

### ***Margaret Avery, PLHS 1961***

Accomplished, Academy Award nominated film, stage, and TV actor. Margaret overcame the stigma of being a minority student in a majority environment at PLHS in the early 60's. Cheerleader, song leader, and actor in many school plays. She began taking acting and singing jobs while at San Francisco State University where she earned a degree in Education. Went on to starring roles in films like "*Cool Breeze*", "*Which Way is Up*", and "*Scott Joplin*." Academy Award nominated in the Best Actress in a Supporting Role category for her role as Shug in the 1985 period drama film *The Color Purple*. She continued appearing in films throughout the 80's and 90's including *Blueberry Hill*, *White Man's Burden*, *Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins*, *Meet the Browns*, and in 2013 *Proud Mary*. From 2013 to 2019, Avery starred as the lead character's mother, in the BET drama series *Being Mary Jane*. She is also known for her work as a compassionate school psychologist in an inner-city high school. She has returned to PLHS on several occasions, attending Homecoming and inspiring budding thespians at assemblies where she spent in conversation with individual students encouraging their aspirations and sharing stories about how high school theater helped her feel at home in a new neighborhood.

### ***Lois Craig (D), Staff 1968-1999***

Lois was a staff member at PLHS for 31 years (1968-1999), beloved by students, teachers, and administrators. She held bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education, served as teacher, coach, department chair, Athletic Director, and supervisor for extra-curricular events, and wrote the Athletic Handbook for San Diego City Schools. Lois coached the first PLHS varsity girls Volleyball team, followed by varsity Softball, both for 25 years. She had high expectations for her students and the athletes she coached...but they all knew they could go to her for guidance and support. She encouraged students to have a PMA (positive mental attitude.) Received recognition for volunteer service on the High School Sports Association Board, CIF Outstanding Service Award, San Diego Hall of Champions Meritorious Achievement Award, and the Aldo Award for excellent teachers who made a significant impact on student achievement and school climate. She was always willing to lend a helping hand where needed and received accolades for being a positive force in the lives of students, staff, parents, and administrators. Her students stayed in touch with her for many years after high school.

***John Freeman***, PLHS 1969

Sports editor for the PLHS Pointer Press foretold a future in media and communications. A graduate of the University of Arizona, John has held marketing/communications roles with national firms, UC San Diego Extension, five years as staff editor/writer with the NY Yankees, and publications director of the National Basketball Association. He spent 15 years as a nationally syndicated media columnist and sportswriter with the San Diego Union-Tribune. He collaborated with Hall of Fame baseball umpire Doug Harvey on They Called Me God. His 'as-told-to' books with notable San Diegans include Ted Talks with sports personality Ted Leitner and Down Deep with submarine Captain Charlie MacVean. (During Covid John led an engaging Zoom chat for PLHS Alumni and community with Charlie.) Astounding, a pictorial history of San Diego, covers surprising innovations, innovators, discoveries and oddities that shaped our city. When a beloved Point Loma physician (and fellow Pointer) passed unexpectedly John collected memories from friends, family, and patients to publish a keepsake book distributed at the memorial. John has been a tireless worker for reunion planning, and quick to offer to help with Alumni programs. It is also said that he is also one of the 'future great pickleball players from Point Loma High.'

***Richard Hicks***, PLHS 1955

Student Body President and Dana Junior High and Commissioner of General Affairs at PLHS. Key Club, Newspaper, PLHS Drama productions. Voted "Most likely to succeed" by Pointer classmates. Harvard Book Prize. Captain in the US Army JAG corps. Headed business litigation department of his law firm. Pro-Bono Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity-Los Angeles, President of Public Counsel, the largest provider of pro-bono legal services in the nation. Multiple awards for Outstanding Contributions of Legal Services and Pro Bono Attorney of the Year from San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program; Retired Attorney of the Year from the California State Bar. In retirement has received awards for volunteer service at the Restraining Order Clinic in San Diego Superior Court, helping thousands of victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and civil harassment. He has authored seven novels and a memoir. At age 86 he still volunteers at and enjoys sailing in the San Diego Harbor.

***Ben Hueso***, PLHS 1987

Lifelong residence of Logan Heights and is committed to serving his community with great distinction. Served on the San Diego City Council (only Latino on the Council at the time.) Two years as Council President. California State Assembly 2010-2013, representing the 79<sup>th</sup>, then the 80<sup>th</sup> Districts. California State Senate 2013-2022, serving the 40th Senate District, which encompassed Imperial County and the border regions of San Diego County. California Coastal Commission. Vice-chair and Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus. San Diego County Board of Supervisors. State Board of Equalization. Senate committees on Education, Veteran's Affairs, Climate Change Policies, Children with Special Needs, California Energy, Utilities and Communication, Energy Independence, California/Mexico Cooperation. Legislative Leadership Award by Association of California Water Agencies. Public Official of the Year 2003.

