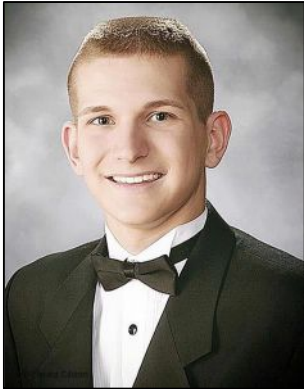


UHS ANNOUNCES TOP THREE FOR 2008 GRADUATING CLASS

[Bobbie Bruton](#)

Herald-Citizen Staff

Monday, Apr 07, 2008



Upperman High School has announced the top three graduates for the Class of 2008.

The valedictorian is **Ross Evan Hieatt** with a grade point average of 4.783. Samantha Anderson Lafever is the salutatorian with a grade point average of 4.66. Thomas Sewell Austin is the third honor student with a grade point average of 4.43.

Hieatt, son of Billie Hieatt and the late Ross Hieatt, plans to attend the US Naval Academy, where he will study mathematics. He is considering entering a submarine program or the intelligence field.

At Upperman, he has been involved with track, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta and the academic team and is currently serving as president of the Student Council. His interests include martial arts and airsoft.

"I am very pleased about being the valedictorian for this year. It is a culmination of all the hard work that I have put forth over the years, which is a very rewarding feeling," Hieatt said.

Lafever is married to Brent Lafever and is the daughter of Lisa and James Ricky Anderson. She plans to continue her studies at Tennessee Tech University as a finance major. She is currently a member of the Beta Club, National Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Not in My School and Interact and is active in the drama program.

"I am very honored that I am the salutatorian of the class of 2008. I have worked very hard throughout the years, and I am glad that it has paid off," Lafever said.

Austin, the son of Tom and Donna Austin, also plans to attend Tennessee Tech University.

His high school activities include golf, Beta Club, Pep Club, Skills USA and the National Honors Society. He plans to pursue a career in either engineering or pharmacy.

***HIEATT, ROSS EVANS SR. - MMCM U. S. NAVY VIETNAM**

Full Military Honors - 20 year career in the Navy.

B 15 March 1945, Corbin, KY - D 23 June 2004, Putnam Co., TN

Place & Time of Service: Christ Community Church, Friday, 25 June 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Ed Malone & Bro. James Trivette officiating, arrangements by: Hooper -

Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home, Cookeville, TN.

(Ross Evans Hieatt Sr. retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer from the Navy after 20 years, where he served in the submarine service. Ross Evans Hieatt Jr. received a letter on Dec. 7th of 2007 ensuring his enrollment in the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. His brother Bobby Briggs, is currently in the U. S. Marine Corps and is currently on his second tour in Iraq in 2008. Billie Jo (Jernigan) Hieatt is a preschool teacher at Noah's Ark Day Care in Cookeville, TN. Source: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 7 April 2008: Ross Evans Hieatt Jr. was announced as the valedictorian of Upperman High School in 2008 with a grade point average of 4.43. He plans to attend the U.S. Naval Academy, where he will study mathematics. He is considering a submarine program or the intelligence field).

Wife: Billie Jo Jernigan

Parents: William Herman Hieatt & Eva Pearl Wagers

(William Herman Hieatt, b. 15 June 1902, Robertson Co., KY - d. 2 October 1973, Mariemont, OH, buried in Mt. Olive, KY & Eva Pearl Wagers, b. 26 February 1917, MS - d. 10 April 1988).

Children: Ross Evans Jr., Todd & Bobby Hieatt

Buried: Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN

***HIEATT, BILLIE JO JERNIGAN**

B 28 May 1966, Saginaw, MI

Husband: Ross Evans Hieatt Sr.

Parents: Billie Ray Jernigan, s/o William Charley Jernigan & Betty Virginia Prichard & Iris F. Landers.

(Billie Ray Jernigan, b. 18 December 1942, Highland Pk., MI md Iris F. Landers on the 1st of August 1964. Iris F. Landers, b. 19 November 1946, Saginaw, MI. Children: Jodi Lynn, b. 12 February 1965, Saginaw, MI; Billie Jo, b. 28 May 1966, Saginaw, MI; Teri Jane, b. 15 August 1968, Saginaw, MI; Marti Ann, b. 8 August 1970, Saginaw, MI & Jeannie Marie Jernigan, b. 15 May 1973, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN. Billie Ray Jernigan was in U. S. Navy in the South Pacific).

Ross Evans Hieatt Sr. Obt.

COOKEVILLE -- Funeral services for Ross E. Hieatt, 59, of Baxter will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 25, at Christ Community Church in Cookeville. Burial will be in Smellage Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive friends from 6-9 p.m. today, Thursday, June 24, at Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home in Cookeville and from 9 a.m. until time of services on Friday, at the church.

Mr. Hieatt died on Wednesday, June 23, 2004, at his home.

He was born on March 15, 1945, in Corbin, Ky.

He was retired, with honors, from a 20-year career in the Navy. Mr. Hieatt also retired from Bennett Industries and was a member of Christ Community Church.

His family includes his wife, Billie Jernigan Hieatt of Baxter; and three sons, Todd, Bobby and Ross Jr., all of Baxter.

Memorial donations may be made to CRMC Cancer Care Fund, Attn: Lisa Bagci, Cookeville Regional Cancer Center, 142 West 5th St., Cookeville, Tenn. 38501. Rev. Ed. Malone and Bro. James Trivette will officiate at the services.

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