Forsyth-Monroe County Sports Hall Of Fame

Our Mission: To honor and promote sports excellence in Monroe County, Georgia.

2019 INDUCTION BANQUET



June 22, 2019 • 6:30 p.m. Monroe County Conference Center



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Forsyth-Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame, and all of the past inductees and those who will be inducted tonight, WELCOME to the Third Annual Induction Banquet of the Hall of Fame. We are honored that you are here, and we appreciate the support of all our sponsors, and the public. I want to give a personal THANK YOU to the Board of Directors of the Hall who have worked so hard to put this event together again this year. In addition to myself, the Board Members are: Mary Chambliss, Penny Pitts Mitchell, Gaylyn Cole, Herbert Gantt, Bob Harris, Richard Dumas, Keith Edge, Marcus Whitehead, Nolen Howard, and Jim Hardin.

The Board is proud to introduce our Class for 2019. They come from varied backgrounds, and have spread around the country now, but they all have one thing in common, and that is they have represented themselves and our community with excellence and we are proud to honor them all tonight. The members of the 2019 Class of the Hall of Fame are: Tra Battle, Lloyd Bohannon, Richard Chambliss, Harold Clarke, Jr., Geraldine Ham, Edgar Hatcher, Bobby Melton, and Jimmy Watts.

We are also pleased and excited to have players, coaches, cheerleaders, and a host of others associated with the Monroe Academy football program, as the Teams of the Year, the Mustangs of 1973 and 1974 SEAIS State Championship Football Teams.

We are also privileged to have two scholar athletes from Mary Persons High School celebrating with us tonight. They are Alex Kite and Macy Morris. We are proud of their athletic, scholastic, and community accomplishments and wish them all the best in the future.

The community of Forsyth and Monroe County has a rich sports tradition and our goal is to honor that tradition through the activities of the Hall of Fame. Again, thank you for your attendance tonight and we hope you enjoy the evening.

Erectin

Bobby Melton, Chairman, Forsyth-Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame, LLC

Master of Ceremonies

Trisamore Overlook.

Ed Grisamore teaches journalism at Stratford Academy in Macon, where he is advisor for The Gazebo, the school's student news site, and co-advisor for the yearbook, The

He is a Sunday columnist for The Macon Telegraph and was the recipient of the 2010 Will Rogers Humanitarian Award, presented by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists.

Grisamore is a native of Atlanta and graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia with a degree in journalism.

He began his newspaper career in the Telegraph sports department and named local columnist in June 1998. He was featured in the November 2005 issue of "Georgia Trend" magazine in a story called "A Way With Words." He retired from full-time newspaper duties in May 2015.

Grisamore is the author of nine books and has won more than 45 writing awards. In 2012, he was named "Georgia Author of the Year" in the Essays category. He is also a playwright and his audiobook, "Gris & That," was nominated for a Grammy in the "Spoken Word" category.

In 2008, he was inducted into the Macon Sports Hall of Fame for "contribution to sports" in the city. He has been involved in numerous community activities and belongs to the Macon Palaver Club. He is a member of Vineville United Methodist Church, where he is an usher and pre-school Sunday School teacher.

Ed and his wife, Delinda, have co-authored three sons - Ed, Grant and Jake. They have three grandchildren -- Grayson Brewer Grisamore, Sterling Gray Grisamore and Genevieve Pope "Ginny Pope" Grisamore.



Tra Battle



A three-sport athlete (football, basketball, and track) at Mary Persons, Battle was the Bulldog defensive MVP as junior and senior, and All Middle Georgia after his senior season at MP. Initially a walk on at the University of Georgia, Battle left there with an Ironman Award, and was granted a football scholarship for his Sophomore season and became a regular starter in the defensive backfield beginning in 2005, becoming an All-SEC safety for the Georgia Bulldogs. His interception of Auburn QB Brandon Cox three times, with one return for a touchdown, in Auburn, in a 37-15 Georgia win in 2006 was one of his greatest singular moments. Initially signed as an undrafted free agent with the San Diego Chargers, Battle's NFL career included a stint with the Dallas Cowboys. Battle is a cousin of Peppi Zellner, a Forsyth-Monroe County Hall of Fame inductee. Battle is married to Luisa and has four children, and now is an anesthesiology technician living near Athens.

