

## Leon Thomas Berry Academy Class of 1964

Hello from the hills of Tennessee. First of all let me say thank you to all who kept me posted on the upcoming reunion. You guys are really doing a great job. Carole and I plan to attend but her health really dictates our coming and going anywhere. I'm doing pretty good if only I could lose this spare tire I keep hanging on my waist ha. I'm sure we all have a few pounds we've added over the years. After Berry, I moved to Detroit to work in the automobile factories. If any of you have a covair or chevy II, I might have a stamp somewhere on it. I left there and returned to Berry college but quickly ran out of money. Carole and I were married on April 10, 1965 so if my math is correct, this Saturday will be 39 years for us. We actually met at Berry in 1962 and went steady until we were married. I can't imagine a woman putting up with me for that long ha. We have two son's, Jeff is 36 and John is 34 both are doing well. John has blessed us with three granddaughters and Jeff has recently found the love of his life after having being divorced for several years. I decided after a few years that factory work wasn't my calling. I applied for and was hired by the Detroit Police Department and worked there until 1974 when the call of the south was just too strong to ignore.



We moved back to Georgia and I started with the Dekalb County Police Department where I retired in 1996 after 22 and a half years. We started building our retirement home here in East Tennessee. This keeps us both busy but working together is really enjoyable. I spent three years after retirement in Kosovo working with the United Nations as a peacekeeper. Our job was to hire and train the local people in the Democratic Principles of Policing. I'm afraid that most of the training will be put aside as the Mafia is much too strong in that part of Europe. The Albanian majority has one of the strongest Mafia's in the world and they want Kosovo



for themselves. I have already been asked to join the many police officers who will be going to Iraq to train their police but Carole and I both agree that my next mission will be here in Tennessee and it will last until we die.

If you haven't been out of the United States for an extended period of time, you can't imagine how good it is to call this home. It is really good to be home again and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in June.

