



CONGRATULATIONS to our SIX National Merit Finalists! Carolyn Dillman, Eddie Easton, Emily Engel, Anna Festersen, Killian Green & Mila Herszbaum-Harding!



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

EAGLE NEWS
February 2021



Dear Supporter,

We hope you and your family are doing well! We know we join everyone around the country as we wish for warmer weather!

This month we mourned the passing of a Central great: Carolyn Orr, who taught business and typing at Central for 34 years. Carolyn was described as a 'teacher's teacher': she was always willing to help her colleagues and she organized the first Annual Teacher's Luncheon at Central. She was also instrumental in forming the Central High School Alumni Association in 1996. Our hearts go out to her family; she will be greatly missed!

We are officially immersed in event-planning mode, and are looking forward to our first ever virtual [Rock the Nest "Trivia Night"](#) on April 11th and Give Education Day on March 24th! Please mark your calendars to participate in these great events to benefit Central High School. We would love to see all our Eagles there!

There are numerous class reunions planned for 2021, and save the date invitations will be sent out in the coming months. If you have a reunion this year, make sure you [update your record](#) on our website so that your physical invitation will be mailed to the correct address. Especially for recent graduates, we often have parental addresses instead of graduate addresses.

Thank you for helping perpetuate 160 years - and counting - of tradition and excellence!

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle!

Michele Roberts

Michele Roberts

Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE: Virtual Rock the Nest "Trivia Night" 2021!



Save the Date for Rock the Nest 2021: Sunday, April 11th!

For the first time, our annual Rock the Nest "Trivia Night" Fundraiser for Central High School will be a virtual event! Eagles from all across the country can participate from the comfort of their own homes! Although things may look different this year, the fun and excitement of coming together to benefit Central High School will be exactly the same. So start rounding up your team of eight now: former classmates, neighbors, coworkers or really anyone who is just plain ole fun, add "watch Jeopardy!" to your to-do list, and get ready for an evening full of fun, prizes, dinner, and some "very special guests"... Our virtual Rock the Nest event will include the following:

- **A professionally-produced, high-quality virtual experience**
- **Emcee for the evening, Mike DiGiacomo, CHS 1991**
- **Virtual teams of eight** – You can still pick your teammates! And the cool part? They can be located anywhere in the country! You don't have to log in from the same location.
- **Catering right to your home** – Included in the ticket price is a voucher for local food delivery (Omaha Metro Area), or a GrubHub gift certificate!
- **Special Appearances and Performances**
- **Social Media Interaction** – Share selfies in your Central gear, or take pictures of your team as you're competing using the hashtag #RocktheNest2021! Your tweets and posts will be cast during the event!
- **[Online Silent Auction](#)**
 - Bidding Opens March 21 at 12 AM CST
 - Bidding Closes April 11 at 9 PM CST
- **Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Winners**

As always, proceeds from this event will go to support the needs of our students and staff at Central High School through scholarships, classroom grants, capital grant projects, and much more. Our community's commitment to protecting each other by social distancing doesn't mean we can't creatively show up for our students. Our mission remains the same: to support the current and future students of Central. Through your support, the Foundation can continue to honor the past, live successfully in the present, and plan for the future.

[Register Now!](#)

Virtual Rock the Nest "Trivia Night" Silent Auction!



For the first time, our annual Rock the Nest "Trivia Night" Fundraiser for Central High School will be a virtual event! Eagles from all across the country can participate from the comfort of their own homes! One way to participate, regardless of if you attend the virtual event or not, is by bidding in the silent auction!

Bidding opens March 21 at 12 AM CST and closes April 11 at 9 PM CST!

There are some great items to choose from including a 14K White Gold Amethyst Pendant from Borsheim's Fine Jewelry; a copy of 'Scoreless' signed by the late Gale Sayers, CHS 1961; a refurbished drafting desk from Central High School; Bose SoundLink Headphones; a vacation to Destin, FL; and more!

