



NORMAN "SONNY" HUGHES, JR
SHS Class of 62

Born in Orlando, lived briefly on Signal Mtn and Crossville, TN. Grew up in Sarasota just outside Pinecraft before Bahia Vista went through to Cattleman Rd. Attended grade school in the three room school house on the corner of Bahia Vista and Beneva (boy has that corner changed!). My dad sold his mechanic shop where the Heritage House is located for \$7,000 that paid for my four years of education at Maryville College in TN. Since that was his livelihood at that time Red and Sadie up and moved to their fishing cabin in Lakeport on Lake Okeechobee my first year in college and that is how I found myself eventually living here in Glades County for forty plus years with my wife, Barbara Fitch Hughes. She and I met in TN and found out she was born in Orange Memorial hospital in Orlando in April 1944 where I was born in January and we were delivered by the same Dr. Collins. She grew up in Plainfield, NJ.! Small world and there is something to destiny? We raised three children in Moore Haven. Scott is a fishing guide in Punta Gorda, Sunny is an OR nurse in Arlington, TX and Mario jointed the army prior 911, served in Iraq and lives in Moore Haven still serving in the reserve and working construction while attending Edison State College trying to get his life on track. At the reunion several asked if I coached baseball since I was a teacher and coach and played baseball at SHS and Maryville College. I did coach baseball my last four years in teaching before I was the principal for four years but my coaching career was basketball, taking my teams to the state final four in our division five times. I also assisted in football for the 22 years I coached. My masters degree is in Phys Ed but I taught biology for 16 years and physical education 6 years. My last 9 years in the Glades School District I worked as assistant to the superintendent wearing 22 different hats (transportation, food service, facilities, risk management, operations and maintenance, vocational education just to name the main ones) While working in adult and secondary vocational education I served on a board of directors to start a private non profit career and technical education school for Hendry and Glades counties. After retirement I resigned from the board and worked two years full time coordinating heavy equipment and construction training with South Florida Water Management grant preparing the workforce for the Everglades Restoration plan. Governor Crist changed the plan, the funding stopped and I became a part time executive director for our school, the Education Center of Southwest Florida (check out the website educationcenterswfl.com). I spend my retirement time hunting, fishing, gardening and working at the Education Center part time. I am an active charter member of the Christian Church of Moore Haven (email or facebook me if you ever want to talk scriptures or salvation), I coordinate a youth 8-12 youth basketball program for boys and girls and assist my oldest grandson's little league baseball team. We travel back to East Tennessee for reunions and homecoming. We meet our daughter and her family somewhere at a gulf beach somewhere between Ft. Morgan AL and Marco Island each summer (my daughter and I can't get the beach out of our systems). And when I'm lucky Scott invites me over to Charlotte Harbor to fish while he scouts for his next charter. Life has been good for Sonny but not without medical challenges, left knee ligament reconstruction, knee staph infection, knee replacement and then a quadruple by-pass in 2010. Hope to see you at the 55th or maybe the grand reunion 2015.