Lloyd Bohannon



Lloyd is a 1961 Mary Persons grad, an offensive lineman, under MP Coach Dan Pitts in 1959 and 1960, and played linebacker and offensive guard. His football career, however, began even earlier, in 1956 as a football Manager for the MP team when Bill Meeks was the Coach. Lloyd also played basketball in high school and along with Tommy Cawthon was a Co-Captain the senior vear and a three-year basketball letterman. Just to have something to do in the spring, Bohannon threw discus for the track team that did not have a track. Following MP, Lloyd played football for two years at Gordon Military College in Barnesville as an offensive and defensive lineman under Head Coach Fred Miller, and George McMillan was an assistant coach at the time. Lloyd's first coaching job was at Willingham High School in Macon under Billy Henderson, the second legendary coach under which Lloyd was

associated with, where Lloyd coached football, wrestling, and handled the equipment for the Athletic Department. Edgar Hatcher and John Waters were also members of Henderson's coaching staff at Willingham, later Southwest. Lloyd moved to Cedar Shoals High School in Athens under John Waters who was then the Head Coach there and remained for six years as Defensive Coordinator, coaching linebackers and the defensive front. In 1978 Bohannon was named Head Coach and Athletic Director at Griffin High School and he served there for next 18 years with success and working with outstanding athletes. Griffin tied Valdosta as Co-State Champions in 1978. A couple of great athletes that Lloyd coached at Griffin were Willie Gault, who had an outstanding career at Tennessee and was a Super Bowl Champion with the Chicago Bears; and Jessie Tuggle, an All Pro Middle Linebacker with the

Atlanta Falcons. One other athlete that Lloyd was fortunate enough to coach was his son, Brian who went on to have a great career as a four-year letterman at UGA and coached under Paul Johnson and is presently the Head Coach at Kennesaw State. Lloyd retired from coaching in 1996 and is a member of the Griffin-Spalding Hall of Fame and now the Forsyth-Monroe County Hall of Fame. His eighteen-year record as a Head Coach was 156-58-1 with a lot of great memories. Lloyd and his wife Carol live in Griffin, and in addition to son Brian, they have a daughter, Becky, and five grandchildren. Carol and Lloyd were introduced to each other by Billy Henderson at Henderson Stadium in Macon and they still go to football fields together, now to watch Brian's Kennesaw State team.

Richard Chambliss Sr.



Richard Chambliss, Sr. is a 1972 Mary Persons alumni, who became one of the top basketball players in MP program history after transferring from Hubbard High as a Sophomore in 1969-70. **Richard served as Class Vice-President** in 1969 at Hubbard. His Mary Persons basketball accomplishments include Captain of the teams of 1971 and 1972, Mr. Basketball (1971), held the single game scoring record of 54 points (against Crawford County) for more than twenty years, and was the MVP after the 1971-1972 seasons. In football, Richard played for the 1971 and 1972 Bulldogs, lettering both years,

and in 1972 receiving Macon Telegraph Middle Georgia recognition. All Richard's parents were Thad and Sadie Chambliss, and he has six siblings. He remembers with gratitude and respect his basketball coach, James Love and his football coach, Dan Pitts. The skills that he honed from a young age through practice and determination, propelled him into his own business, Chambliss Paint and Body Shop, and he maintained the business from 1978 until his retirement in 2013. He considers one of his most satisfying accomplishments the call into ministry in 2006 and he is an ordained Local

Elder in the AME Church, and he pastored Coleman Clark AME Church for eight years until his health forced him to retire from that. He continues, however, to work in ministry, assisting his wife, Rev. Ella Chambliss. He and Ella have been married for 46 years and are the parents of three children, Iris Chambliss-Kelly, and Patrice Chambliss Walker, both MDs, and Richard Chambliss, Jr., a musician. Today Richard enjoys restoring cars, hunting and fishing, and watching sports.