[Rock the Nest Silent Auction](#)

Help Establish The Dean and Susie Hokanson Scholarship Fund

To honor the recent passing of Dean Hokanson, CHS 1964, friends from the Class of 1964 have worked to establish a scholarship fund in Dean and his wife, Susie's, honor. "Dean was a classmate, teammate, and friend to many of us," recalls Sandy Friedman, CHS 1964. "Dean was a true example of the type of person whose values, loyalties, and work ethic were embedded in him in great part due to



what he learned during his time at Central High School."

To honor his memory, and the memory of his wife, Susie Scott Hokanson, CHS 1965, their classmates are working to fund a scholarship in their name. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior who exhibits the same hard work ethic shared by Dean and Susie.

Click the button below to make a memorial gift in Dean's honor that will go toward this scholarship fund. When you

make a memorial gift, a personalized card and acknowledgment is sent to their family. You will also receive a letter acknowledging your gift and the gift amount will appear on your donor acknowledgement for your records. All donations will be recognized in the CHSF annual report.

[Make a Memorial Gift](#)

SAVE THE DATE: Give Education Day 2021



The Central High School Foundation is partnering with Alumni Nations for the 1st annual Give Education Day on March 24th! This is an effort to help K-12 public schools across the country as the unprecedented challenges of this year continue.

"We are excited to be part of Give Education Day," said Michele Roberts. "This is a great way for not only our community to support Central High School, but also an avenue for others to help K-12 organizations, especially during these challenging times. After eight years of successfully participating in OmahaGives!, we were sad to see the program discontinued. We are looking forward to this new day of giving, and are excited for what the future holds."

Your donation on this day will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$75,000! Thanks to the generosity of alumni Mike and Susan Strauss Lebens, CHS 1970; David, CHS 1970, and Martha Slosburg!

Mark your calendars today for our annual online day of giving!

Announcing Our New Website!

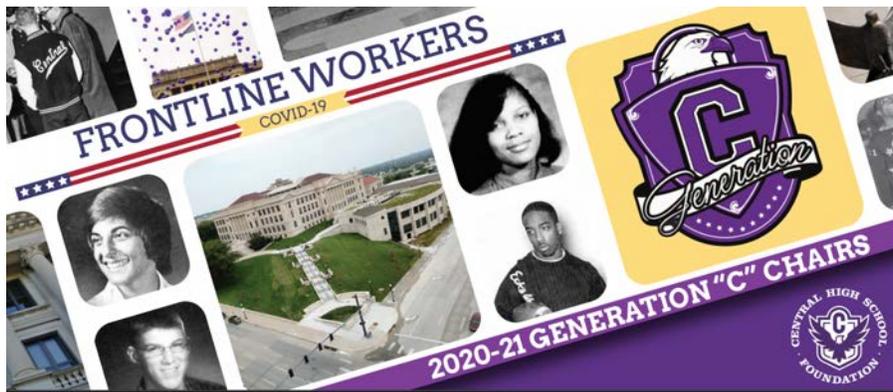


We are thrilled to launch our new Central High School Foundation website! Our home URL remains the same: www.chsfomaha.org. But our look is brand new!

This revamp not only offers our viewers an overall better experience through easy navigation, mobile-friendly interface, quick loading times, and pleasing imagery, but also tells the story of who we are more clearly.

Being able to enhance our website is a sign of growth; growth that would not be possible without your support. Stay tuned as we continue to discover new and innovative ways to act as a catalyst to continue the tradition of excellence for Central High School's past, present, and future. Make sure you never miss a CHSF Foundation update by bookmarking our URL!

Join Generation "C" Today!



As Central High School alumni and Frontline Workers during this pandemic, we are honored to be the 2020 Generation "C" membership co-chairs. During these challenging times, we know our work is crucial for protecting our community, and that the exceptional education we received at Central prepared us to make an impact. We also know that the exceptional education Central continues to provide will produce a new generation of health care workers, public safety officers, and community leaders ready to take on future challenges like COVID-19. We hope you consider joining Generation "C" today to support Central High School!

