



Who Am I?

What year did I graduate? [1969](#)

Who did I go to the senior prom with? [Brenda Harris \(A friend from Houston\)](#)

What organizations did I belong to in high school? [BAND!!](#), [Stage Band!!](#), [Soul Band!!](#), and [Chess Club](#).

What grade was I in when this picture was taken? [12th Grade](#)

What state do I live in now? [Houston, Texas](#)

How many kids do I have now? [One Brilliant Son](#)

What is or was my occupation? [Fireworks Salesman](#), [Restaurant Manager](#), [Manufacturing Supervisor](#), [Information Technology Supervisor](#).

My closest friend/s in HS? [Dean Dyess](#), [Glenn Dyess](#), and [Wayne Preston](#)

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What have I been doing since high school?

Ok this will be boring because I have done nothing and gone nowhere since high school unlike all the other "Who Am I's" before me. But since this is my fifteen minutes of fame, here goes.

I went to the prom with a friend from Houston because the people I wanted to ask already had dates. sniff sniff I was still shy then. Ok enough of the sad stuff. I have had an absolutely wonderful life doing nothing! In the summer of 1966 my family moved to Channelview from Houston and I met the most fantastic group of people I have ever known in my life. It was such a blessing, moving out of Houston and into Channelview. EVERYONE in Channelview High School was wonderful. I could not have asked for a better place to grow up or go through high school. Thank you all so much!

I paid for my first year of college by selling fireworks, but let me back up a little first I sold fireworks for a few years beginning in high school. After a few "incidents" at school, Mr. Hervey announced over the intercom "Anyone caught with fireworks on campus will be expelled!!!" A beautiful blonde and sweet innocent angel sat in front of me in class when that announcement came over the loud speaker. Belinda Niemtschk carried my contraband out of school in her big black coat and literally saved my butt on that day. (Pops from Mr. Hervey or Mr. Cooper really hurt! I Know!) Thank you, Belinda. You were a life saver. I still appreciate it!

Ok on with the story... Confucius said "Chose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life" Well he was right! I never worked at a job I didn't love and it never felt like work. There was ONE job in high school, I worked two days at Abe's supermarket in Cloverleaf and quit. But since then, it has been a wonderful life and everyday has been fun.

I roomed with Homer Laird, David Hart and John Lee (the real dream team) my first year at University of Houston. The following summer I worked at the new Busch Gardens (remember that?) at the Budwiser plant on I-10. At the end of the summer, the food and beverage director at Busch Gardens liked my work and offered me an assistant manager position at the Pizza Inn he owned in Conroe. I took it and never went back to college.

I worked as assistant manager for a couple of years and then became a manager (had a blast the whole time). Moved around as a manager to different Pizza Inn stores in Houston (including Uvalde and Sheldon) and then to Lake Charles. The Pizza Inn I managed in Lake Charles put the Pizza Hut, directly across the street, out of business and we had fun doing it. Then I moved up to Managing the #1 Mexican Restaurant in Lake Charles. While there I met my future wife Mimi. We married in 1978 and moved to Dallas where I began my career as Cafeteria Manager for Furr's Cafeterias. While working for Furr's I managed to put my competition out of business. The Wyatt's Cafeteria right down the street closed down due to lack of business while we set records for growth.

Mimi and I were married for twenty-five years and went through twenty-five years of marriage/couples/individual counseling until we finally convinced them we shouldn't be married. It was a really a great learning experience. I can't recommend counseling enough. Learned so much! Ask me about it. But let me explain When I asked Mimi to marry me she said "No" and I said "Great! I wouldn't want you to say yes if you were not sure." We both agreed to continue dating to see where it went, but she made the mistake of telling her MOM that I had asked her and her MOM decided Mimi didn't know what she wanted and began making plans for the wedding. We were too young and dysfunctional at the time to stand up to her mother ... so we got married.

Ok back to work after many years of restaurant/cafeteria management, in 1990 I decided to change fields since we now had a new born and I wanted to be home more (restaurant management is VERY demanding). My management experience translated over to other fields and I found a management job with a small electronics firm in the oil and gas industry. I was the manufacturing supervisor and office computer guru and we built some of the first "Pump off Controllers" which allowed old oil wells to become profitable again. We also built some of the first "Remote Terminal Units" (RTUs) which allowed oil wells to be controlled by computer remotely. We sold hundreds to Venezuela and I visited Venezuela a few times on business to supervise assembly, training, and installation. (my only trips out of the country were all business!)