Harold G. Clarke



Harold G. Clarke, who died in 2013 at the age of 85, played football for the Mary Persons Bulldogs, was a member of the 1943 team and was crowned as the "Football Hero" at the BETA Club Jamboree by popular vote of the student body. The roster listed him as #72 and a fullback. Some of the other members of the 1943 MP team were Charles Collins, Harry Calloway, Lumpkin Coffee. Charles Heard, and Willie Lee Seymour. Clarke enlisted in the U.S. Army following high school as WW II was still going on. While in the service he worked as a journalist and managing editor of the Pacific Stars and Stripes. Following the war he enrolled at the University of Georgia where he received a Bachelor's Degree, then a Law Degree, and then returned to Forsyth to set up a law practice, and work also as editor and publisher of The

Monroe Advertiser, owned by his father. Harold, together with Harris Carter and Marion Dorner, was a founder in 1951 of the Monroe County Touchdown Club. For more than twenty years Harold was the Public Address Announcer for Mary Persons football games at Mitchell Field, and he also was a radio announcer for Mary Persons football games on the old WFNE radio station. One of the most influential Georgians of the 20th Century, Clarke served five terms as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, first elected for the term which began in 1961. In 1976 Harold was elected President of the State Bar of Georgia. In 1979 Governor George Busbee appointed Harold to the Georgia Supreme Court, where he served as an Associate Justice until 1990 when he was elected by his colleagues as the 22nd Chief

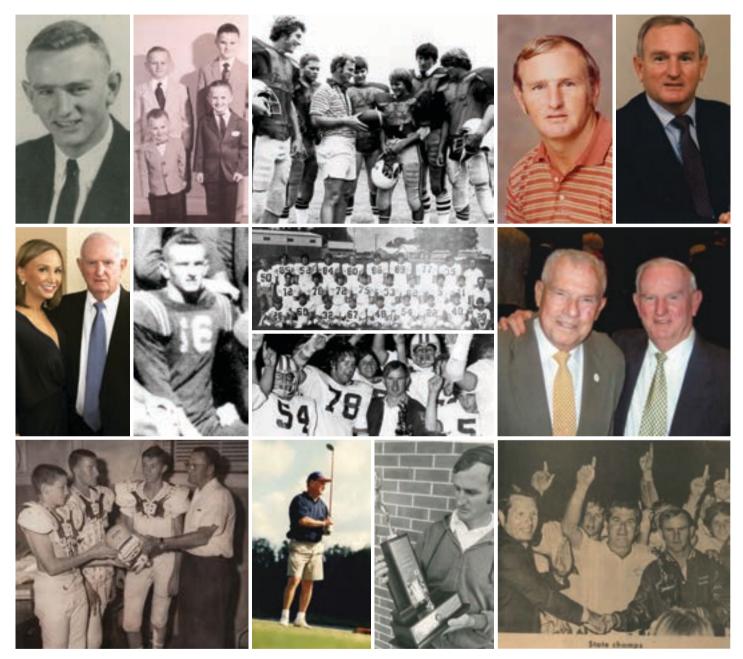
Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, a position he held until June 1992. He stepped down from the Chief Justice position (but not from the Court) to allow his friend Charles Weltner, who was battling cancer, to serve the last few months of his life as Chief Justice, and resumed the position of Chief Justice after Justice Weltner died in August of 1992, continuing in that role until 1994. In 1985 Harold published a book, Remembering Forward, about growing up in Forsyth in the 1930s and 1940s. Clarke's wife, Nora, survived his passing on February 26, 2013. She herself died in 2017. Harold and Nora had four children. Harold G. Clarke, Jr. ("Hal") and daughters Lee Ann, Julie, and Beth

Geraldine Ham



Geraldine Goodson Ham, who died in 2007 at the age of 76, was a 1949 Mary Persons graduate. She started at guard on a pair of Region Championship girls' basketball teams (1947-1948, 1948-1949), and was named All Region for her performance. Married to Max Ham, Sr., her sons, Max, Gary, and Jerry all played football for Mary Persons. Geraldine spent more than thirty years in public service, including from 1972 until 1996 as Clerk of Monroe Superior Court.

