



# ND *faithful*

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER ■ WINTER 2026

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## Notre Dame High School Breaks Ground on **NEW ACADEMIC FIELDHOUSE**

Notre Dame High School marked a historic milestone on Friday, November 7th as the entire student body, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate the official groundbreaking of the new Academic Fieldhouse—a transformative project that will serve 100% of the student population and strengthen the school's commitment to educating the whole person in mind, body, and spirit.

The ceremony was graced by Most Reverend Bishop Alfred A. Schlert '79, who returned to his alma mater to offer a special blessing over the grounds where the new facility will rise. Bishop Schlert spoke of the deep legacy of Catholic education at Notre Dame and prayed that the new Academic Fieldhouse would be a place where students continue to grow together in faith, knowledge, and community.



Joining him was Dr. St. Pierre, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Allentown, who offered the diocesan prayer for construction—asking for safety, stewardship of resources, and the continued success of all who will learn and lead within the new space.

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*Photos courtesy of  
Norm Steinruck Photography*

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## *Greetings!*

As another school year unfolds, I am grateful for the opportunity to share the many exciting moments happening at Notre Dame High School. Your continued support and connection to ND play an important role in shaping the vibrant community we are today.

We were thrilled to welcome our students back in August with tremendous momentum and growth. This year's enrollment reflects the strength of our mission, as we welcomed 150 freshmen—the largest incoming class in a decade—along with 125 sophomores, 140 juniors, and 117 seniors, bringing our total student body to 539 students. The energy in our hallways is unmistakable, and our students continue to inspire us with their enthusiasm, faith, and commitment to excellence.

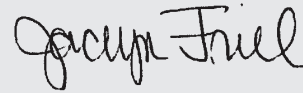
November marked a significant milestone for our campus with the groundbreaking of the new Academic Fieldhouse. This exciting project represents our continued investment in providing exceptional academic, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities for our students, both now and for generations to come.

Looking ahead, one of the most anticipated events of the year—Mini-THON—is quickly approaching the weekend of February 14-15. With over 300 student participants, this powerful event showcases the compassion, leadership, and generosity of our students as they come together in support of a cause greater than themselves.

These highlights are just a glimpse of the many wonderful things happening at Notre Dame. From academics and athletics to service and faith formation, our students continue to thrive, and we are excited about what the future holds.

Thank you for remaining connected to Notre Dame High School and for being an essential part of our Crusader family. We hope to see you on campus soon.

Sincerely,



Jaclyn Friel



## Honoring Veterans and Alumni Veteran of the Year

NDHS hosted its annual Veterans Mass on Wednesday, November 19 in the Alumni Center, bringing together students, faculty, staff, and local veterans to honor the men and women who have served our country. Held later in the month to allow veterans to participate in other community ceremonies on November 11, the Mass provided a meaningful and dedicated moment of recognition.

The service included the presentation of the Alumni Veteran of the Year Award, the "Above the Best" Scholarship Award, and a special performance of the national anthem by singer-songwriter Kendal Conrad.

This year's Alumni Veteran of the Year, Michael R. Lazorik '63, is a Bethlehem native and Notre Dame graduate remembered for his quiet dedication and academic focus. After graduating from ND, Mr. Lazorik earned a degree in

Physics from Villanova University and went on to serve as a U.S. Navy Naval Aviator, flying approximately 150 missions during five years of active duty, including deployments in the Pacific and Vietnam from aircraft carriers such as the *USS Ticonderoga* and *USS Midway*.



Mr. Lazorik shared with students the importance of growth beyond the classroom, encouraging them to explore the world, take on responsibility, and consider service to something greater than themselves.

The Veterans Mass remains a cherished Notre Dame tradition, offering the school community an opportunity to express gratitude directly to those who have served.

To learn more, make a donation, or submit a nomination for Alumni Veteran of the Year, visit <https://ndcrusaders.org/alumni/>





# ALUMNI MAKING NEWS



Matthew Baurkot '19, EMT; who played a vital role in the successful out of hospital birth of a baby girl.

