



Blue Pride Fund

NEWSLETTER

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Blue Pride Fund

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Blue Pride Fund Board (L-R): Cindy Westin, Tammy Berglund, Denise Morgan
 Back: Judy Krebsbach, Mike Ralston, Kathy Seppala, John Kramer, Deb Bartoletti,
 Mike Voss, Jennifer Bonner

Letter From The Chair

One of my favorite comedians is Bob Hope. I have admired Bob Hope not only for his comic style, but also for his big heart. He traveled countless miles over the years to bring joy and laughter to American troops, no matter where they were stationed. He always closed his performances with his theme song, *Thanks for the Memories*, and he was, in effect, thanking his audiences for allowing him the pleasure of performing for them.

As I approach the last few weeks as Chairman of the Blue Pride Fund, I would be remiss if I didn't take the time to thank you, the donors, for your support of the Blue Pride Fund. In supporting the Blue Pride Fund, you have also supported the efforts of the voluntary board members since its inception. Your donations have made it possible for us to support the arts and sports of our Virginia High School.

The Blue Pride Fund is grateful for every dollar donated to our organization. We handle every dollar in an honest and ethical manner. Your donations are well spent. The future of the Blue Pride Fund will continue for years to come with the dedication and support of our donors – YOU – and I thank you!!

To carry out our mission statement, the Blue Pride Fund concentrates on (1) raising endowment funds; (2) managing endowment funds; and (3) granting endowment funds.

The work of raising endowment funds never ceases. That work involves focusing on gifts and bequests for endowment purposes to support the VHS arts and sports organizations for now and into the future. We have not reached our goal yet – we still need your support.

I feel we are making a difference in the lives of VHS students and the programs that have received grants in the past. There is nothing better than helping children and young adults grow through their chosen extracurricular activities.

It has been a privilege to be involved with the Blue Pride Fund for 6 years. I appreciate what each of you give through donations or volunteer time to enhance the lives of our Virginia High School students. It has been a wonderful experience. Thanks for the memories.

Always a Blue Devil – **Jennifer Bonner**

Remember When?

The 1957 Blue Devil hockey team began strong in the tournament by holding the Hibbing Bluejackets for two periods by a 2-1 score, but lost by allowing four goals in the final period. The 5-2 loss dropped the Devils out of first-round play in the District 27-28 tournament.

The Devils initiated the season with three shut-out losses to powerful teams from Greenway, Duluth East and Duluth Denfeld. The Devils traveled to Grand Rapids where the Indians won a heart-breaker by a 3-2 score. The blue and white "pucksters" then played four straight games on home ice, tying one and losing three. The 1-1 tie with Ely was the result of a last-minute shot by defenseman Lee Salmi. The Blue Devils then lost to league-leader International Falls 10-1 and to Runner-up Eveleth 5-2.

In the later stages of the season, the Blue Devils ran into hard luck, losing to Grand Rapids on a "fluke" goal which was kicked in by Virginia defenseman for a 4-3 defeat. The Devils snapped their losing streak, downing the Ely Timberwolves by a 5-1 margin. Wing Rodney Politano netted a "hat trick" in the game.

Backbone of the team, Captain Peter Johnson, gave a tremendous performance defending the nets all season. Steve

Hunter supported Johnson's credibility when Pete was out of the lineup with an early season injury.

The Devil's first line consisted of Don Niininen and Rodney Politano at the wings; Bill Pepelnjak at center; Frank Chiaverini, Lee Salmi and Vince Papone alternating the defensive positions. Rounding out the

rest of the squad were spares Dick Fossum, Larry Falkowski, Dale Santelli, Jack LaBarre and Gary Miller.

The blue and white skaters finished the season with a one-win, one-tie, thirteen-loss record. Returning to the 1957-58 team will be ten lettermen including eight juniors and two sophomores.



FRONT ROW, KNEELING: B. Maki, W. Pepelnjak, S. Hunter, P. Johnson, R. Politano, R. Fossum. SECOND ROW: W. Lahti, D. Niininen, D. Koski, B. Hamilton, C. Alto. THIRD ROW: S. Pepelnjak, F. Chiaverini, D. Santelli, G. Miller, T. Carey, V. Papone, L. Salmi, J. LaBarre, L. Falkowski, Mr. Knoll.

Spring 2006 Grants

- \$ 2000 – Stock Field scoreboard
- \$ 1000 – Cheerleading support
- \$ 750 – Weight room supervision support

THANKS TO YOU
\$3750 was granted
this past spring!

Mission Statement

The mission of the Blue Pride Fund is to maintain and support cocurricular activities, as defined by the Minnesota State High School League, at the Virginia School District.



Leading the cheers for 1966-67 year were from left kneeling: Sophomores Mary Hahne and Gayle Staver, sitting: Seniors Lucy Vonderhaar and Carol Seppi, standing: Juniors Sandy LoPresti and Bonnie Slade.

Leaders of the Yell!

This year's sextet of good tidings, the cheerleaders, led the Blue Devils through a year of victory in football, hockey, and basketball, as well as providing entertainment at various pep assemblies during the year.

