

# Husky Connections



March 2022

## Husky Nation Mourns Loss of Kiska V



Karen Coleman, longtime "Kiska Mom", had watched the gradual decline of Kiska V's health. After all, the beloved mascot was nearly twelve years old, and health challenges could be expected.

Kiska V has been under the care of Dr. Ron at Valley Central. On Thursday, February 17, 2022, Karen was concerned about the husky's labored breathing, and took her into the vet.

Dr. Ron confirmed that it was time. Karen notified Dieruff High School Principal Mike Makhoul, a fervent fan of Kiska, and he drove right over to be there. With tears flowing freely, they both expressed their love, and watched Kiska go peacefully.

Karen Coleman has always taken great pride in her role as "Kiska Mom". Incredibly, she has served in that capacity for 46 years. During that time, she has been the loving "Mom" to Kiska II, III, IV, and V. It has been during the last eleven years that Karen has really distinguished herself, nurturing Kiska V into a school mascot that would be the envy of any school in the country.

Kiska V displayed a genuine affection for the kids, as well as for the faculty at Dieruff. She also embraced her role as "Diva Dog", and relished every opportunity to "strut her stuff". Her personality shined at every event, and she basked in the limelight. She freely dispensed Kiska kisses, and readily rolled over for belly rubs from anyone who was willing to kneel down and deliver one.

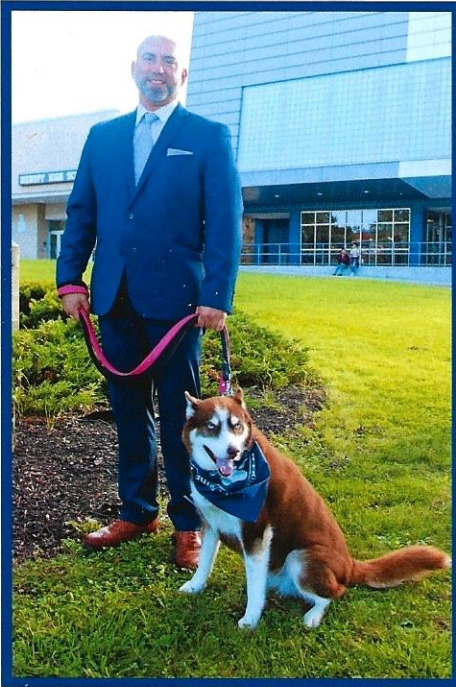
The memory of Kiska V will be forever locked within our hearts. She truly was the epitome of Husky Pride, and we shall miss her.

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## Tribute to Kiska V - Dieruff Principal Mr. Makhoul



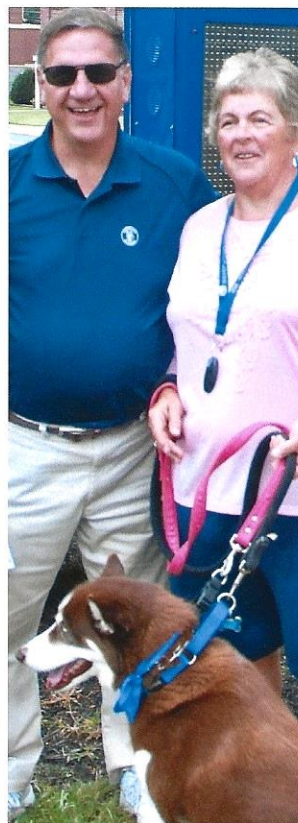
When we say "dog is man's best friend" we think of the dog in relation to its owners or domestic family. But what if that dog's family is an entire school's community? Can the magnitude of "best friend" hold true with the same impact and influence? And is it possible for that family to have the same affinity and attachment to their mascot dog? Kiska V made that all true! No matter where she was, who she greeted, formal ceremony or athletic competition she attended, or classrooms she visited, she had a way with people of all ages. She had a way that drew you in, gave you calm, made you smile, and she was always willing to offer a few wet kisses to let you know that for that moment you were alright. She was our community's therapy dog, before there was therapy dogs. For the Dieruff High School community Kiska V represented so much. Kiska's presence reminded you who you are, what you're made of,

who had your back, and how we, as a community, remain "tethered together" in our HUSKY PRIDE! Kiska is more than just a superficial mascot, she is a symbol of grit, resilience, strength, and our commitment to the pack. If that does not embody what it means to be a member of Dieruff High School than nothing is. While we mourn her loss, we must not forget to celebrate her life and commemorate all the smiles and joy she brought to our community, our staff, and of course, our students. I will miss touring her around the school and introducing her to the students. She knew how to unite the pack with the wag of her tail and nudge of her nose. Kiska V truly embodied what it means to "Lead and Serve with Husky Pride."