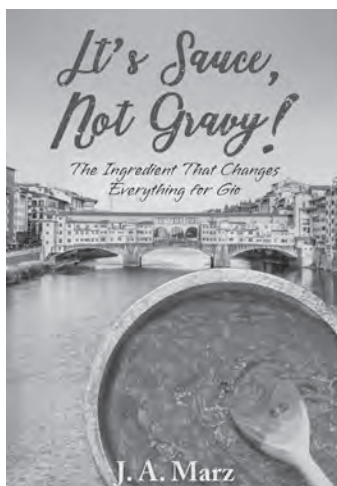


We were honored to welcome back Anthony George, '75, to speak with our juniors and seniors at Notre Dame High School! Drawing on his life experiences and careers, Mr. George shared valuable insight into the traits and skills that college admissions boards and hiring managers look for – qualities like leadership, responsibility, teamwork, and integrity.



Abigail Marone, '15 was appointed as Deputy Press Secretary of the White House. Abby previously served as the Deputy Director of Communications for the Republican National Committee and Director of Communications for US Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri.

He also highlighted the unique advantages of a Catholic education, reminding our students how the values they learn at Notre Dame will serve them well beyond high school.



John Marzano '70 released "It's Sauce, Not Gravy!" his sequel to "Ciao, Amore Mio...The Tale of Gabby and Gio."



In August, our current football team and fellow alumni gathered together for the team's final practice in the Annex.

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Local news media were on site to capture the excitement as students, faculty, alumni, and community partners gathered to witness the first official steps toward construction. Special recognition was given to the many dedicated alumni, benefactors, and friends of Notre Dame whose generosity and vision made this project possible. Their commitment ensures that future generations of Crusaders will benefit from enhanced academic, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities.

The Academic Fieldhouse represents far more than a building project. For the Notre Dame community, it is a symbol of growth, unity, and shared purpose—a reflection of the school's mission to form young people who excel academically, deepen their faith, and build meaningful connections with one another.

As the groundbreaking concluded, cheers from the student body echoed across campus, marking not only the start of construction but the beginning of an exciting new chapter in Notre Dame High School's storied history.

Together, the Crusader community continues to build—both in spirit and in structure—a bright future for all.

*Photos Courtesy of Norm Steinruck Photography*





# A Great Day to Be a Crusader!

**FAITHFUL  
FUTURES**  
CAMPAIGN FOR NOTRE DAME



**With the groundbreaking of our new Academic Fieldhouse, Notre Dame begins an exciting new chapter: a 40,000-square-foot, three-story hub for learning, wellness, and student growth.** Featuring eight classrooms, state-of-the-art PE spaces, and areas designed to support the whole student, this Fieldhouse will reflect who we are and what we value.

But this moment is about more than bricks and mortar. Today also marks the next phase of our Faithful Futures Campaign, ensuring Notre Dame doesn't just keep pace—it leads with purpose.

#### **Our focus is clear:**

- Strengthen annual giving to support students, teachers, and programs
- Expand financial aid so every student can thrive
- Grow our endowment to secure Notre Dame's mission for generations

With a bold \$14 million target, we're ready to fully fund the Fieldhouse and continue advancing the programs that define Notre Dame.

This campaign proves what happens when faith, generosity, and purpose come together. We're not just building a building—we're building futures.

If the 2022 building was proof of concept, the Academic Fieldhouse is our leap forward—and Faithful Futures is how we'll get there.

But we're not done yet. Your support matters more than ever. Every gift brings us closer to completing this transformative project and ensuring every Notre Dame student has the tools and opportunities to thrive.

*Join us. Give today. Be part of building futures at Notre Dame.*

To learn more about Faithful Futures, go to [ndcrusaders.org/faithful-futures/](https://ndcrusaders.org/faithful-futures/)



#### **This campaign is not only about bricks and mortar it's about the future of Notre Dame and our students.**

We're proud to announce the creation of four new, donor-driven endowments that will strengthen the heart of our mission for generations to come:

- **The Catholic Faith & Character Formation Endowment Fund**, supporting Theology and Campus Ministry.
- **The Excellence in the Performing Arts Endowment Fund**, supporting Theatre, Music, and Band programs.
- **The STEM Excellence Endowment Fund**, supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math classroom instruction and programs.
- **The Notre Dame Educational Endowment Fund**, supporting the school's academic programs, special programs, scholarships, maintenance and capital improvements.

# FROM CLASSROOM TO COURT:

## MARY BETH SPIRK '77

### ON PASSION, LEADERSHIP, AND FINDING HER CALLING

When Mary Beth Spirk graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1977, she had a clear vision for her future—or so she thought. Law school was the plan, with Dickinson College serving as the first step. She even took the LSATs, fully expecting to continue on that path. But life, as it often does, had something else in store.

After college, Mary Beth returned home and decided to spend a few years working before committing to law school. That decision proved to be transformative. While working in the social work field, she applied for an assistant coaching position at Moravian College (now Moravian University). What began as a side opportunity quickly revealed itself to be her true passion.

For six years, Mary Beth served as an assistant coach in both basketball and softball at Moravian while also working as a supervisor at a Diagnostic Center in Schnecksville for what was then Wiley House, now KidsPeace. In 1987, at just 27 years old, she took a leap of faith and applied for the head coaching position at Moravian. She got the job—and, as she puts it, “the rest is history.” She would go on to build a long and impactful career as Head Women’s Basketball and Softball Coach, later earning her master’s degree in Sports Administration from the United States Sports Academy in Alabama in 2002.

Looking back, Mary Beth credits much of her confidence and mindset to her time at Notre Dame. While she describes herself as quieter during high school, she always

felt her voice mattered. Teachers, administrators, coaches, and peers created an environment where students were supported and never judged—an experience that helped her believe she could accomplish anything she set her mind to.

She fondly recalls the influence of teachers such as Mr. Herkalo and Mr. Reichl, who also served as her softball coach. Both encouraged her to be herself and supported her growth in and out of the classroom. She also cherishes the friendships she formed with teammates and classmates, including Lisa and Ro Golden, whose support remains meaningful to this day.

Leadership was another defining part of Mary Beth’s Notre Dame experience. Active in Student Council and serving as Vice President her senior year, she learned early that leadership requires initiative, positivity, and a willingness to

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# Reunions



1970



1985



2000



1975



2015

*continued from page 6...*

step forward—lessons she carried with her throughout her professional life.

The sense of community fostered at Notre Dame has stayed with Mary Beth long after graduation. From notes and emails to texts from fellow alumni, administrators, and coaches, the encouragement has been constant. "I know if I ever need anything, Notre Dame will be there," she shares. "That kind of community is unique and special."

Her advice to today's students and younger alumni is both thoughtful and encouraging: stay open to possibilities. Don't feel pressured to define your future too early. Keep your eyes and ears open, explore different paths, and when you discover your passion, don't be afraid to embrace it.

Mary Beth Spirk's journey is a powerful reminder of the lasting impact of a Notre Dame education—one rooted in confidence, leadership, and community, and carried forward long after graduation.



