



St. Rita Graduate Mark Flaherty

I joined St Rita my freshman year in 1975 and graduated in 1979.

There were 26 in my class. I believe we are still the largest graduating class in St. Rita history.

My dad learned that St. Rita was a good school and because I had a hard time being mainstreamed in the public schools back home, we decided to give it a try. I didn't want to go to St. Rita at first, but I am glad now that I did. St. Rita School taught me a lot and allowed me to enjoy a lot of wonderful experiences.

I was born in Owensboro, Kentucky, home of the best burgoo! (Did you know that that was the soup served at the first St Rita Fest instead of turtle soup?)

I am the only one in my family that is hard of hearing. I have 5 brothers, no sisters...ha-ha. My mother and father are still living and dad still works as a partner attorney with one of my brothers.

When I went to St. Rita School the day program didn't exist, so some of my fondest memories are the times I got to go home with some of my classmates like, Billy Burke and Terry Petrie. Their families were great and always made me feel right at home.

Terry and Billy were my best friends and still are along with a few others. In high school, I guess we did all the things that a typical teenager did. I don't know if I should tell on myself...ha-ha. Seriously, on weekends we liked going to other high school football games and kept busy playing all the different sports; football, basketball and baseball.

One of my favorite memories is from my senior year. It was the last football game of the year, we were playing against McNick; and we were up 22 to nothing. They started coming back after halftime. We got the ball in the last minutes of the tied game and I got to kick the winning goal! To add to the excitement, it was the first time that we beat them in my four years at St. Rita.

After graduation I went back to Owensboro to work. Then after not really being satisfied with the jobs available there, I came back to the tri-state area. After that, I started college at Northern Kentucky Technical College, studying in Computers and Data Processing. I've been working fulltime at the Internal Revenue Service going on 15 years.

I've tried masonry, file clerk, computer operator and enjoy my current duties of driving the mail trucks the most. It keeps me active, allowing me to be inside and outside of buildings. And, I get more opportunities to see and meet other people. Additionally, during the summer I work in the evening and weekends at Kenton County Golf Course part-time.

On a less serious note, I've always wanted to be able to do magic tricks. I enjoy seeing them performed and I would like to be able to perform them for others.

My advice to St. Rita students is to go to college and get a degree!

For fun I love Golf-Golf-Golf, of course...and snow skiing. My dream for the future is to retire and play golf forever.

I really admire my parents because they've been wonderful parents to my brothers and me.

I remain a supporter of St. Rita School for many reasons. The staff and administration were good to me. They gave me the education and experiences that have allowed me to support my family and myself. I want others, like myself, to have the same opportunities. That's why I support the Scholarship Benefit, the Annual Golf Outing, and St. Rita Fest every year.