

Augusta Area School District

⇒ Alumni Spotlight ⇐

ONCE A BEAVER, ALWAYS A BEAVER!



The Augusta Area School District would like you to meet some of the many great alumni who have become successful in a variety of fields and also give back to their communities in many ways. We appreciate this opportunity to highlight past graduates of the Augusta Schools with the "Alumni Spotlight." We hope you enjoy getting to know a bit more about these fine individuals who are doing great things!

#beaverproud

Jeffery Pettis, Class of 1972

Current Occupation and Location: I live on the south side of Eau Claire. We lived just out of Augusta for many years but fuel prices and travel time caused us to move closer to work and school. I retired from the Eau Claire Sheriff's Office and call myself semi-retired as I am an adjunct instructor in the driving and law enforcement programs at Chippewa Valley Technical College. My first career was autobody repair and I am again tinkering with restoring and driving older cars as a hobby. We enjoy traveling and seeing the USA in our Chevrolet as often as we can.

After Graduation: Right out of high school I attended Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville for Autobody Repair. After working in that field for a few years I took up studies in the law enforcement field. I had always wanted to be a police officer. I attended Chippewa Valley and received my law enforcement certification and later received my Associate Degree in Police Science. Several years later I started to work towards my Bachelors Degree in Police Administration. I received that degree which led to my position as Patrol Captain at the Sheriff's Office.



Augusta Memories: I really enjoyed my school years at AHS. I have always said I would "do it again in a heart beat" but hopefully apply myself a little more academically than I did. My focus was more on athletics and although it helped me in my later career path and overall health, I did struggle when I needed to apply my academics. In school at the time I did not see where I would use Algebra, Math, and Science. Little did I know I would eventually be a certified crash reconstructionist that did nothing but use math and science to determine how a crash happens. I cannot think of any teacher or staff member that was not willing to help and point me in the right direction. Had I listened a little more it would have been easier later on once I settled in on a career.

Best Day at Augusta: This is a very tough question. One reason is that it was a long, long time ago but the second reason is that I had a lot of high lights and "best days" at AHS. I smile with every thought of my school days; whether it is Mr. Anderson's dungeon History Class (it was in the basement), Mrs. Granros' field trips, Mrs. Palm's Speech Class, Athletics, Band, Shop, homecoming bonfires, wrestling, football, track.....I can't quit smiling.

Lessons Learned: Be honest - work hard and good things will follow. I believe my parents instilled these traits in me but it was reinforced in my years at AHS. (They both were AHS Alumni.) Another lesson I firmly believe in is to enjoy life and enjoy what you're doing. Life is too short to be unhappy in a field you don't enjoy. There are many opportunities and ways to get what you want in the world today.

Advice for Students: I really have two bits of advice I give to students that ask. Don't narrow your scope or area of interest too much. Being a jack of all trades is not a bad thing. It allows you something to fall back on and to be well rounded. The second sounds cliché I know, and everyone says this, but you really can be what you want to be and accomplish whatever you want. Keep you head up, walk tall, and work for your dreams.