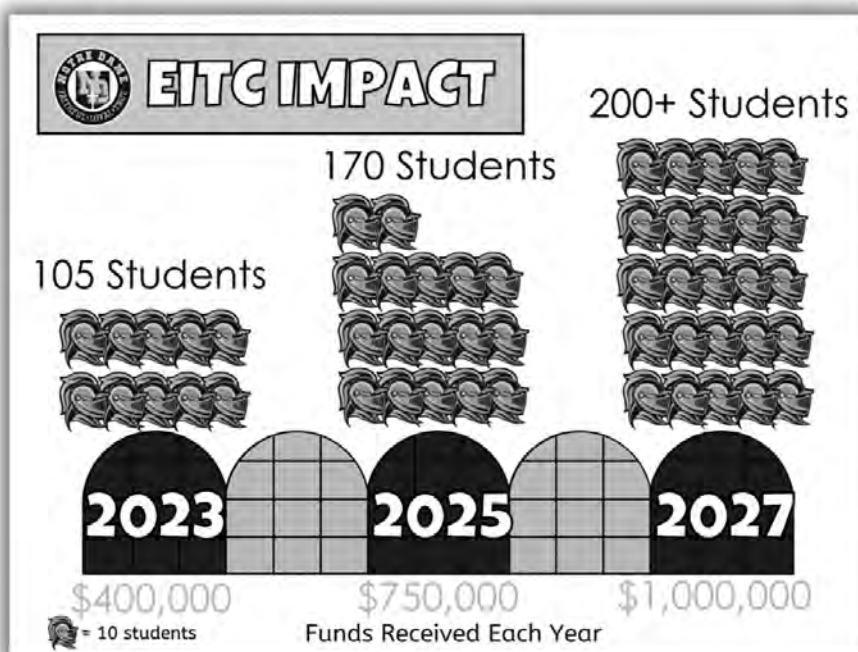


TURNING YOUR TAXES INTO

*Tuition Assistance*



*How many NDHS students benefit from these donations?*



*What is the EITC program?*

Through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC) individuals or businesses can direct their tax dollars to Notre Dame High School and help educate deserving students.

**CONTACT US  
TODAY!**

3417 Church Road  
Easton, PA 18045

610-868-1431 EXT. 1119  
KVITALE@NDCRUSADERS.ORG





**We would love  
to see you at the  
2026 Gala!**

**Save the date:  
May 2, 2026.**

**New location:  
Northampton Country Club**

# NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL KENTUCKY DERBY

# GALA 2025

& Ave Maria Awards Ceremony

**The annual Gala was held on May 3, 2025 at The Event Center at Blue. The evening began with the Ave Maria Ceremony honoring this year's recipients:**

**Doctor John Dashe, '74: Distinguished Alumni Award**

**James Steiner: Joseph Kramer Distinguished Educator Award**

**Father Keith Mathur, '01: Distinguished Religious Service Award**

**Patrick Vrabel, '98: Crusader Award**

**Keith Gorda, '11: Dedicated Young Alumni Award**

Following the ceremony, Gala guests settled in for an unforgettable evening filled with dinner, dancing, and Derby-themed fun. We were thrilled to welcome back Gruvin Enterprises and their always-popular "picture perfect" photo booth, generously provided by alum Michael Kresch '84. Cocktail hour featured a special touch thanks to Ryan Umholtz '01, who donated a signature Mint Julep that perfectly captured the Derby spirit.



Photos courtesy of  
Christmas City Studio

Sam Malone '90 kept the evening lively as our emcee, energizing the crowd and driving enthusiasm during the Silent Auction. The Weekenders kept the dance floor full with an upbeat mix of favorite hits from across the decades.

Thanks to the incredible support of our guests, the Gala raised more than \$115,000. Proceeds will support critical IT upgrades—including firewall, switchboard, and server replacements—as well as provide financial aid for deserving Notre Dame High School students. It was truly a memorable night in support of a great cause.

## Crusaders Cocktails & Convos

On November 25, Notre Dame High School hosted Crusaders Cocktails & Convos, an engaging evening of connection and conversation for alumni, parents, and members of the greater community. More than 75 guests gathered to network, reconnect, and strengthen relationships with fellow Crusaders.

The evening was generously hosted by alumni Ryan Bonner '98 and Ryan Umholtz '01, who commandeered the event and helped create a warm, welcoming atmosphere for all in attendance. Guests enjoyed meaningful conversation while receiving an update on the Faithful Futures Campaign,

highlighting both the progress made and the exciting vision ahead for Notre Dame High School.

Crusaders Cocktails & Convos was a wonderful reminder of the strength of the Notre Dame community and the shared commitment to faith, fellowship, and the future.



**Save the date for next year November 24, 2026**

# Notre Dame High School Announces 2026 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Notre Dame High School proudly announces the newest members of its Athletic Hall of Fame, honoring five alumni whose dedication, leadership, and athletic excellence have left a lasting legacy on Crusader athletics.

The Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held in January in the Jeff Dailey Gymnasium, between the Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball games vs. Wilson. Alumni, families, and friends are invited to join in celebrating these outstanding Crusaders.

