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YMCA CAMP LETTS

4003 Camp Letts Rd. Edgewater, MD

Fall 2016

www.campletts.org

NEWSLETTER FOR YMCA CAMP LETTS' CAMPERS, COUNSELORS & FRIENDS



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THANK YOU PENNEY FAMILY

On October 27, 2016 Walter Penney was posthumously inducted into the YMCA Hargrave Heritage Club for the generous gift to Camp Letts made in his honor by the Penney Family.



The Hargrave Heritage Club recognizes and honors those who have provided support to YMCA Metro Washington through endowments, trusts and other planned gifts.

Walter Penney was a longtime Family Camper known for his passion and dedication to community youth. Beginning with the creation of the Leonie Penney Endowment Scholarship in 2014, the Penney Family has made summer camp possible for many economically disadvantaged children.

110 YEARS AND COUNTING!

The leaves are beginning to change and autumn beauty is spreading all across Camp. As we reflect on the wonderful 2016 summer that was enjoyed by more than 2,600 day and overnight campers, we are reminded of the thousands of campers that have come before. Camp Letts has a rich history of creating memories and building independence for campers of all ages, genders and demographics. Camp Letts prides itself on being an inclusive, safe place for all. For 110 years our dedication has always been providing an unforgettable experience for children of all ages.

We have been working hard to post photographs taken over the years so that you can enjoy them from home. Check out our [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#) pages to view pictures from past summers going back to the 1960s! If you have photos you would like to share, please send them to dave.boyle@ymcadc.org.

Help us strengthen our Alumni Family by sharing your own camp memories, reaching out to fellow alums and [visiting our website](#) to update your records. If you have friends or family members who are also Camp Letts alumni, please forward this newsletter and encourage them to reconnect as well!

All the best,

Hannah Jakob
Retreat Center and Alumni Relations Director

CAMP LETTS ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

In August, Camp Letts received a surprise visit from a 1940s alum, Bill Shendow. Bill and his wife Kitty shared great memories of his time at Camp Letts! Here is a photo of Bill and his brothers Hair and Irv at Camp Letts in 1948.

Bill Shendow is a native of Winchester, VA who attended Wake Forest University on a football scholarship. He majored in political science, and following graduation in 1963, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. During his two year tour of duty, Bill served one year as an Intelligence Officer in Vietnam for which he was awarded a Bronze Star. After his service Bill completed his master's degree in International Relations at Georgetown University. In 1991, Bill received a doctorate degree in public administration from Virginia Tech.

This past August, Bill retired as a professor of public administration and political science at Shenandoah University. Upon retirement he was awarded the designation of Professor Emeritus. Before becoming a professor, Bill worked as vice president of Bell Clothes, Inc., a five-store men's and ladies' clothier in VA and MD, President of the Winchester-Frederick County Chamber of Commerce and Executive Secretary of the Industrial Development Corporation, and Director of the John. O Marsh Institute for Government and Public Policy at Shenandoah University.

Throughout his life Bill has been active in numerous civic and business organizations, including the Winchester Host Lions Club. He was instrumental in the founding of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Kids Voting. In 2002 he was selected by the Chamber of Commerce as the Outstanding Citizen.

Bill and his wife Kitty reside in Winchester, VA. They have one daughter and one granddaughter.



Hair, Bill and Irv, 2014

We would love to feature you in our newsletter! Let us know what you have been up to since leaving Camp. Contact [Hannah Jakob](#) with your story or tell us on [Facebook](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Turkey Chase Charity Race November 24, 2016

Held on Thanksgiving morning, the Turkey Chase is our largest fundraiser and most buzzed about event every year! Turkey Chase proceeds help send deserving children and young adults to overnight and day camp programs at Camp Letts. Register at www.active.com or contact dave.boyle@ymcadc.org for more information.

Alumni Day Sunday, June 11, 2017

Return to Camp for our first annual Alumni Day! Festivities begin at 12:00pm with a cookout lunch. Camp Letts activities will follow, including our final Summer Camp Open House from 2pm-4pm. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with other alumni, experience some of your favorite camp activities, and meet the staff and counselors of Summer 2017!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As we look back at 110 years of Camp Letts, we remember the thousands of lives Camp has affected and take pride in our continued dedication to improving the life of every child and counselor that experiences Camp Letts.

For years we have talked about the benefits of camp, but it's always been hard to articulate just how big that impact is on those that attend. Well now we can! According to our 2015 parent surveys, after just one week of camp 78% of parents saw a noticeable improvement in their camper's sense of independence. 75% said their camper showed an increased willingness to try new things, 67% saw an improvement in their camper's social skills and 71% of parents noted an improvement in their camper's self-confidence. Whoever said camp was just about fun, friends and a free t-shirt? It really is so much more!

As the holiday season approaches please think about how Camp Letts impacted you and your loved ones, and how you can help others by giving the gift of camp. The changes camp makes in people's lives are real. We are only limited in the number of lives we can touch by the resources we have to reach out to those that need camp most. Please consider making a tax deductible gift these holidays to YMCA Camp Letts.

Sincerely,

Andrew Mason