



Classmate Questionnaire – 50 Years

Fifty years!! How can that be? This questionnaire will be used to update our classmates on our journeys through life. Please provide the following information for our 50th reunion website directory. Return electronically by August 1, 2026 to admin@1976sjhsmanassas.com. In an effort to mitigate any risks associated with adding this information to our SJHS Class of 1976 website, we ask that answers be in a generic format. Please note: if there is information you would like to not be included online, please leave blank.

First and Last Name, previous names and nicknames: William (Bill) Layden
City and state of current residence (skip specific street address): Hobe Sound, FL
The quick update – where has life taken you in the last 50 years? (A brief 2-3 sentence summary of your journey): My journey so far has taken me from debating nationally while attending George Mason University, to being a congressional investigator on Capitol Hill, to becoming an executive in one of the largest global public relations firms, to opening my own business, and to counseling large university systems on creating new departments and research institutes—all with a consistent focus on promoting public health and wellness.
Your passions and free time (What hobbies, interests or volunteering activities keep you busy?): I volunteer at the House of Hope food pantry in Hobe Sound and provide guided hikes at the Jonathon Dickinson State Park. I also enjoy hiking, biking, boating, and traveling.
Favorite memories and milestones (A favorite life experience or adventure): I have a lot of favorite family memories including the birth of our three sons, hiking Philmont Scout Ranch three times with my boys, and the birth of our first grandchild. Hiking through Switzerland is way up there too!
What do you consider your greatest accomplishment in the last 50 years:

My greatest accomplishment has been to help raise three independent, successful young men. Other accomplishments include creating and growing an award-winning consulting and communications company focused on improving public health while delivering business objectives and delivering a commencement speech at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University.

Travels and Adventures (Share a few of the favorite places you've visited and/or any place still on you bucket list):

Work and leisure travel have taken me to all 50 states and 4 continents to date. My wife and I plan to visit the remaining 3 continents. In fact, our planned visit to Australia and New Zealand in October is the reason I'll miss the reunion.

Family Joy (If you'd like to share, tell us about your family make up, avoid specific names and ages due to privacy concerns):

We have three sons, including identical twin boys both Captains—one of which flies affluent individuals in a helicopter while his twin is in the Army special forces and jumps out of helicopters. Our oldest son is following in my footsteps working on Capitol Hill. Two are married and one is likely to be engaged soon. Like others our age, we are in a sandwich situation babysitting for a grandchild while helping with aging parents.

SJHS Flashback (Share a fun, general memory of our high school days):

While a junior at SJHS, I played Donny Dark in *Butterflies Are Free*. My wife and I recently watched the 1972 movie version on Turner Classic Movies and it brought back a flood of fond memories of this and other theater productions at SJHS.

Then vs. Now (share music/hobby you enjoyed in 1976 vs. what you enjoy now):

It was great to hear one of my son's playlists includes Queen, Elton John, Fleetwood Mac, Steve Miller, and Paul McCartney

Message to our class (share anything else you'd like our classmates to know about you):

I am very grateful for 36+ years married to the love of my life and the many joys, happy memories, challenges, and occasional heartaches and headaches, of raising a family and making friends who are like family.

Are you planning to attend our 50th reunion on October 3, 2026? Regretfully, no.

Attach current photo here:

