



**Rose Marie (Boone) Bond** graduated from St. Philip in **1956**. She attended St. Philip School all twelve years. She was nominated by classmate, Marie (Grevers) Bagwell who shared, *“This gal has given her life for the care and comfort of others. She is modest in all that she does and has served for decades as a quiet volunteer for St. Philip and our community. She remains modest about her accomplishments and the impact of her volunteerism.”*

Rose Marie is a lifelong Battle Creek resident, with the exception of a few years living in Wisconsin. Rose Marie decided to pursue her college education while her own children were in junior high school. She received her Associates Degree in Computer Processing from Kellogg Community College. She worked for attorney and classmate, Tony Calderone and then went on to work at the Kellogg Community College Library in purchasing.

Rose Marie’s involvement in St. Philip Parish and School has had lasting impact. As a member of the Council of Catholic Women, she has served as treasurer and president. She has volunteered countless hours for many activities and events sponsored by St. Philip Church. Her early volunteerism began at Leila Hospital with the auxiliary gift shop. She was an active volunteer at Community Inclusive Recreation and continues her volunteerism with the Marian E. Burch Adult Day Care Program where she was honored as an outstanding volunteer.

Rose Marie and her husband, David, have been married 52 years. They have three children and three grandchildren.



**Dennis Cripps, Class of 1963** was nominated by fellow classmate, Jim Palmer. Jim expressed, *“Denny has enjoyed an outstanding 30-year military career as a decorated veteran. Denny served his country honorably in a hostile war environment. He was rewarded with advanced honors achieving the rank of Colonel.”*

During high school Dennis lettered three years in football and four years in track. He excelled in athletics, winning the conference mile run, the city 880 run and the state champion mile relay.

Dennis earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Business and Food Distribution from Western Michigan University and his Master’s Degree in Marketing from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island.

Colonel Cripps is an experienced military leader. He is a former Aviation Brigade Commander in the United States Army. He has extensive flying experience and was a combat helicopter pilot during the war in Vietnam. He commanded at the brigade, battalion and company level. He was Deputy Commander (Support) and Chief of Staff of Fort Carson, Colorado. After his retirement from the Army, he served as Deputy County Administrator for Colorado’s largest county. Presently, Colonel Cripps is the managing partner of COXO Consulting LLC which provides consulting services regarding corporate and government leadership, management, policy and operations.

Denny's community involvement includes Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council; serving as past president. He is on the Boards of Directors for the Pikes Peak Behavioral Health Group, Pikes Peak Boy Scouts of America, Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Association of the United States Army, Air Force Academy Foundation and Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. Denny remains an avid daily runner, continuing to compete in long distance races.

Denny and his wife, Sherry, have one son, Douglas, and one grandson. He is joined tonight by his father, Donald, who will be turning 92 next February.



**Connie Cole-Burland** is from the **Class of 1974**. Connie was nominated by Mary Reilly who shared, *“Connie displays the utmost example of “community” in giving back to the families of Pennfield Schools. Her development of the “Pennfield Locker,” a place where needy students can get much needed clothing and supplies, epitomizes the spirit of St. Philip, service and consideration for others.”*

Connie earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Elementary Education from Michigan State University. She received the High GPA Award from Michigan State University and has served on the MSU Alumni Calhoun County Board since its inception. Connie recently retired after teaching at Pennfield Schools for thirty-four years. She received the Kellogg's Excellence in Education Award and was a nominee for the Disney's American Teacher Award.

Connie received the Battle Creek Enquirer George Award and the BC United Education Credit Union Bright Idea Award. She started the recycling program at Dunlap Schools and established a children's garden for students and residents, alike. Especially concerned with the homeless students at Pennfield Schools, Connie started a back-pack program and new school year free hair cut program for them. You will find Connie volunteering at the Food Bank, the Salvation Army bell-ringers, the St. Philip Sunday Supper, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Christmas Dinner and HandsOn Battle Creek where she received the Community Volunteer Award.

Connie's three children, Cole, Abby and Clay graduated from St. Philip. She and her husband, Doug, reside in Battle Creek. She is a lifetime member of St. Philip Church.



