

Tribute to the deceased -- WHS Class of 1960

In 1960 we thought we were immortal. We had varied gifts and weaknesses and a whole spectrum of attitudes about the future. But our minds were on college or jobs or marriage, success, independence and whatever version of "the good life" we subscribed to.

But life... and death... intruded, very quickly for some, much later for others. Disappointments, failure, illness, injuries, war, poverty, addiction, betrayal, crime, depression, divorce as well as all the positives in at least some measure.

Life changed us all. Some were prepared for the storms and had an anchor, some did not. Death took many and for some it seemed a tragedy but for others a triumph because they saw it as a return to the One who gave them both life and talents and for Whom they had labored despite their job title or role description.

We who remain can learn from these because we still have life, although we cannot count on any more than the next breath. What we do with the rest of our lives can make all the difference for us, and the world.

If you had asked the 1960 versions of ourselves about a philosophy of life, most would have blinked slowly and changed the subject. But today we cannot avoid the questions about the origin, meaning and destiny of our lives. Despite the shrill objections of academia, real science clearly shows us that the universe, life and especially human beings require a Creator. And if so, our task is clear, we must be seekers, who look beyond the superficial and temporal to the eternal and profound meaning of our lives.

Ross Olson