## Cheryl (Muller) Fenton '75

A cornerstone of Notre Dame's cheerleading program, Cheryl Fenton's impact spans decades. Coaching at Notre Dame for **33 years**, she has shaped the lives of more than 1,100 cheerleaders, attending over **1,300 games** and dedicating more than **15,000 hours** to practices and competitions.

A **seven-time Colonial League Coach of the Year**, Coach Fenton has led her teams to numerous elite finishes, including championship performances at UCA Elite Camps and regional Game Day competitions. Her athletes have gone on to compete at the **Division I, II, and III collegiate levels**, including programs such as **Virginia Tech, Seton Hall, and Penn State**, with over **50 All-American cheerleaders** coached during her tenure. Her legacy is one of commitment, excellence, and mentorship.

## Frank Scattene '76

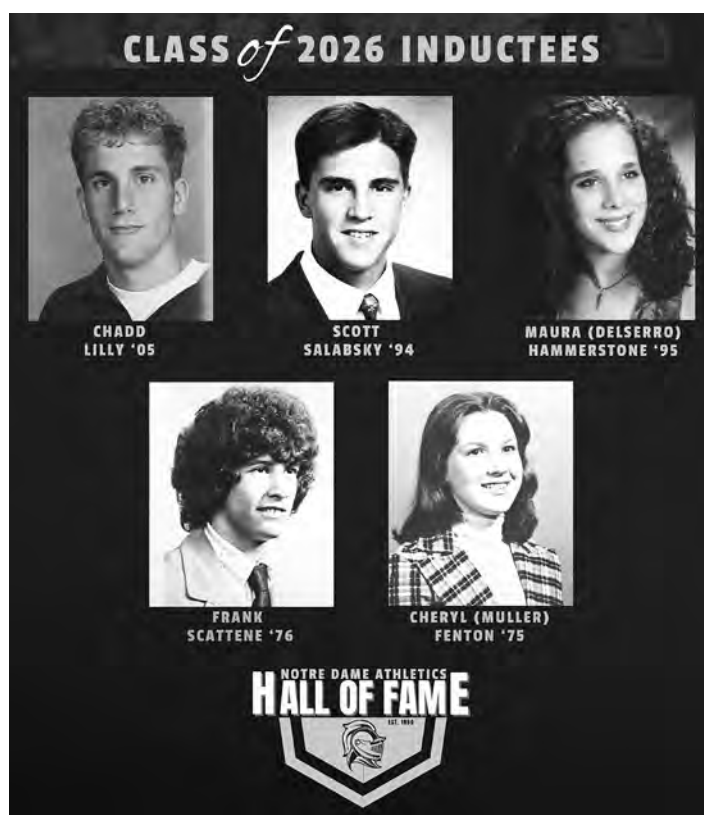
A true multi-sport standout, Frank Scattene excelled in **football, basketball, and volleyball** during his time at Notre Dame. As a senior running back, he rushed for **1,180 yards**, earning **Express All-Area First Team and Centennial League First Team honors**. He represented Notre Dame in the **1976 Lehigh Valley Football Scholar Athlete program** and started in the prestigious **LARC (now McDonald's) All-Star Football Game**.

On the basketball court, Frank was a **three-year letter winner**, earning All-Area and All-League recognition, and he also lettered on **Notre Dame's first-ever boys volleyball team**. His versatility and leadership defined Crusader athletics in the mid-1970s.

## Scott Salabsky '94

One of the most accomplished wrestlers in school history, Scott Salabsky compiled an incredible **105 career wins** and was a **four-time Centennial League Champion**. He earned **PIAA 5th place finishes** in both 1993 and 1994, captured the **1994 District XI Championship**, and was a two-time **Team MVP**.

Scott competed on the national and international stage, representing Notre Dame in the **Challenge of Champions**



(AA vs. AAA) and the **USA vs. Russia Talon Club** competition. His achievements were capped by being named **NDHS Male Athlete of the Year** in 1994 and a **Lehigh Valley Scholar Athlete of the Year finalist**, exemplifying excellence both on the mat and in the classroom.

