



Who Am I?

What year did I graduate? **1969**

Who did I go to the senior prom with? **1970 Highlands graduate Mary Hemphill**

What organizations did I belong to in high school? **Annual Staff, Spanish Club, Football Team**

What grade was I in when this picture was taken? **8th grade**

What state do I live in now? **Covington, Louisiana**

How many kids do I have now? **Megan age 27, Robert age 26, Renee age 23, and one grandchild little Ava age 1**

What is or was my occupation? **Manufacturing Engineer**

My closest friend/s in HS? **Kenny McAfee '69, Ronnie Smelly '69, Lowell Everitt '69, and Glen Brown '69**

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What have I been doing since high school?

In the fall of 1969 I attended Lee College in Baytown, Texas and continued in the spring of 1970. During that period I ran the roads in my Goat (1966 Pontiac GTO) with my best friend, like a brother, Kenny McAfee. Those were the days you could drive around all night on two dollars worth of gas. Well our fun soon ended when Uncle Sam drew number seven as my draft number (draft birthday lottery). I decided Viet Nam was not the place for me so I made the choice to see the world and sail the seven seas. I would soon learn that I had made the correct decision.

In November of 1970 I was off to Orlando, FL. for Naval basic training, not so bad, even attended the Tangerine Football Bowl Game. Then it was off to school in San Diego, CA for four months Naval training. School and California were even better and I managed to graduate in the top of my class which must have caught some ones attention for I was the only one in my class with orders overseas. In June 1971 I reported aboard the USS Springfield CLG-7 Flag Ship of the Sixth Fleet stationed in Gaeta, Italy. Gaeta was located about an hour train ride from Rome. In the two years I was aboard the Springfield we made multiple swings/cruises to ports in Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Tunis, and Morocco not to mention various Islands in the Mediterranean. Boy did this sure beat wading thru rice patties and being shot at. One highlight was when President Richard M. Nixon came aboard to inspect the ship and I got a chance to meet Tricky Dick face to face. I ended this chapter of my life in Charleston, SC aboard a Sub-Tender.

In 1975 I moved to South Houston and began a career in manufacturing. I bought a home and also met my wife Hazel of thirty one years. We lived in Houston until 1980 then decided to move to Covington, LA to escape the rat race of the city. After moving to Covington we built our home and began our family. My wife and I celebrated our 30th year anniversary last year on a cruise to Alaska.

On August 29, 2005 we rode out Hurricane Katrina in our home. The eye of the storm passed within twenty-four miles of our home. It hit us with very hard winds and we lost over one hundred and twenty trees on our property. We did not experience very much damage to our home for I had sold all of the trees close to the house as pulp wood about ten years before. God gave us favor in that decision for all of the trees beyond the reach of our house came right up to us. The road and my driveway were blocked with trees for two weeks until a church group from central Louisiana came and cleared them for us. My rent house next door did not fair so well for it had three trees on top of it, good thing my son-in-law is a contractor. We remained without electricity for nineteen days, we took baths with pool water, and I cut downed trees for a year afterwards. I had bonfires larger than the one at our Channelview High School Homecoming.

I work at a manufacturing facility which supplies machined components to original equipment manufacturers throughout the United States. My current duties include manufacturing engineering, plant management, and sales engineering. Other duties include entertaining customer on the company fifty foot sailboat and guiding coastal fishing trips. If you have not guessed who I am by now maybe this will give you a hint. My boss's wife calls me Captain Ron Buchta. Signed Ronald Buchta

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
