

Welcome home everyone! What a delight to see so many of you here tonight to gather for this very special joyous occasion, the 50th reunion of the Class of 62. And we are so happy that so many of you from classes before and after ours have accepted our invitation to be here tonight, to gather in this small New England town we all called home.

Many of you have traveled long distances to make this journey. Others live here in town. But tonight I think we speak of coming home not only to a place but also to a time. Where we had our beginnings, where the intertwining of relationships and experiences shaped some of the foundations of our lives.

For the past year a group of us have been gathering at what was once called the Hawley Manor Inn over a beer and a sandwiches to plan a weekend where we could all gather First and foremost I think we wanted to get as many members of our class and other classes to come together: To smile, laugh, reminisce, reflect and reconnect. We hoped to that people would have a chance to drive around town and see what has changed and what remains the same.

We have a nice program planned for this evening and we hope you will enjoy what we have prepared. Although most of this evening and tomorrows picnic is about sharing with one another we felt some of you might have some stories and words that all would enjoy hearing. Thus the Open Mike item on the program. While dining think about it and hopefully some of you will venture forward to share a thought or two for all of us.

We have no member of the clergy here tonight to give an invocation but I will in my best ecumenical way offer these sentiments.

On this beautiful June evening, almost the longest day of the year may we give thanks that we are able to gather together

here in our hometown where we had our beginnings. May we always be thankful for the people who helped us along the way, gave us inspiration, hope and believed in us. May we be thankful for the friendships that endured, have been rekindled and will continue in the coming years. May we continue to live healthy and inspiring lives and always keep the spirit of this small town close to our hearts. We offer these words and say amen.