HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2014 JONESITES….No Rob Barrett has not departed this world, but in tribute to him, Rob has been the “glue” that has held together the “family”, the memories of the 1962 Graduating Class of Jesse Jones High School. Yes, there are many others that have made our reunions a success; too many to mention, but Rob has been the “glue” that bonded us. THANK YOU SO MUCH ROB.

Rob sent me the following for this new year…..”The Back Nine of Life”. Seems apropos as we age…read…reflect and good health and smiles in the New Year.

John Blair

THE BACK NINE OF LIFE…..

Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

Whether you golf or not.. The “back nine” of your life can catch one by surprise...How did we get here so fast? Where did the years go?

I remember seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that “I was only on the first hole – teeing off” and the “back nine” was so far off that I could not fathom or imagine fully what life could be so many years away.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting gray...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become. Sadly, so many are no longer
here at all.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! You forget names.... but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you! You realize you no longer will be as good as you once aspired. The things you used to care to do, you no longer care, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore. You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep". You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch. You tend to use more 4 letter words... "what?"..."when?" Everybody whispers. You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.

And so now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the “back nine”, and I'm not sure how long it will last, this I know: although there are things I wish I hadn't done; things I should have done. there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the “back nine” yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. Live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember, and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.


Author Unknown