The cheerleaders did their job well, through victory and loss. Cold hands and feet, long bus trips and, occasionally, lack of support did not deter them.



FRONT ROW, J. Baumgartner, L. Andrezejczyk, K. Joelson. ROW 2: M. Pineo, B. Graham, M. Harrington, D. Pauknar. ROW 3: D. Risku, L. Halunen, P. Benson, J. Maroste, J. Johnson.

Cheerleaders Battle Lack of Spirit

Virginia is earning the distinction of having outstanding cheerleaders. This honor, however, has not come easily. The twelve varsity cheerleaders attended many early morning sessions during the summer months.

So even though cheerleading may sometimes seem like just fun and games, the girls work hard to win the battle over the school's lack of spirit.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE VIRGINIA BLUE PRIDE FUND

THANK YOU DONORS!!! The Blue Pride Fund appreciates every gift. Large or small, these gifts are vital to the cocurricular activities that are offered by the Virginia High School. The Blue Pride Fund gratefully acknowledges those who have donated.

Special Gifts

In honor of the Class of 1956 50th Reunion given by Bob & Linda Schibel

In honor of Eric Kishel & Karen Adler - former VHS athletes given by Gene Kishel

In honor of their daughter, Jenny Lundin, and husband Mike and sons Jon and David, given by Peter & Colette Johnson

In honor of our 1955 class members given by the Class of 1955

2006 Memorials

Donations were given in memory of the following individuals:

Orval Bantz, Jr., Class of 1954, given by Colette & Peter Johnson

Harry Beulke given by Bob & Pat Krebsbach

Jan Anderson Kuehl, given by Peter & Colette Johnson

Lloyd Bird given by Todd & Wanda McGillivray

Thomas Boril, Class of 1956, given by Peter & Colette Johnson

Angelo Buccanero given by Dennis & Carole Hendricks

Alan R. Busse, Class of 1950, given by John & Beverly Busse

George Curry given by Lois Curry and Craig, Sue & Brian Stevens

Paul Engman given by Jeff Ralston

Roy E. Gordon given by James & Nancy Champion

Leslie Hamalainen, Class of 1944, given by Pat & Jim Hamalainen and Jennifer Rabideaux

Scott Harvey given by Richard & Nancy Harvey

Jack Hunter, Class of 1956, given by Peter & Colette Johnson

Ron Larsen given by Allen & Sandra Harris and John Horrigan & Marilyn

Lading

Linda Bislow Larson, Class of 1976, given by Ed & Barb Heikkila and Frank & Marilyn Bislow

Melita Leiviska given by her daughters, Georgene Tomazin, Eleanor Anshus & Shirley Wilson

Jessica Ann Lishinski given by Siiri Gilness, Katie Finc & Sara Ronkainen

Erik Marwik given by Jeff Ralston

Donna Henle Moomaw, Class of 1944, given by Gladys Micka Benton

Leah Norcia, Class of 1956, given by Peter & Colette Johnson

Elio Pietrini given by Barbara Arola

Carmella Sacchetti given by Americo Sacchetti

Elsa Shogren given by Bob & Marie Ralston, Raymond Ralston, Roger & Nancy Ralston, Mike & Nancy Ralston, and Mary Jo Ralston

