

Dear Sally,

I'm honored to be invited to the Class of 1974 picnic on July 25. I would love to attend but find that I may be out of town (not sure yet). If I don't go out of town I will stop down to the Town Park. Your class has done a terrific job with your information sheet and great website.

Here is a message for your class and Yes you may post this on the website:

Greetings to the Class of 1974. I hope that the past 30 years have been kind to all of you and that you have prospered in your education, marriages and life. I would love to see you at the picnic if I can make it.

I taught at Clarence for my entire secondary career, from 1956-1995. I thoroughly enjoyed it and I personally felt that the students of Clarence were as good as any in the Country.

In 1982 I started to coach and academic law team called the Mock Trial team. This became a terrific academic program that I stayed with from 1982-2000. The team prepared very difficult legal cases and competed against other schools in the courtrooms of Erie County Hall. Over the years the team won many championships and advanced twice to the NYS finals in Albany. In 1990 the Erie Co. Bar Association presented me with the highest award in the County, the Liberty Bell Award, for my work with the law teams. I was the only teacher to ever receive this award.

More important than that was the nearly 5000 students that I taught at Clarence during my 39 years. I was honored in my last two years In Who's Who In American Teachers. I hope that any former students in the Class of 74 will contact me at my above email address. After leaving Clarence in 1995 I taught young teachers at Buffalo State for five years. I still work with young teachers and will always in my heart be a teacher.

My wife and I still live in Clarence and I still pay close attention to details at the town and high school levels.

Best of Luck to everyone in the Class of 74.

William Shipengrover
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