

**THANK YOU THOUGHTS  
BY  
ALVA BUSTAMENTE TORRES**

Though it has been fifty years since we graduated, (and we are not yet old,) in body we are no longer young. Still, we are youthful in spirit and soul. We are here to celebrate the wonder of it.

Our school days, we now realize, were of another time: no drugs, hardly any alcohol, no guns, or drive-by shootings, no mean gangs roaming our THS Badger halls. Abortions were not part of our vocabulary. No, our time was really innocent, an almost magic space, laced with most mothers (mamacitas) still at home, and fathers (papacitos) still in place. We thought we were so grown up... we were, instead, so young, so bold.

Our teachers were to us The Best: stirring us, with disciplined grace, into learning. Even so, there was more learning to come. Our counselors guided us, although we were sure we knew it all.

Fifty Summers, Winters, Springs, and Falls have passed since that special night when we graduated. It was, of course, not so much an end but a beginning. And, for some of us "late bloomers," it is not yet too late to make a change. For each day is a promise, a miracle, a celebration.

So... in appreciation and gratefulness to the Reunion Committee, especially to Barbara and Sylvia, for making all this possible. **THANK YOU. CARINOSAMENTE.**

**A. B. T.**