

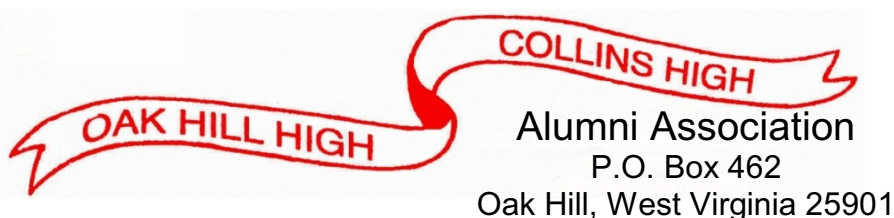
# Virginia Ford Allen Selected as Grand Honoree

Virginia Ford Allen, class of 1940, Miss Red Devil, 1940, was selected by the alumni association board of directors to reign as the 2011 Grand Honoree. Virginia has been a faithful supporter of the alumni association since its beginning in 1985.

She was the manager of Bermans' Jewelers in Oak Hill and then in Beckley after her marriage to Joseph L. Allen. The Allens moved to Florida in 1959.

Although a long trip to Oak Hill for the annual Oak Hill High/Collins High reunion, Virginia and Joe could be counted on to be in town to join in the alumni activities and to help out. Virginia could always be found on the front porch of the Lewis House helping with registration and greeting classmates and friends.

After Joe's death in May 2006, Virginia moved back to the state and town that she loves the most.



2011

[www.oakhillreddevilalumni.org](http://www.oakhillreddevilalumni.org)

2011

## Reunion Events Schedule

### Friday, September 2

Registration at the Lewis Christian Community Center (Armory) on Central Avenue  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Friday, September 2

Dinner at the Tamarack Conference Center, Exit 45, West Virginia Turnpike (about 15 minutes from Oak Hill)  
\$35.00 per person (includes a gratuity)  
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sign-in and Mixer (Tamarack will provide a cash bar)  
6:00 - 7:00 Dinner (Sorry, no reserved tables except for the golden anniversary class)

### Saturday, September 3

Free day for individual class reunions, lunches, etc.

### Monday, September 5

Buffet Breakfast and Business Meeting (Election of Board of Directors members, Treasurer's Report and other business. White Oak Country Club \$10.00 per person)

**The board of directors of the alumni association cordially invites all of you who attend the Tamarack event to a pinto bean and cornbread dinner on Sunday afternoon. We're not sure where it's going to be just yet, but we'll certainly know by the time you stop by the registration table at the Lewis Community Center on Friday. Remember to mark your registration form indicating whether you'll be there.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello all. Every year at this time, I start getting excited about the possibility of seeing some of you during the reunion weekend. Sometimes that excitement turns to sadness when I hear of one of our faithful who has passed on or who just can't make the trip any longer. Most of the time, though, it's the mellowing sentiment of friendship that joins the excitement, and I hope it's the same with you.

Growing up in Oak Hill and its surrounding coal camps gives us a history—a bond—that people who are from other places just don't understand. But we do. Those who grew up in the forties still see the worried eyes of families whose sons were off to war or whose dads worked deep in the mines. Grads in the fifties remember the excitement of moving into a new school as teenagers and the magic of going to "Toy Town" in the company stores when they were children. They also remember the emptiness in the pit of their stomachs when they realized there would be "no work tomorrow." Students of the 60's talk about the day a tornado blew the roof off Rosedale School, and the "bus" kids can still hear Charlie Moses announcing, "Coach 17 is departing for Hilltop, Glen Jean, Red Star, Harvey and Prudence.

Alums who grew up in the 70's knew that the Christmas season didn't start until the trains were in the window at New River Supply and Christmas Carols spilled from the cone-shaped speaker outside the store. By the 80's, our town had started to disappear, but Red Devils still bonded around school activities. The end of the Century just rolled past us and now, in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, here we are. We still thrill to the sound of "On Red Devils," and our voices rise a decibel when we see someone "from home," no matter where we are.

Don't just celebrate these things in your memories. Celebrate them with others who care as much about having been a part of Oak Hill or Collins High. Fill out your registration form today, and be in Oak Hill Labor Day Weekend. See you in September!