## Maura (Delserro) Hammerstone '95

A dominant force in distance running, Maura Hammerstone was a **three-time Cross Country MVP and Track MVP** during her Notre Dame career. She captured the **1993 Centennial League Individual Championship** and consistently finished among the region's top runners, including a **3rd place finish at the District XI Championships**.

Her leadership and consistency helped elevate Notre Dame's cross country and track programs, setting a standard of competitive excellence that continues today.

## Chadd Lilly '05

One of Notre Dame's premier basketball players, Chadd Lilly scored **1,099 career points** and was named **Colonial League MVP** in 2005. A **two-time First Team All-Colonial League** selection, he also earned **Express-Times Player of the Year** honors and **Third Team All-State (AA)** recognition.

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# COACH MARTY HLAY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Coach McCarthy, Assistant Athletic Director, and Coach Morici, Jr. High Athletic Director, led an effort to establish Notre Dame's partnership with *AthLife*, an organization committed to creating high-impact programming that leverages students' passion for athletics to support academic success and prepare them for life beyond high school. Through this partnership, Notre Dame launched its first-ever College Athletics Informative Workshop, further deepening the school's commitment to helping student-athletes thrive both in the classroom and in their future endeavors.

It was through this foundation that the vision for the Coach Marty Hlay Leadership Award was born.

The *Coach Marty Hlay Leadership Award* will be presented annually to one male and one female student-athlete who

exemplify outstanding leadership in athletics, academics, and character. Each recipient is nominated by their coach as someone who not only performs at a high level in their sport, but also demonstrates integrity, dedication, and a positive influence on their teammates and the broader school community. The award reflects the belief that leadership is not defined by age or grade level, but by actions and impact.

The award is named in honor of Coach Marty Hlay, a beloved and long-serving figure in Notre Dame athletics who the community is fortunate to still have with them today. For more than five decades, Coach Hlay dedicated himself to Notre Dame student-athletes, coaching football, wrestling, and track with unmatched passion and commitment.

Over his storied career, Coach Hlay guided 48 league champions, 41 district gold medalists, and 20 State place winners, including three State champions. Beyond the accolades, Coach Hlay was known for his emphasis on discipline, character, and hard work - values that continue to shape generations of Notre Dame athletes.

Coach Hlay's legacy lives on through the countless athletes he mentored and the principles he instilled. The Coach Marty Hlay Leadership Award celebrates student-athletes who carry forward that same spirit - those who lead with integrity, compete with heart, and strive for excellence in all they do.



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Chadd's scoring ability, leadership, and competitive spirit made him a standout on the court and a memorable figure in Crusader basketball history.

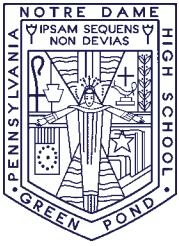
Notre Dame High School congratulates these distinguished alumni and thanks them for the pride they have brought to the Crusader community. Their accomplishments continue to inspire current students and alumni alike.

## **Interested in submitting a nomination for a future Athletic Hall of Fame class?**

Please visit <https://ndcrusaders.org/alumni/athletic-hall-of-fame/> for nomination criteria and submission information.

***Congratulations to our newest Hall of Fame members!***





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Easton, PA 18045

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Permit No. 129

**BASEBALL**

*Alumni Day*

NOTRE DAME GP LANSDALE CATHOLIC

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

**LOU CECALA FIELD**

REGISTRATION 11:00 AM  
GAME STARTS 12:00 PM  
TAILGATE 2:00 PM

EVENTBRITE REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
RSVP DEADLINE APRIL 1

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1981766646387?aff=oddtcreator>

## Make Your Gift Today!

### SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL!

With half of a rewarding school year behind us and so much more ahead, we invite you to make a lasting impact on our students' lives. Your gift supports academic excellence, campus growth, and tuition assistance - helping every Crusader grow in faith, knowledge, and character.

Donate before  
June 30, 2026



**FAITHFUL.  
LOYAL. TRUE.**

*Talk  
To Us*

**Have some news?**  
(milestones, weddings,  
births, **reunions**)

Email us at  
[alumni@ndcrusaders.org](mailto:alumni@ndcrusaders.org)