

As a charter board member of the Zionsville Alumni Association since 2005, Lori has helped organize the All Class Reunions and maintain communication with all members. She has also worked/or chaired the 4 or 5 1973 Class Reunions. Lori is such a giver and humanitarian soul. In summation, a fitting quote applies. From the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, the scarecrow is in a desperate search for a heart. The wise Wizard noted: “A heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others.” It is with great pride that the Soaring Eagle Award is bestowed upon Lori Overdorf for all that she has done to enrich the lives of others in Zionsville. Lori Overdorf, you are loved!

Nominated by Bonnie Klingler, “Class of 1959”, Mary Grabianowski, “Class of 1968” and Dana Sue Wood Bacon, “Class of 1973”, all Soaring Eagle Recipients



# ***SCOTT ROBISON, PH.D.***

ZIONSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
SUPERINTENDENT 2006-2023



Dr. Scott Robison devoted nearly four decades of his life to public education. His retirement as Superintendent was effective February 1, 2023 after 17 years at ZCS (Zionsville Community Schools).

Born in New Albany, Indiana in 1958, Scott Robison was the third of four boys raised in a blue collar neighborhood adjacent to the housing projects. Neither of his parents

graduated from high school, but taught work ethic and personal responsibility. All boys graduated from high school and attended college, with three achieving multiple advanced degrees.

Starting as a teacher in New Albany, Robison and 150 others were released and rehired in a two-year span due to financial crisis. This uncertain employment sent him to work as a university alumni director in the IU system at Indianapolis. He re-entered the K-12 public education, teaching and becoming a principal in MSD Pike Township and then Southwest Allen County Schools in Fort Wayne. He served as chief financial officer, curriculum director and superintendent in Westfield Washington Schools. Robison then served as superintendent of the Sheridan Community Schools Robison prior to joining ZCS in 2006.

Named Educator of the Year in 2022 by the Indiana School Boards Association, Robison was recognized for his academic excellence, financial stewardship and attention to personal relationships. Dr. Robison also received the Governor's prestigious "Sagamore of the Wabash" recognition presented during his retirement reception. The "Sagamore of the Wabash" is the Governor's highest honor bestowed upon Hoosier citizens. The award is a personal tribute to those who have rendered distinguished service to the State of Indiana through their wisdom, public commitment and concern for the wellbeing of others.

As a leader, Scott worked hard to serve our youth during times of dynamic challenges. he and the ZCS team had to navigate property tax reform, passing operating referenda, the Great Recession, COVID, redistricting, expanding mental health support and school safety standards, adopting new calendars, and explosive enrollment growth which saw the addition of ZWest Elementary School, Boone Meadow Elementary, Trailside Elementary and multiple expansions of ZCHS (Zionsville Community High School).

Three highlights stand out in Dr. Robison's accomplishments. They are:

## **GROWTH**

During Robison's tenure from 2006 to 2023, Zionsville's population more than doubled from 12,800 to more than 31,000. ZCS had under 3,000 students in 2006 and more than 8,400 in 2023.

## **COVID-19**

In 2020-21, no one could see what was coming with the onset of Covid. Somehow Robison and the ZCS team steered through those enormous challenges with exemplary leadership.

## **HUMANITY**

Under Robison's leadership at ZCS he instilled one of the most important lessons of life with three simple words- "Everyone Belongs Here" supporting dignity, humanity, and inclusion for all.

In retirement, Scott plans to spend time with his wife, a Westfield Washington Schools teacher, help in her classroom, volunteer, write, and travel the U.S. in his new Airstream. The Robisons have three children.

Nominated by Tim Ottinger, ZCHS, "Class of 1972" and current President of the Zionsville Alumni Association.