***Dene Oliver***, PLHS 1969

Dene began his career at the age of 18 as a surfer doing graphic design and silkscreening, starting a highly successful, imprinted logo T-shirt firm that was among the first of its kind. He received a Bachelor of Science in Real Estate and Urban Land Economics from UC Berkeley and is a graduate of the USC School of Law. He founded OliverMcMillan with life-long friend Jim McMillan (PL 70) and they developed an award-winning portfolio of redevelopment projects in their hometown. Their work in the Gaslamp Quarter brought the firm widespread recognition for the re-gentrification of parts of downtown San Diego. Dene is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), the Urban Land Institute, is a former member of the Board of Directors of the San Diego Convention Center, and Chair of San Diego's 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. He continues to work on the goal of ending the plight of the chronic homeless. He has received the Downtown San Diego Partnership Founders Award as well as the same organization's Humanitarian Award. OliverMcMillan was always guided by the principle that their projects must make a difference for the community and the area's residents.

***Kelly Rickon Mitchell***, PLHS 1977

Active at PLHS with Highlights, Keywanettes officer, Yearbook, ASB, JV Cheer and Pointer Mascot while at the same time competing for ZLAC rowing club. Two-time member of the US Olympic Women's Rowing Team, and 1979 and 83 World Championship USC Men's team...all as coxswain. Congressional gold Medal for the boycotted 1980 Olympic games. Became Captain of the 1984 team which won the silver medal. Carried the 1996 Olympic Torch for part of its run in San Diego. University of Santa Clara Hall of Fame as a two-sport standout for rowing and cross country. Her sons attended PLHS. Has been an athletic mentor at Ready, Set, Gold, a non-profit community health program. Involved in the design and build of the Olympic Training Center in Otay Mesa. Director of development for San Diego Crew Classic. Director of Philanthropy for PL Nazarene University.

***Leslie Perlis*** (D), PLHS 1968

A pioneer in the studio glass movement taking advantage of all the modern innovations in this ancient art form. Nationally recognized artist and Community activist. Her award-winning art glass, fused glass, and mosaics have been seen in many national publications and exclusively featured in two books. Founder of the Art Glass Association of Southern California and recipient of their Lifetime Achievement Award. Her stained and fused glass pieces can be seen in Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, Sunset View Elementary school, Dana Middle school, Brigantine Restaurant, other places of worship, restaurants, and private homes throughout San Diego. She has been called the "Patron Saint of the PLHS Music Program." An ardent supporter of the program through her time as a Band Mom, her fundraising efforts, and continued support through the years. She was committed to supporting PLHS and enriching her community and her bright spirit is sorely missed.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Leslie-Perlis-Studio/100069261846594/>

**Mark Reynolds**, PLHS 1973

Sailing with his father (a Star boat World Champion) from the age of 4 and involvement in the San Diego Yacht Club Junior program set the course for Reynolds's life. He holds a BS from SDSU where, as a sophomore, he was an All American on the sailing team in Snipe boats. Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association All American 1975. Snipe National Champion 1978. Gold medalist at the 1979 Pan American games, and North American Champion three times. Among his many accomplishments in Star class boats, he was World Champion in 1995 and 2000, Continental Champion 10 times, and North American Champion twice. He competed in multiple Olympics earning medals in 1988 (Seoul) and 1992 (Barcelona) and culminating in a gold medal at the 2000 Olympics (Sydney). Awards and Recognition include US Olympic Committee Athlete of the Year for Sailing 1989 and 1992. International Sailing Federation World Sailor of the Year 2000. US Sailor of the year 2000. Sailing World Hall of Fame 2002. National Sailing Hall of Fame 2012. San Diego Breitbard Sports Hall of Fame 2003. He has coached teams to championship titles and owns a sail making and one design sail company. It should be noted that he has made sails for most of his competitors and 13 of the last 15 Olympic medals in the Star class were won with his sails.

**James "Mouse" Robb** (D) PLHS 1951

Outstanding athlete at PLHS, especially in Track and Field. Served in the Air Force during the Korean War. City of San Diego lifeguard. Legendary surfer who started riding longboards in the 1940s. Won trophies and renowned for his tandem surfing and brought women's longboard surfing championships to Ocean Beach. Started Sunset Cliffs Surfers (now SSC Surfing Association) in 1944 to support camaraderie, family, community, and environmental preservation. Inducted into the San Diego Sport Hall of Fame. Tireless community volunteer including many OB events, OB Christmas Tree and July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks show. Revered for his devotion to the ocean and 'hero' to countless men and women in Ocean Beach and Point Loma for his loyalty, community spirit and involvement. Said to be an influencer before social media existed, he was a mentor to hundreds of youths, teaching water skills, surfing, and life philosophy that has come to be known as 'the way of the Water men' and inspiring the meme "Mouse Would Go."