Dr. Jean Ogborn, CHS 1975

Dr. Angela Felton-Coleman, CHS 1989

Thomas Byrne, CHS 2004

Robert Wesley, CHS 2005

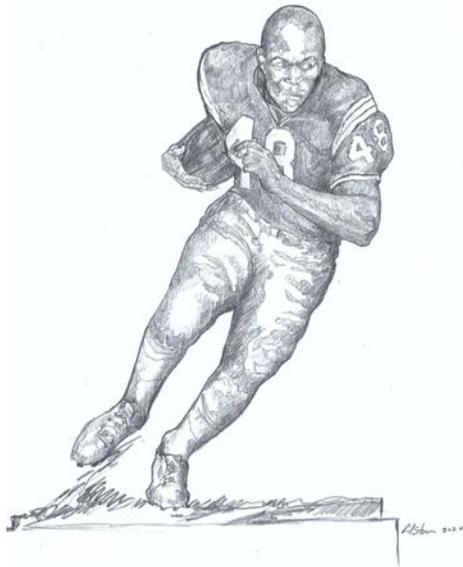
Generation "C" Chairs

[Click Here to Join Generation C!](#)

Gale Sayers Statue to Be Erected Outside CHS Football Stadium



A bronze statue of [Gale Sayers](#) will be unveiled outside Seeman Stadium at Central High School this fall. Gale Sayers (Class of 1961), a great Eagle athlete, friend of the



Central High School Foundation, and former Chicago Bears star passed away September 22, 2020. Gale is considered one of the greatest running backs in the history of the National Football League. He is the youngest person to ever be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame at age 34. "I Am Third," his autobiography which inspired the film "Brian's Song," was critically acclaimed. It told the story of his family, of the crippling knee injury that almost destroyed his career, and, most of all, it recalled the story of Gale's short but unforgettable friendship with Brian Piccolo. He was a member of the Central High School Hall of Fame, and was a proud supporter of Central High

School and the Central High School Foundation until the end of his life.

Littleton Alston, Eagle parent and owner of Alston Art Studio, has been selected as the sculptor to design and construct this bronze statue. The Victory Eagle will be forever soaring over one of Central's greatest athletes!

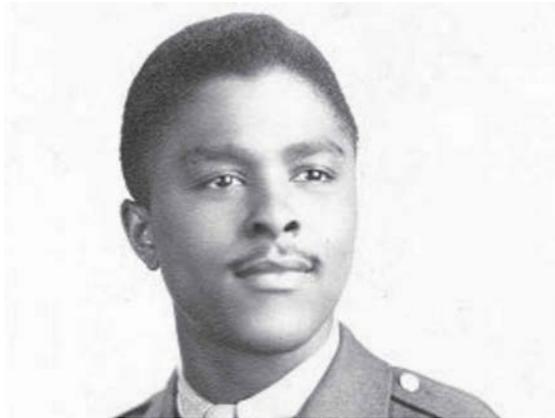
We need your help to make this memorial statue a reality! Make a memorial donation in Gale's name to assist in the erection of this monument. Thanks to three generous alumni, and the Class of 1961, your contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$85,000! Make a memorial donation by [clicking here](#). When you make a memorial gift, a personalized card and acknowledgment is sent to his family. You will also receive a letter acknowledging your gift and the gift amount will appear on your donor acknowledgement for your records. All donations will be recognized in the CHSF annual report.

[Make a Memorial Gift](#)

Robert Holts, CHS Hall of Fame Inductee and Tuskegee Airmen, Passes Away



Image Above: U.S. Rep. Don Bacon presents Robert Holts with an American flag during a Salute to Veterans Dinner in November 2018. Photo by the *Papillion Times*. **Image to the Left:** Robert Holts' Airman photo from 1949.



Robert Holts, Class of 1946 and the last surviving Nebraska Tuskegee Airman, passed away

this month at the age of 96. He was a true Eagle Hero, as characterized in his CHS Hall of Fame bio:

"Holts helped pave the way for the integration of the U.S. armed services by serving with the famed Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. As the product of an integrated high school, Holts was surprised to find when he enlisted in the Army in 1942 that white and black soldiers were segregated. While most black soldiers served in non-combat support roles, Holt was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group and 447th Bombardment Group in Tuskegee, Alabama, the first African-American fighting air squadrons. He passed the qualifying exam and was admitted into aviation training. As Holts later put it, he eventually "washed out" of the rigorous training program. But he would remain with the Tuskegee Airmen in a support role, serving as a draftsman under legendary Tuskegee commander Benjamin O. Davis. The valor and performance of the Tuskegee airmen helped shoot down claims blacks were not fit for combat, within a decade leading to full integration of all U.S. armed services. After the war, Holts served as a postal worker in Detroit before retiring in Omaha."

