

August 2026 GHS Museum Newsletter

Dear Friends,

As the summer days whirl by, we have much Foothiller news to share with you.

April 2026 A Dream Came True



April 10th A local news channel interviewed us about our astronauts.

Here's the link to the video broadcast.

<https://www.10news.com/news/local-news/east-county-news/grossmont-high-school-honors-astronaut-alumni-with-inspiring-campus-mural>



GHS Celebrates Its Three Historic Astronauts

Apollo 8 Astronaut Bill Anders, Class of 1951

In December 1968, Bill was lunar module pilot for Apollo 8. The three Apollo 8 astronauts were the first humans to leave Earth's orbit and go to the moon. During the flight, Bill took the iconic photo "Earthrise", the first color photo of Earth rising above the lunar horizon. "Earthrise" inspired humanity and became a symbol of the emerging environmental movement. It is one of the most famous photos ever taken in space.

Space Shuttle Astronaut Ellen Ochoa, Class of 1975

Ellen flew on four Space Shuttle Missions: flights STS-56 (Discovery in 1993) and STS-66 (Atlantis in 1994) and then two flights to the International Space Station STS-96 (Discovery in 1999) and STS-110 (Atlantis in 2002). Ellen logged nearly 1,000 hours in orbit. From 2013-2018, Ellen was the Director of the Johnson Space Center, the first Hispanic and the second woman. Ellen served for 30 years at NASA.

Space Shuttle Astronaut Rick Sturckow, Class of 1978

Rick flew on four space shuttle flights to the International Space Station. He was the pilot on STS-88 (Endeavor in 1999) and STS-105 (Discovery in 2001); and commander of STS-117 (Atlantis in 2007) and STS-128 (Discovery in 2009). Rick logged more than 1,200 hours in space. He has since flown six suborbital space flights with Virgin Galactic.

To learn more, visit the GHS Museum or foothillermuseum.com

(Our thanks to Ellen, Rick, and Bill Anders' family for their assistance with accuracy of the text of the bronze plaque.)

**The total cost of both the mural and the bronze plaque was
\$21,000.**

These generous donors made it possible:

Astronaut Mural: Jean Landis, Class of 1936 Estate; Barbara and John Buckton, Class of 1962; Dottie Emerson, Class of 1971, Shelby Miller, Retired GHS Principal Assistant; Jim Spackman, Class of 1958; Bill Ashman, Retired GHS Principal; Tom Bloomer, Class of 1967; Jim Stieringer, Class of 1959

Astronaut Bronze Plaque: Richard Hensle, Class of 1976 and Betty Jo Shaieb, Class of 1952 and Foothiller Mom

Women Air Force Service Pilots Mural

We continue to fundraise for the WASP mural to honor Jean Landis, Class of 1936, and Frances Coughlin, Class of 1938; we have raised \$9850 toward our goal of \$22,000.

To donate, please visit foothillermuseum.com and use the gold donate button or write a check payable to GHS Educational Foundation. (In the memo, write the project you are supporting) and mail to Connie and Lynn Baer, 5990 Avenorra Dr., La Mesa, CA 91942.



WASP Congressional Gold Medal (Jean's is on display in the Museum.)

Hall of Honor Ceremony April 18, 2026

Grossmont celebrated its distinguished 2025 Hall of Honor with each honoree or family receiving a commemorative plaque at the event.



Retired Science teacher Sue Emerson 1974-1996; retired physics teacher Tom Eklund 1974-2021, retired math teacher Sandy LaPlant 1970-2010; Kimberlin Brown, Class of 1979; Steve Martin, Class of 1988; Family of Joe Gizoni 1962-2005 Staff; Friend of Kendrick Bangs Kellogg, Class of 1953; Family of Eddie DeCoito 1969-2005 Staff; Family of Milton Silverman, Class of 1962; Family of Roberto Alvarez, Class of 1938

To read the text of their plaques and to see their photos, visit our website at foothillermuseum.com and the Hall of Honor pages or visit the museum to see their plaques in person.

Our thanks to Betty Jo Shaieb, Class of 1952 and Foothiller Mom, for funding the 24 Hall of Honor Plaques (2 for each honoree) and the programs



**Sue Emerson with Betty Jo Shaieb, Class of 1952,
and Dora and Dona Shaieb, Class of 1982**

Foothiller Staff We Have Lost

Jerry Lewis

1962-1992 Art Teacher

Jerry visited the second museum after our 101 st celebration in October 2021 and loved reliving his Foothiller memories and reconnecting with retirees such as Dick Plum.

In retirement, Jerry was a generous supporter of the Art Department; in recent years, he sponsored a \$1000 yearly scholarship for an outstanding art student. His wife plans to continue the scholarship in Jerry's memory.

<https://www.foothillermuseum.com/jerry-lewis>

Wayne Eddington

Tennis Coach 2003-2025

From 2003 until the fall of 2025, Wayne coached tennis in various positions. In the Fall of 2025, he assisted Hillary with the girls tennis teams. He had two stints with the boys, broken up by health issues.

Wayne was first head coach for boys in 2013. He started back volunteering to assist with the boys around 2015 and became head coach again when Paul Hedberg retired.

Wayne brought laughter and love to so many, and he was a true light in the darkness when many of us were struggling.

