

# The Mighty '70ers Newsletter



## Chair's Corner

*Kathy McIntire Sutton, Chair*

Spring is here! Yay! Time to get outside and enjoy the many of the local happenings in your area. Go and find fun and enjoyable things to do such as reading, walking, jogging, biking, gardening, doing arts and crafts, traveling, visiting family members and friends, decluttering your home, trying new things that sparks your interest, and many more.

This month marks two years since our world changed. I liked our Gallaudet President Bobbi Cordano's ABC's statement-**Adapt** to the circumstances and **Balance** our lives with **Compassion**. We know that we cannot control the things around us, but we can control the way we respond to what is happening around us. Each of us has that power. And that is what the ABC's is all about. Compassion involves a lot of emotions such as loving, showing empathy, being kind, being patient, helping/serving, sharing, and sustaining support. Be strong. Be grateful. Be happy.

Cynthia Neese-Bailes and I are working on the Registration Form for our class. Once we complete the form, you will receive the form with instructions via email. We are waiting for the details of the events to be approved before we can announce them to you. The Registration Form will have the list of events for our class. Start making plans. Keep the dates, October 19-23 open for our class reunion.

I want to say how grateful we were to be able to set up two endowments-one for student scholarship and the other for the Alumni Relations Office. For those of you who have not heard the news about Jack R. Gannon's death on March 14, 2022, I am so glad that he was alive when we dedicated the endowment to him. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor him by donating in his name. Here is the link: <https://www.gallaudet.edu/office-of-development/giving-at-gallaudet/class-giving/class-of-1970>

I have included the link of the recorded video presentation and his obituary below. It teared me up when he wiped his tears when he learned about the endowment was dedicated to him.

Let's keep the 1970 Mighty spirit strong!

The video link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZIFmJ5c09I>

### **Jack R. Gannon, renowned alumnus, administrator, and author passes away**

View this message in [American Sign Language](#).

**Jack R. Gannon, '59 & H-'88**, one of Gallaudet's most illustrious alumni, passed away on March 14. He was 85 years old.

Jack was born at home in a house without running water in the Ozark Mountains near West Plains, Missouri on November 23, 1936. His life was filled with enduring love and outstanding achievement. He was the first in his family to earn a college degree and went on to become the first director of what is now the Office of Alumni Relations at Gallaudet. Jack dedicated himself to helping people understand Deaf life. As an advocate, educator, curator, and writer, he connected people and ideas. He inspired students, challenged accepted practices, and pushed for positive change. The impact of his contributions is immeasurable.

Jack saw the power of the past to deal with the present and guide the future. He painstakingly researched and documented national and international Deaf history, writing detailed and often-cited books that are now in libraries and schools throughout the world. Jack curated the *History Through Deaf Eyes* traveling exhibition that was seen by nearly one-half million people. The exhibition inspired the acclaimed *Through Deaf Eyes* documentary that reached millions via broadcast and is used in countless classrooms. Jack was an adviser to the film, and also interviewed about issues related to education, technology use, and being "healed" by a traveling preacher.

Jack married his Gallaudet sweetheart, **Rosalyn Faye Lee, '59**, in 1959, five days after their graduation. Jack and Rosalyn enjoyed retirement at the "Tempted to Be Content Farm" in New Market, Maryland. They spent their time with their beloved dogs, birdwatching, gardening, and entertaining friends and family.

In addition to his work, Jack will always be cherished as a great husband, an engaged father, and a loving grandfather. Gannon is survived by his wife of more than sixty years, Rosalyn Faye Lee Gannon; his son Jeffrey and his wife, Molly Luby; daughter Christine, director of

Health and Wellness Programs at Gallaudet and her husband, Anthony Rosella; and four grandchildren, Ossie and Matilda Gannon and Gabriel and Ava Rosella.

A full appreciation of Jack and his remarkable life is forthcoming, and a memorial service will be held at Gallaudet in the future.

Visitation with the family will be Wednesday, March 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Church of the Brethren, 201 Fairview Avenue, Frederick, Maryland, at the chapel at entrance A.