Zero Hour MasterClass Series: Omaha History with Jay Landstrom

The Central High School Foundation Presents
ZERO HOUR: MASTERCLASS SERIES

Omaha History
Taught By: Jay Landstrom
CHS Social Studies Teacher

Saturday, March 20, 2021
10 AM - 11 AM CST

Sign up for the Zero Hour MasterClass by registering below!

Do you remember trying to squeeze an extra class into your schedule when you were a student at Central? And the only hour you had available was Zero Hour? Well, even after graduation, Zero Hour is still available for you to fill with fun, unique “extra-curricular” learning!

Join us for our new Zero Hour MasterClass Series!

Our upcoming ZeroHour Class is titled “Omaha History” and will be taught by Jay Landstrom, a Social Studies teacher at Central High School.

Saturday, March 20, 2021

10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. CST

Ticket: \$5.00

Location: Online (Zoom)

[Register Now!](#)

Join the 1859 Society Today



What is Your Legacy?

Named for the year of Central's founding, the 1859 Society honors donors who have included The Central High School Foundation in their estate plans. By arranging for such deferred gifts, alumni, parents and friends of CHS play a vital role in securing the future of Omaha's oldest educational institution. Combining financial planning, estate planning, and tax planning techniques, planned giving enables donors to make gifts of significance often with tax and financial rewards. If you're interested in joining the 1859 Society and making a planned gift, contact Michele Roberts at the CHSF Office at 402-556-1996 or michele@chsfomaha.org.

[Click Here for the 1859 Society Brochure](#)

2011 Grad Helps to Protect U.S. Capitol During Presidential Inauguration



Matt Vondrasek, CHS 2011, worked as an intelligence manager with the Nebraska Air Force National Guard at the U.S. Capitol during the Presidential Inauguration last month. He said the highlight of the trip was interacting with enthusiastic and grateful members of Congress, such as Senator Mitt Romney and Senator Bernie Sanders (pictured).

Thank you to Matt -- and all of our Eagle

military servicemen and women -- for your commitment to our country! That's the Eagle way! 🇺🇸

[Share Your Memories From Your Time at Central!](#)



Did you know that the Central High School Foundation collects the memories of our alumni to paint a full, bright picture of life at Central for future generations? In fact, you can read all of the memories others have submitted on our [website](#)!

We would love to hear from you!

Submit your memory to the Central High School Foundation!
You can also share photos of your time at Central, which will be entered into our archives!

[Click Here to Submit Your Memory](#)

2020 Class Reunion Schedule



Class of 1976's 40th Reunion (2017)

Many of our reunions have been postponed or cancelled for 2020. Please look below for an update and a person of contact for your reunion. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Central High School Foundation. In the meantime, please click here to watch one of our [Affinity Reunions](#)!

Class of 1950

No reunion

Class of 1955

No reunion

Class of 1960

RESCHEDULED – October 22-23, 2021

Steve and Judie Olson, JoAnn Kratky

402-333-4080 (JoAnn)

solson@fraserstryker.com

Class of 1965

CANCELLED

Gary Green

www.central65.org

402-681-6336

GaryGreenCHS@gmail.com

Class of 1966

POSTPONED UNTIL 2022

Cindy Hadsell

402-312-4929

Class of 1970

RESCHEDULED – Friday, July 30 – Saturday, July 31, 2021

Cheryl Marks Willis and Karen Smith Buckley

402-493-1373

cgwillis@cox.net

[Join the 1970 Facebook Group](#)

[View Complete Schedule](#)

Class of 1971

October 8-9, 2021

Linda Niebauer, Danny Slosburg, Denny Brown

303-909-8227 (Linda)

linda.niebauer@cuanschultz.edu

[Join the 1971 Facebook Group](#)

Check out Omaha Central Class of '71 [website](#) (under construction)