<https://www.foothillermuseum.com/wayne-eddington>

Mike Roach

GHS Counselor 1972-1999

Mike's passing was greeted with sadness by his colleagues, several who became lifelong friends, as well as his students.

One student shared that "Mike was a wonderful listener who never seemed rushed; his door was always open. He was a humble guy who loved working with students, his peers and at GHS Counseling. He spoke quietly and with intention."

<https://www.foothillermuseum.com/mike-roach>

Visit our website's alumni pages for more staff and alumni remembrances at [foothillermuseum.com](https://www.foothillermuseum.com). Please share any updates that you have with us.

4th Annual ALS Walk for Coach Baer

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026

As many of you know, our father Marlin Baer died of ALS in 1987. In 1983, he retired after teaching and coaching for 40 years. From 1956-1983, he taught at his beloved Grossmont High school, a teaching legacy that continues today with his grandchildren who are teachers, two teaching now at GHS and one teaching at Monte Vista HS.

After retirement, Dad continued to go to track and field practice at GHS as long as he could to guide the shot and discus throwers. One of his throwers shared with us that "Coach Baer was the first person to give me the support and self confidence that would give me the emotional strength and maturity to excel and achieve what I did in my life." His athletes and students remember him as their coach, mentor, and friend.

We invite you to join us in supporting our team with a donation.

<http://web.alsa.org/goto/baer>

Note: If you prefer, you may write a check payable to ALS San Diego Chapter and mail it to our home: Connie and Lynn Baer, 5990 Avenorra Dr., La Mesa, 91944. We will drop it off the day of the walk.

WHY WE WALK

Every 90 minutes a person in this country is diagnosed with ALS and every 90 minutes another person will lose their battle against this disease. ALS occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries.



2025 Walk for Coach Baer

2026 Summer Reunions



July 19th, the Class of 1986 as part of their 40th Reunion, visited the Museum and paused on their campus tour to celebrate their Foothiller heritage. In the background is the 31 classroom Humanities Building (English and World Language).

Upcoming Reunions

For more information, visit the Reunion pages on our website at foothillermuseum.com.

Class of 1956: 70th Reunion October 10th

Joint reunion with El Cajon Valley HS Class of 1956.

After visiting the museum from 11-1, meet at Pernicanos in El Cajon. It's free.

Class of 1966: 60th Reunion October 10th

Visit the museum from 10-1. Then 2-5 at the Elks Club. Deposit due by September 4th.

Contact lindamonaghan@sbcglobal.net or 209-470-9155

Class of 1971: 55th Reunion September 20th

Contact jenifermendel53@gmail.com.

Visit the Museum Saturday, September 19th 10-1.

Class of 1976: 50th Reunion October 22nd

Website <https://grossmontclassof76.com>

Visit the Museum from 10-12 on Saturday, October 24th.

Summer and Fall 2026 GHS Museum Hours

From 10-1 Saturdays for All: August 15th, September 19th (Class of 1971 Reunion), October 10th (Classes of 1956 and 1966), October 24th (Class of 1976), and November 21st
OR Fridays by prior appointment when school is in session;
email or call to schedule an appointment:
ghsmuseum@guhsd.net or 619-668-6140
Check our website for updates at foothillermuseum.com



Jackson Naah, Class of 2028, frequently visits the Museum.
Jackson plays his banjo on Fridays at the La Mesa Farmers' Market.



Class of 1959 Alumni Kitty Gregg Kope, Nancy Berg Lamb, Sue Cosby Kaplan, and Marti Ballance Guarin have been getting together yearly since 1987. They stand in front of the 2 drawings of GHS they inspired Artist Bob Happ to create for Grossmont High School.

Final Thoughts

Thank you, Bill Hoffman, Class of 1964

In the spring, Bill surprised us with a wonderful tribute to the museum. He wrote and recorded two versions, a Pop and a Country Western style, of a song about the GHS Museum: "Hymn to Connie and Lynn and the Grossmont Museum." You can read the complete text of the song and listen to the two versions on our website home page at foothillermuseum.com. Prepare yourselves for a good time! Here's how it begins....

"It started as a whim by Connie and Lynn
Connie and Lynn created the Grossmont Museum
2008 was the opening date
A little spare space in the math storage place
As donations came in, it became very clear
They needed more space to put all the cool gear..."

Remembering Our Dear Sister Diane Baer!



Diane on her bench outside the second museum.

After a year of intermittent and increasing health challenges, Diane died May 22nd. Despite not being able to read and write due to being brain damaged at birth, Diane was the greatest teacher in a family of many teachers.

Our parents moved to La Mesa in 1956 because the LMSV District was beginning a program for the mentally "retarded", as it was called then. She was a "trailblazer" in many ways. As Diane and her classmates aged, East County developed more programs. Diane attended the GUHSD Special Education program in the 1960s, part of the TMR and workshop programs. (Learn more about Diane by reading her obituary online on the SDUT.)

Diane was a remarkable person. She helped us at each of our three museum locations proudly wearing her official name tag each time. Alumnus Bill Woolman, Class of 1962, who got to know Diane at the museum, purchased a bench in her honor. Now outside the third museum, the bench captures Diane's spirit and her meaning to our family: "Our Precious Sister".

We hope to see you soon at the Museum.
Connie, Lynn, and our wonderful volunteer Jerry Botts