Edgar Hatcher



Edgar Hatcher, a Macon native, served as Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at Monroe Academy in Forsyth from 1972 to 1977. He was a high school standout at Mt. DeSales High in Macon (1974 grad), and played football, basketball and baseball at Florida State. He served as an Assistant Coach under Billy Henderson at Willingham High School in Macon that won the Class AAA State Championship. During his tenure as Head Coach at Monroe Academy the Mustangs won back-to-back SEIAS State Championships in 1973 and 1974, and he was named SEIAS Coach of the Year. After five years at Monroe, Hatcher returned to Macon, coaching at Northeast and Southwest High Schools for a combined total of 17 years, winning 108 career games. Hatcher coached Jeff Harper, a Forsyth-Monroe County Hall of Fame inductee, at Monroe, before Harper moved on to collegiate play. Edgar's son, Chris Hatcher, was the 1994 Division II National Player of the Year at Valdosta State, and is now the head football Coach at Samford University. Edgar is a member of the Macon Sports Hall of Fame, inducted in 2009.

Bobby Melton



While many of us can say we are fans, no one has been as active and significant a fan as Bobby has been for the last forty-five years. A 1965 Honor Graduate of Mary Persons, he came home to Forsyth in 1974 to establish a law practice after four years at Georgia Southern, three years at the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University and two years in the United States Army (in Europe with the Second Armored Calvary Regiment). After returning home his love for Mary Persons football began to take on new dimensions. After reading a 1978 article in The Atlanta Constitution which listed Georgia's twenty high school football programs with the most wins, and seeing that Mary Persons was not included, Bobby thought MP should have been, so he began researching Georgia high school football. While he discovered that the Atlanta paper article was correct, Mary Persons was only two victories short of being included on the list. Having enjoyed the research, Bobby continued to track the history of Mary Persons football and decided to record that history in The Black and Gold: A History of Mary Persons Football. The 190-page book is a complete history from the beginning of Mary Persons football through the 1979 season which lists and discusses coaches, players, teams, memorable games, and rivalries. As a result of authoring this history, Bobby became an authority on Mary Persons football information and its unofficial historian. With statistical support from Nolen Howard and Bob Harris, Bobby has maintained an annual update to The Black and Gold for the last 39 years. While the update is unpublished, it has provided important information for the Bulldogs on many occasions. He continues his support for Mary Persons football by writing The Bulldog Notebook, which has appeared in the football programs for Mary Persons for the last 35 years. Begun at the request of Coach Pitts, the Notebook sets the stage for the night's game, discusses the history of the coaches, the opposing school, previous games played by each school, previous games played between the schools, a roundup of high school football around the State and in Mary Persons classification and Region, and the "On this Date" section always provides an interesting look back. In 1995 he was presented with

the Marion Dorner Twelfth Man Award by the MP coaching staff. A Bulldog in the 1940s, Marion was a close friend of Coach Pitts, and a resource for Bobby when writing The Black and Gold, was truly loved and appreciated by all Bulldog fans who had the privilege of knowing him. Bobby has served as a member of the Sports Hall of Fame Board since its inception. When the Smithsonian came to Forsyth to present a "Hometown Team" exhibition in Forsyth in 2017, Bobby was on the Committee for that exhibition. Bobby has been an ardent fan and season ticketholder for Georgia Tech for many years. He has supported his Alma Mater, Georgia Southern football as a season ticketholder and was a fan of Erk Russell. He is passing along his love of sports to his three grandsons. He has enjoyed a successful law practice in Monroe County and Middle Georgia since 1974, a lifetime resident of Monroe County, and community volunteer and active in business and civic organizations. He is married to Anne, and daughter Melanie has given three grandsons, Aiden, Ben, and Camden.