Gunhild Larsen Smith given by Elizabeth Larsen Holmes

Tony Turk given by Bob & Kathy Rice

David Vack, Class of 1977, given by Kyle & Jenna Altobelli and Richard Peterson

White Level

Kyle & Jenna Altobelli

Cindy Babinski

Steven & Anne Badanjak

Frank & Deb Bartoletti

Gladys Micka Benton

Kerry & Ann Bidle

Frank & Marilyn Bislow

John & Beverly Busse

James & Nancy Champion

Wayne & Bernadine Christiansen

Hershel & Molly Cope

Joe & Nancy Dennie

Remo & Barbara Garni

Barb & Les Harkonen

Allen & Sandra Harris

Carol Hebl

Ed & Barb Heikkila

Dennis & Carole Hendricks

Elizabeth Larsen Holmes

John Horrigan & Marilyn Lading

Ilze Ibrahim

Judith K. Kauchick

Florence Konu

Bob & Pat Krebsbach

Mike & Judy Krebsbach

Dale & Kathy Krog

Lloyd & Betty Lofback

Roberta Margo

Ed McCall

El & Sharon Milbridge

Dr. Oscar W. Ness

Chuck & Linda Niskanen

John & Sue Pearsall

Richard Peterson

John Postudensek

Jeff Ralston

Donna Nelimark Reishus

Bob & Kathy Rice

Tim & Kathy Riordan

Americo Sacchetti

Bob & Linda Schibel

Dr. James Schweiger

Chad & Kathy Seppala

Kathy Thompson

Blue Level

Eleanor Anshus

Paul & Barbara Arola

Steve & Jennifer Bonner

Gary Cerkvenik & Kimberly Stokes

Class of 1955

Ted & Carol Dimberio

Katie Finc

Frank & Theresa Galaski

Siiri Gilness

Robert & Donna Haapala

Pat & Jim Hamalainen

Richard & Nancy Harvey

Marvin & Margaret Hill

Paul & Sally Johnson

Bud & Tammy Kishel

Gene Kishel

Shirley Edwards Knight

Louis Knoll

Kim & Sheryl Kochevar

Mike and Mary Madden

Todd & Wanda McGillivray

Jeff & Nancy Peterson

Kevin & Beth Pietrini

James & Polly Podpeskar

Jennifer Rabideaux

Sara Ronkainen

Bob & Margaret Roskoski

Mary Lou Roskoski

Karl & Mary Lou Sharp

Angela & David Sipila

Craig, Sue & Brian Stevens

Georgene Tomazin

Don & Karen Welander

Cindy & Keith Westin

Shirley Wilson

Blue Devil

Chris & Alyson Bialke

Alicia Cope & Brent Robinson

Lois Curry

Delores Verback Kepp

Joseph Kraker

Greg & Shirley Lenci

Mary Jo Ralston

Mike & Nancy Ralston

Raymond Ralston

Robert & Marie Ralston

Roger & Nancy Ralston

Blue Pride

Elizabeth Bonner

Ronald Jarvinen

Peter & Colette Johnson

Edward W. Remus

Wallace & Shirley Schoeb

Corporate Donations

Range Driver Training

Podpeskar Insurance Agency

Virginia Elks Club

Virginia Regional Medical Center

We apologize if we missed your donation. Please contact us with any corrections.

Blue Pride Fund

A Designated Fund of the Virginia Community Foundation

Mail this form with your tax-deductible contribution to:

Blue Pride Fund

P.O. Box 340 • Virginia, MN 55792

Levels of giving

	Individual	Corporate
White	Under \$100	Under \$1,000
Blue	\$100 - \$499	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Blue Devil	\$500 - \$999	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Blue Pride	Above \$1,000	Above \$10,000

I/We have enclosed a check to the Blue Pride Fund in the amount of \$ _____ (checks payable to Blue Pride Fund)

My/Our gift is in memory/honor: (please circle one) of: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

By designating your gift to the Blue Pride Fund, you assure that your contributions will be used only to benefit cocurricular activities of the Virginia School District.

Celebrate the Tradition

The VHS Choral Music Department invites you to Celebrate The Tradition at its December 17th concert. The tradition of choir alumni singing "Silent Night" with the VHS A Cappella and Varsity Choirs continues to be a much-anticipated highlight of this concert. With choir alumni joining the Massed Choir onstage to sing the finale, this concert tradition is celebrated annually. This year, the Choirs hope to have the most alumni ever participate in this special tradition. If you are a choir alum, be part of this exceptional event. Mark your calendars for this concert; you won't want to miss it!

Enjoy an afternoon of uplifting seasonal music with the VHS Choirs on December 17, 2:30 p.m., at the Goodman Auditorium. Come and Celebrate The Tradition!



Left to right: Willie Spelts (AD), Matt Babinski (Jr.), Alex Rozier (Jr.-Capt.), Jared Miettunen (Jr.), Tyler Hill (Jr.), Casey Hill (Jr.), Daniel Bidle (8th), Kerry Bidle (Coach)

tournaments at The Quarry at Giants Ridge® and The Wilderness at Fortune Bay as well as the Virginia Golf Course and their home invitational. The golf program also has a Booster Club that helps provide needed equipment and team clothing.

The girls' golf team won the East Range Conference Championship three out of the past four years and was the Section 7A Runner-up the past two years. With no seniors on the team the girls will be looking at competing for the Section 7A title this spring.

The boys' golf team is the two-time defending Section 7A Champion. In 2005 they finished fourth at state and improved to a third place state finish in 2006. The boys return all team members and hope to compete for their third consecutive Section Championship this season and another state tournament appearance. The boys have won the East Range Conference Championship the past five years. In 2006 the Blue Devils had three golfers named to the All-State Team: Junior Tyler Hill, Sophomore Casey Hill and 8th grader Daniel Bidle.

The current group of boys and girls are proud of their accomplishments and they are looking forward to continuing the great winning tradition of Blue Devils golf. All of the schedules, results, statistics and the VHS golf record book can be viewed on the golf websites on the Virginia Schools website. The boys' website (<http://www.virginia.k12.mn.us:16080/golf>) and girls' website (<http://www.virginia.k12.mn.us/girlsgolf>) are kept up to date with information, schedules, results and photos.

3rd Place in 2006 State Tournament

The Blue Devils golf program is rich in tradition dating back to the championship teams of the 1950s. Banners hang in the Virginia Golf Course Clubhouse honoring all of the championship teams and individuals who have participated in the state golf tournament.

Golf is very popular at VHS. Over 65 golfers in grades 7-12 have participated in the program in each of the past five years. The summer youth program remains strong and helps develop some very good junior golfers. The boys' and girls' varsity teams and the junior high teams play very competitive schedules. The Devils host

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