History

- 1.) I bought my first motorcycle (Honda 450) in 1974 when the first oil shortage hit. I was sitting in a gas line and a guy on a motorcycle drove up beside my car at the pump and handed him a quarter. The guy pumped twenty-five cents of gas in his tank and he drove off. The next week I went out and bought a motorcycle.
- 2.) I bought my first computer in 1978. A "TRASH-80" as it was called by us nerds. TRS-80 (Tandy Radio Shack - 80) I learned basic programming on it and have been a nerd ever since (Ok I probably was a nerd before then but I didn't know it.)
- 3.) Gave up riding my motorcycle after my son was born in 1990. (Didn't want to leave him fatherless but now he's grown... :-)

Since I was very well versed in computers I moved into the Information Technology field. I worked for Telxon, the company that makes hand scanners used at all the department stores for scanning everything from groceries to clothing. We also made the wireless tablets used by UPS and Fedex and many others (Telxon became Symbol and then became Motorola). I later worked for American Express in the Business Finance division here in Houston doing LAN/WAN/Server support along with user support until retirement in 2011.

In 2003 after twenty-five years of marriage and counseling, Mimi and I agreed with our marriage counselor, who said we were better friends than we were husband and wife. Our counselor said she had never in her life told another couple they were better off divorced and we were the first. We divorced amicably in 2004 and had learned so much along the way (like her mother should have been shot back in 1978!).

In 2007 Margaret and I rekindled a relationship from 1975. We worked together at Pizza Inn in Lake Charles in 1975 where I worked with her and all of her brothers and sister while they were attending McNeese University. Margaret has worked at University of Houston in accounting for the last thirty years. We both have a crazy sense of humor and both love music and both love to have fun. We are always ready for any Adventure.

In 2011 Margaret's daughter graduated from University of Texas and is now teaching and working on her masters in Austin. In 2012 my son Jared graduated 'Cum Laude' from University of Houston and now works at Memorial Herman Hospital in Social Media.

I retired in 2011 when all of a sudden my eyes crossed due to a very rare inoperable brain tumor in a very critical area of the brain. I actually got to be the subject of an MD Anderson medical conference discussing the best way to treat a tumor in these rare areas of the brain (my first fifteen minutes of fame). Anyway, after several months of study, MD Anderson performed their radiation magic and wow, here I am today. Eyes are almost good as new and tumor growth seems to be halted.

During my years at Channelview and following, I have met and worked with many wonderful people. I believe I can call all of them friends even though I haven't kept in touch with all of them. My friends at Channelview set the stage for a wonderful life ahead. I can honestly say I have had a very blessed life and have received many more blessings than I deserve, so I spend my spare time helping a couple of elderly people I met on opposite sides of town. One is ninety-two, has alzheimer and lives with his son and the other is eighty-eight and alone since her husband passed away last year. I'm putting my cooking skills to use and cooking for them, driving them places and sitting with them when needed. I call it my Driving Miss Daisy time!

Margaret and I are BIG MUSIC FANS and spend our time laughing and quizzing each other on songs. It's really hard to stump her on artist names or song titles. I can't wait until she retires so we can find more adventures to pursue!

Oh, I also played drums in high school. Who am I? I am Robbie Culpepper

Those who have been "Who Am I" people: Helen Dworsky, James Mason, Debbie Roberts, Glen Owens, Sandy Kluth, Stuart Hill, Belinda Niemtschk, Renwick Preston, Phyllis Stafford, Homer Laird, Pat Smith, Glen Brown, Jackie Carnathan, Kris Campbell, Charlene Clayton, Mike Garies, Jeannene Bowman, Hans Muller, Carla Peters, Linda Lindow, Jon Swain, Barbara Beavers, Randy Melton, Marilyn Thompson, Kenny McAfee, Marva Lorfing, Rocky Fondren, Debbie Campbell, Ronald Buchta, Cathy Seale, David Hart, Debbie James, James Tompkins, Linda Hall, Robert Taylor, Ann Robichaux, Robbie Culpepper.

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