Jimmy Watts



Hubbard High School Basketball Team



Mother: Elmina Watts Decease

er Watts, Beverly Watts, Mukser Watts, Dexter Watts, Ave Watts, Ail Watts and Amer Watts, 2015



wy L. Wuth



Jimmy Warts 453, Hubbard High School Restantial Game, 1965



Jimmy and Beverly Watts 2017



Wats International Inc's Product Offering



Brother: John Watts, Sister: Marilean Watts, Sister: Rachel Harpe and Jimmy Watts, 2015



Mayor Bill De Blasio Awards Presentation 2017

Jimmy L. Watts attended Hubbard High School, graduating in 1960. Jimmy was a standout Hubbard football player in the late 1950s, and Captain of the football team throughout his high school playing days. He was a standout at linebacker and fullback, and received a scholarship to play at Morris Brown (football and track), from which he graduated in 1970. During his Hubbard career, Watts averaged 100 yards rushing per game at the fullback position. Watts excelled under the leadership of Coach Robert Antoinin and Coach George Lightfoot and was the first athlete from Hubbard to receive a four-year scholarship when he earned the Morris Brown scholarship. After graduation from college, where he majored in social science and minored in political science, Jimmy became a successful business man in New York where he presently resides, in Hopewell Junction, New York. Jimmy was a member of the NAPIA Fraternity Association (National Asian and Pacific Islander Americans) and was recognized as Minority Businessman by the Mayor of New York City for his professional accomplishments. From 1987 through 1989 Watts served as basketball coach at the Catholic Youth Organization in New York. Watts is the sole owner of Wats International Inc. and Wats Supply LLC, is married to Beverly Watts, and is the father of Dexter and Malcolm.

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Each year, the Forsyth/Monroe County Sports Hall Of Fame recognizes a male and female athlete from Mary Persons High School. These student-athletes have not only excelled in athletics, but also in academics.

Congratulations to our 2019 Scholar Athletes!





Honoring Clayton Cox and Dixie Cox and the Monroe Academy classes of 1975 and 1979.

Circumstances change. Our memories become dearer with each passing day. As Bob Hope would say,

"Thanks for the memories Mustangs."

Betty Cox Hill

MPHS CLASS OF 1958



We congratulate the Class of 2019 Forsyth/Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame HAYGOOD, LYNCH, HARRIS, MELTON & WATSON, LLP



GO BULLDOGS!!!!

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478-992-9105 Fax Forsyth, GA 31029 STANLEY J. HICKMAN, D.M.D.

2019

1973 Monroe Academy State Championship team



The fall of 1973 marked the second year for Coach Edgar Hatcher as Monroe Academy's head football coach. A strong nucleus of players returned from the 1972 team, which finished with a record of 7 and 3, with two very close losses to archrival Stratford Academy. The Mustangs of 1973 were determined to accomplish much more. They opened the season by defeating a very strong Savannah Christian team 6-0 and then played Stratford Academy to a final score of 0-0. The team overcame several significant mid-season injuries to key players, a lack of depth, and a rugged schedule to subsequently arrive for a final confrontation with Stratford Academy to advance into the playoffs. The Mustangs defeated the Eagles 12-11 in an overtime game won on penetration. Many judge this victory, the first ever varsity football win against Stratford, the greatest game ever played in Monroe Academy history. The Mustangs then hosted Ravenwood Academy for the 1973 S.E.A.I.S. Championship and prevailed 14-6 on a cold, clear night in Forsyth.

1974 Monroe Academy State Championship team



The defending state champions entered Coach Hatcher's third season with size, speed, strength, depth and experience. Many players on this team had played together since eighth grade. This was a senior laden team which combined with several talented juniors, including a current Hall of Fame member, to make this edition of the Mustangs a favorite to repeat as state champions. This rugged team went 10-1 and defeated Stratford Academy 15-0 in this season's most important region win. The Mustangs then traveled to Perry, Georgia, where they soundly beat previously undefeated the Westfield Academy Hornets 20-6 to win the 1974 S.E.A.I.S. State Championship. This 1974 Monroe Academy team averaged 23 points per game for the season and the defense allowed an average of 4.4 points per game, with 4 shutouts. Most people believe this to have been the best football team in Monroe Academy football history.