To that end, we must celebrate and honor the unsung hero in our community, the one who has been a Kiska mom for the last 46 years, our beloved Karen Coleman. Words won't do her leadership and service justice, but I'll just describe her as this... the epitome of Husky Pride in action. She knows what it means to be a Kiska mom, heck she should write a book on it. But nothing can describe her commitment to Dieruff High School and our tradition better than to share this intimate story. As we held and petted Kiska until her last breath, with tears streaming down her face, Mrs. Coleman bid her beloved dog farewell by repeating the words, "Husky Pride forever Kiska!" A moment that broke my heart, but made it smile at the same time. To you Mrs. Coleman, I say thank you, bow my head in respect, and raise my glass in honor. You show us all what it truly means when we say, "Once a Husky, ALWAYS A HUSKY!" You are Husky Pride!



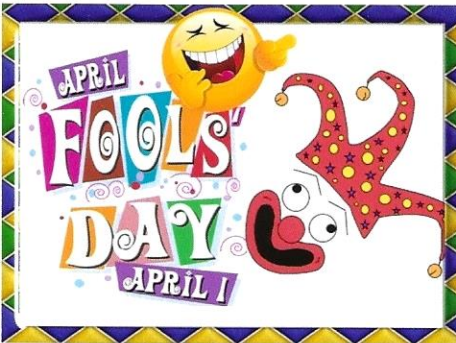
## Tribute to Kiska V - Husky Pride at its Best





## President's Message: April Fools Day Bash

I don't know about you folks, but I am ready to PARTY! We were obliged to push off our February Mardi Gras Party because of the virus, and now the postponement date- **April 1st** - is right around the corner.



We have been referring to this celebration as the "**April Fools Day Bash**", and all of the ingredients for a good time are ready to be mixed.

The Fearless Fire Company is a proven venue, with more than ample parking, a huge dance floor, and lots of elbow room.

Your \$20 ticket includes beer, soda, and snacks. Even though the Fearless does not permit bringing in your own food or beverage, the kitchen is open to order whatever you want, and additional adult beverages are available at the cash bar.

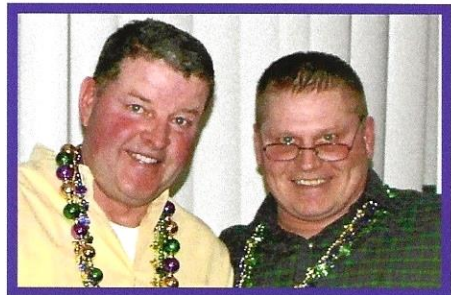
The extremely popular DJs Harry Remaly and Tommy Brunner will keep you dancing all night.

So make sure you have ordered your ticket (order form below). Rally your classmates to fill up a few tables.


You would be a fool to miss out on all of the fun.



**Kay Kurtz**  
President Alumni Association



**Dieruff Huskies**  
Join in the fun  
**APRIL FOOLS DAY BASH**  
No Joke! We're not foolin'  
Friday, April 1, 2022  
7:00 - 11:00 PM  
Sponsored by:  
**Dieruff Alumni Association**  
**Ticket Price - \$20**  
Includes Beer, Soda, & Snacks  
Dancing to Live DJs  
Harry Remaly & Tom Brunner



### April Fools Day Bash Ticket Order Form

Please send one ticket for the April 1, 2022 event to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed form, along with a check in the amount of \$20, made payable to "Dieruff Alumni Association" to Dieruff High School, 815 N. Irving St., Allentown, PA 18109 Attn: Dieruff Alumni Association



## Alumni Wall of Distinction Nominations Sought

What an incredible honor it is to be selected for the Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction. Each year, five additional alumni are carefully chosen by a committee to be inducted onto the Wall.

We are currently accepting nominations for the Class of 2022. Deadline for receiving nominations this year is **April 30, 2022**.

Reflect on the achievements of some of your classmates, or other Dieruff alumni who have distinguished themselves. We encourage you to send in a nomination form to be considered. A Nomination Form appears on the next page of this bulletin.





## Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Wall of Distinction NOMINATION FORM

**Purpose:** To give lasting recognition to graduates of Dieruff High School who have made exceptional contributions in their field, bringing honor to themselves and to Dieruff High School. Furthermore, it is the purpose of the Alumni Wall of Distinction to promote Husky Pride among current students, inspiring them to strive toward future accomplishments.

**Criteria For Nomination:** Nominees eligible for selection must have conducted themselves in such manner to reflect honor upon Dieruff High School, and have qualities of character and standards of conduct that are exemplary. Alumni must have graduated at least ten years prior to their nomination. Non-Dieruff graduates may be considered for "honorary" status on the Alumni Wall of Distinction.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. **Demonstrated commitment to and involvement with Dieruff High School and the community at an exceptional level.**
2. **Outstanding, enduring contribution to society by making a difference in the lives of others.**
3. **Outstanding professional contribution or achievement in his/her chosen field or endeavor. Considered categories are listed:** (A) Arts (B) Business (C) Education (D) Entertainment / TV / Film (E) Financial (F) Economic Development (G) Government (H) Historian (I) Law / Criminal Justice (J) Media / Journalism / Writing (K) Medicine / Health Science (L) Military

### I Nominate The Following: (Please Type or Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate attached typed sheet, provide specific information pertaining to the nominee's occupation, education, community service, awards, honors, accomplishments, and any pertinent information to aid in their selection.