Class of 1976

Dates: July 2-4, 2021

Details TBD

Ken Gruber

402-305-3053

Kennyg402@aol.com

Class of 1980 & 1981 Combined Reunion

August 27-28, 2021

Grant Gier (1980) ggier@comcast.net (847) 772-0069

J. Scott Barker (1981) sbarker@episcopal-ne.org (402) 830-5240

[Join the 1980 Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1985

POSTPONED – Will be Rescheduled for Fall 2021

[LaConda Scott McKinney](#)

402-517-7138

[Take the reunion survey.](#)

Class of 1990

POSTPONED – Will be Rescheduled in 2021

[Ben Rouch](#)

402-598-2669

[Join the 1990 Facebook Group](#)

Class of 1991

Date TBD

[Mike DiGiacomo](#)

Class of 1995

CANCELLED

Class of 2000

CANCELLED

[Jonathan “Jono” Croskey](#)

402-598-4498

Class of 2005

CANCELLED

Michael Smith

402-979-0068

Class of 2006

Date: TBD

Jim Hubbard

james.d.hubbard@gmail.com

Class of 2010

RESCHEDULED

September 2021

[Sierra Hogan](#)

402-740-0379

2010centralhigh@gmail.com

Class of 2015

No reunion

If you are the reunion organizer for your class and would like to look at postponing or cancelling it, please contact Erika Buffington at events@chsfomaha.org or call 402-556-1996. If you would like to host a virtual class reunion, check out our [online guide](#) and reach out to us with any questions!

Support CHSF While You Shop!

Support Central High School Foundation.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com

amazon
smile

If you're buying Back to School supplies or books on Amazon, make sure you click on the link below first! We have partnered with AmazonSmile so that you can support the Central High School Foundation while you shop.

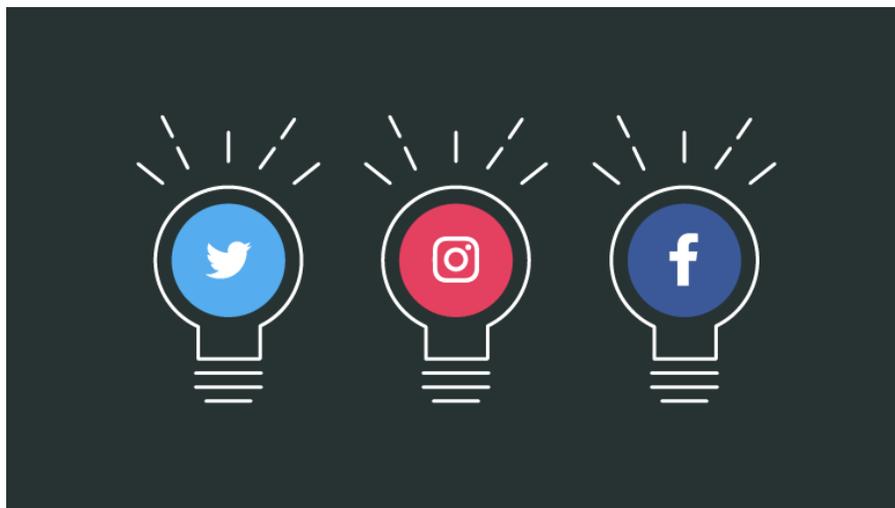
AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the Central High School Foundation! Click below to get started shopping.



Hy-Vee, is now on TAGG! More specifically, all 17 stores in Omaha, Council Bluffs, Fremont and Plattsmouth will happily donate 1% of your purchases to the Central High School Foundation when you scan a picture of your whole receipt on the free Together A Greater Good mobile app. Exclusions include gift cards, postage, pharmacy, money orders, prepaid debit cards, lottery and money transfers

The Central High School Foundation has partnered with TAGG (Together A Greater Good) to provide an easy and free way to support the Foundation. The app, available on [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices, is free to download and easy to set up.

Follow and Like Us on Social Media!



Are you on [Facebook](#)? How about [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)? Follow and Like us across the social media platforms to stay connected to other Central alumni, staff, parents and

supporters, all while receiving the latest news. As we hit fan milestones on each platform we will be giving out great prizes! Keep an eye out!

Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partner



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