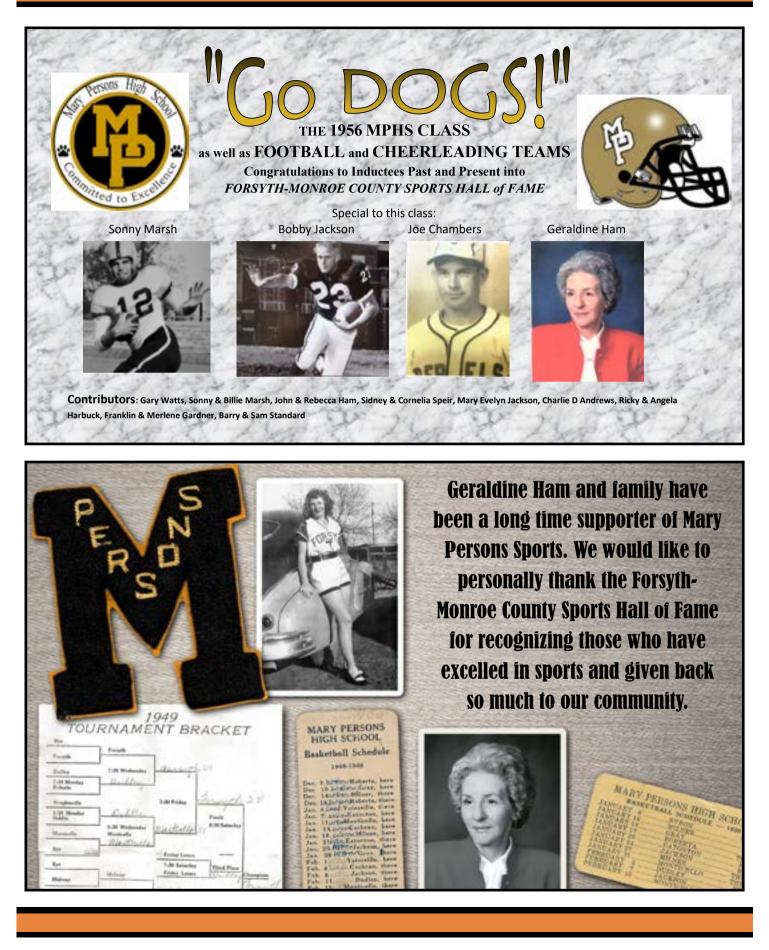
Congratulations Coach Edgar Hatcher







Monroe Academy Alumni and Friends Iris Childs Barkley '74 Phillip Bell '79 and Pam Thurston Bell '78 Christy Grant Dorton '83 Betsy Zellner McCann '75 Vicki Douthit Somora '80 Mony and Barbara Thurston Mary Edith Vaughn '73 Joel Vinson and Denise Darden Vinson '75 Darrell Welch '78 and Kathy Norris Welch '78 FORSYTH/MONROE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME







CONGRATULATIONS

to Coach Hatcher and the '73 and '74 State Champions, and remembering Lawrence S. Cox, Founding Trustee.

Mustangs Forever!!

Betty Cox Hill Cheryl Cox Rawls Lauren Cox Robeson Dixie Cox, Class of 1979 Clayton Cox M.D., Class of 1975



Forsyth/Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors

Mary Chambliss Penny Pitts Mitchell Gaylyn Cole Herbert Gantt Bobby Melton Bob Harris Jim Hardin Richard Dumas Keith Edge Marcus Whitehead Nolen Howard

would like to CONGRATULATE the 2019 Class!

Past Inductees into the Forsyth-Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame



2017 Class:

Joe Chambers Bill Fields Jeff Harper Bobby Jackson James Love Dan Pitts Frank Redding Oretha Sewell Alvin Toles

2018 Class:

Latoya Davis Charles Dumas Rhonda Griffin Hardin Sonny Marsh Steve Melton Annie Ree Brantley Summers Rodney Walker Peppi Zellner

CONGRATULATIONS to The Forsyth-Monroe County Hall of Fame Class of 2019!

David and Oreatha Sewell





CONGRATULATIONS to the Forsyth-Monroe County Hall of Fame Class of 2019!

> Steve and Faye Melton

Two great Monroe County institutions



Reporter

The Reporter is a proud supporter of the Forsyth-Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to the new inductees!



Battle.

Clarke

Hatcher

Hall of Fame



Forsyth/Monroe County Welcome Center

"Home of the Forsyth/Monroe County Sports Hall of Fame" 68 North Lee Street Forsyth, GA 31029

Free Parking Open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

Thank you to our 2019 Sponsors

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BRONZE

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The Class of 2019

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