**Jim Rutherford** graduated with the **Class of 1981**. He was nominated by Todd Greenman, also a 1981 graduate. Todd expressed, *“Jim and I have been classmates and friends for over thirty years and I have the utmost respect for him. He has served the Catholic schools, Battle Creek and Calhoun County in various capacities. Jim has excelled in his career, community and personal life and has represented St. Philip well as an outstanding alumnus.”*

Jim received his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Olivet College and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University.

Jim is currently the Director of the Calhoun County Health Department. Within that capacity, Jim served on the Central Command Team that successfully coordinated the response to the 2010 Enbridge oil spill in Calhoun County. Prior to this position, Jim was the Deputy Health Officer and Environmental Health Bureau Director with the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Service Department. He was previously affiliated with the Barry-Eaton District Health Department.

Jim's service to the community includes Rotary Club of Battle Creek, Regional Health Alliance, Board Member for Community Inclusive Recreation and Nursing Center. He is past president of the Michigan Association of Local Public Health Administrators. His support and involvement in the Catholic schools includes: former school board member, volunteer coach, Junior Achievement instructor and Boy Scout leader.

Jim and his wife, Lisa, have three children who attend St. Joseph and St. Philip Schools. They are the third generation members of the Rutherford family in our Catholic schools.



**John Wagner** graduated with the **Class of 1987**. John was nominated by Mary (Hunt) Rabbitt, Class of 1974, who shared, *“I was a new staff member when John was a junior in high school. He excelled academically and athletically. He was well-rounded and well-liked. He continues to excel throughout his career with the military. I am so proud to see what he has achieved and feel he is so deserving of this distinction.”*

While in high school, John was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Government, Diocesan Student Council, and a member of the Varsity Football Team for 3 years, including the state championship team as team captain.

John received his Bachelor of Science in Astronautical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he also played football. He has achieved multiple advanced degrees including: Master of Arts in Business Administration, University of Maryland-Europe, Master of Science in Astronautical Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology, Master of Military Operational Arts and Science, Master of Airpower Arts and Science, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy. He is a Distinguished Graduate from the National War College, Washington DC College.

John was promoted to Colonel, U.S.A.F. in September. Currently, he is the Director for Political-Military Affairs, Iran, Deputy Directorate Middle East, Joint Staff Strategic Plans and Policy, the Pentagon, Washington D.C.. John's military experience and service is extensive, as well as distinguished.

Having lived in a variety of regions, John has been an active member of many of Catholic churches. His volunteerism includes CCD instructor, coach for youth baseball, soccer, and basketball. He is active in Habitat for Humanity housing construction in Colorado, Alabama, and Florida and was a volunteer in the soup kitchens in Colorado Springs, CO, and Merritt Island, FL.

John and his wife, Jennifer, have two sons, Jeffrey and Jacob.



**Katie Nelson** graduated from the **Class of 1999**. She is the youngest alumni to be honored as a Distinguished Alumni. Katie was nominated by Pete and Lois Werner who expressed, *“Quite simply . . . Katie has distinguished herself in the community as a “doer” rather than a “spectator”. We respect her professionalism, her involvements, her morality, her sense of “outreach” to others, and her optimism. She is the essence of what Catholic schools hope/strive to graduate.”*

During high school, Katie was a member of the National Honor Society. She was the treasurer of her class her junior and senior years and treasurer of Student Senate her junior year. She earned Varsity letters in basketball and track. Katie graduated in the Top Ten of her class.

In 2003, Katie earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Archeology and History from the University of Evansville. During college, she was a resident assistant, a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Women’s Fraternity, Panhellenic Delegate for ZTA and a member of the Newman Club. She earned an Endorsement of Museum Studies from Michigan State University. She is a member of St. Joseph Parish.

Currently, Katie is a Community Representative for the American Cancer Society. She was previously collections manager at Kingman Museum, serving as board president of the Michigan Alliance for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage. Her volunteerism extends from serving on organizing committees for Making Strides for Breast Cancer, Relay for Life, Cereal Festival, Leila Palooza, BCAMS, Race for the Cure to chairperson for the Spooky Science Saturday at Kingman Museum. She was recognized as the Volunteer Administrator of the Year for the Volunteer Center.