### Nomination Submitted By:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed Nomination Form and Pertinent Information to:  
Dieruff High School, Attn: Alumni Association, 815 N. Irving Street, Allentown, PA 18109



## FLASHBACK: Kiska Heritage

Five Huskies have now served as the live mascot for Dieruff High School. All of them have gone on to the “Rainbow Bridge”. Kiska I, owned by Athletic Trainer “Doc” Warmkessel, served from 1959 to 1975. Karen Coleman and her husband MSgt Ron Coleman were the “parents” of Kiska II (1976-1981), Kiska III (1981-1997), and Kiska IV (1997-2010). Karen was the “Mom” of Kiska V (2010-2022).





## Dieruff Welcomes Kiska VI

Following the sad demise of Kiska V, Karen Coleman, faithful "Kiska Mom", reflected on the idea of adopting a replacement mascot. Certainly, that is a very difficult decision. After several days, Karen determined that **Kiska VI** was not only desirable, acquiring Kiska VI was vital in order to continue the six-decade tradition of a live husky mascot for Louis E. Dieruff High School.

Karen also admitted that the loss of Kiska V had left an ache in her heart, and that void had to be filled.

So Karen reached out to Toni Daniels at *Three Husketeers Rescue*, a local organization that specializes in huskies. Fortunately, Toni boasts a nationwide network, and their efforts located a husky in Texas that matched Karen's desired profile. Arrangements were made to have volunteers transport the four-year-old husky from TX to PA.



The exciting "doggie delivery" was scheduled for Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 10:00AM. With a welcoming committee comprised of a number of faithful Dieruff alumni anxiously waiting on the front porch of Karen's home, Kiska VI and Toni pulled up right in front. Wearing a light jacket to protect her from the frosty February air, Kiska VI walked up the sidewalk with a surprising display of confidence. She bounded up the front steps and proceeded to greet her adoring fans with genuine affection.

She was then escorted inside where she promptly made herself right at home on the living room couch. Indeed, Kiska VI was "home".

Kiska VI promises to continue the beautiful tradition of Husky Pride at Louis E. Dieruff High School. We send our love and best wishes to Karen and Kiska VI.



## Dieruff Welcomes Kiska VI - The Tradition Continues







## Giant Cash For Causes Gift Card Order Form



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$25 cards \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$50 cards \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$100 cards \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**ADVERTISE IN OUR MONTHLY BULLETIN 1/4 Page Ad: \$20/ Mo. Business Card Ad: \$10/ Mo.**



### **ADVERTISE IN THE "Husky Connections" Monthly Bulletin**

Reach over 5,000 Dieruff Alumni each month

**Quarter Page Ad - \$20 / Mo.**

**Business Card Ad - \$10 / Mo.**

See contact information in  
Masthead on last page of Bulletin

### **LEHIGH VALLEY OLD TIME ATHLETES & FRIENDS**

### **41st ANNUAL REUNION**

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022

**"Where Old & New Friends Meet"**

at the Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-Plex  
1935 W. Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104

with continuous  
Hot Food & Refreshments Service

12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM

**Advanced Tickets \$30.00  
at the Door \$35.00**

Make Checks Payable to LVOAT and Mail to  
Pat Brennan 221 S. 15th St., Allentown, PA 18102  
fjosephbre@aol.com 610 432-7605

Doors Open at 11:30 AM & Close at 5:30 PM

Pay by May 1st for names in Program



## Upcoming Events

### Class Reunion Idea

Combine your class reunion  
with the Fandangle July 30th

- o Reserve a few tables or your own separate tent
- o No minimum to guarantee
- o 5 hours of beer, food, music, etc.
- o Great venue at East Side Youth Center
- o Unbeatable price



**Dieruff Huskies**  
Join in the fun  
**APRIL FOOLS DAY BASH**  
No Joke!  
We're not foolin'  
Friday, April 1, 2022  
7:00 - 11:00 PM  
earless fire co. '14 INCORPORATED  
1221 S. Front Street  
Allentown, PA 18103  
Sponsored by:  
**Dieruff Alumni Association**  
**Ticket Price - \$20**  
Includes Beer, Soda, & Snacks  
Dancing to Live DJs  
Harry Remaly & Tom Brunner

## Reunions

**Class of 1967     55th Class Reunion - July 30, 2022**  
**Held with Alumni Association Fandangle**

**Class of 1972     50th Class Reunion - July 30, 2022**  
**Held with Alumni Association Fandangle**

**Class of 1977     45th Class Reunion - July 30, 2022**  
**Held with Alumni Association Fandangle**





Louis E. Dieruff High School  
Alumni Association

Louis E. Dieruff High School  
815 North Irving Street  
Allentown, PA 18109

**"Husky Connections"  
Alumni Bulletin**

Contact Information:

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Bethlehem, PA 18015  
(610) 868-4490  
Email Address:  
Jhughes2038@gmail.com

Website:  
[www.dieruff-  
alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org)

## Husky Howls & Hugs

*Hello my dear friends,*



*Love,*  
*Kiska V*