

I find it hard to believe that 50 years have gone by since we were preparing for graduation in our senior year! Since that memorable event, many more have taken place in my life. On my eighteenth birthday, my brother Robert had a party for me and I met my future husband Ruben. We fell in love at first sight, but it took us another three years to get married.

It was, of course, during the Vietnam era and he had not been drafted because he was attending Texas Western on a student deferment, but as soon as we married and moved to California, he was drafted with orders to go to Vietnam. By the grace of God, his orders changed to Germany and we spent the last year of his service living in Augsburg, Germany near Munich. That was a wonderful experience since we rented a flat in a German home and they practically adopted the young American couple.



June, 1967, El Paso, Texas

When we returned, Ruben completed his last year of college and I got pregnant with our first son, Ruben Andre. Ruben graduated with a degree in Mass Communications, Journalism and we moved to Los Angeles where he began his career at CBS in television news and later moved on to entertainment. I had my second child, a daughter, Zita Janette, 3 years later. We decided not to have any more children since we had run out of names! Not the smartest idea, naming our children after us, especially when they become adults and the confusion begins. But we are Hispanic, what can I tell you?

I had begun my college education at UTEP, but didn't continue in order to work full time to help my widowed mother. While in California, I continued taking classes when my children were little and I was volunteering or working as a Bilingual Aide at their elementary school. Once they were old enough, I decided to complete my education and dedicated myself to earning a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies at California State University in Northridge. For my post graduate education, I earned two credentials, one multi-subject and one single subject in Social Studies. I have been teaching Social Studies at the same high school for almost ten years and have loved my career. We have been living in the northern Los Angeles area for almost 43 years. Ruben retired 5 years ago and has been patiently waiting for me to retire so that we can do all the things we have been planning. We love to travel and would like to continue to see more of this beautiful planet. I have promised him this will be my last year and am looking forward to spending some quality time with him and our friends and family throughout the United States.

Our two children are grown and engaged, but not married yet. Therefore, we are still waiting to become grandparents. Instead, we have grand dogs! Ruben and I have just celebrated our 46th anniversary and let me tell you, I won the lottery when I married this man. He has been my best friend and love for most of my life and I feel blessed. I can't wait for all of you to meet him, although he does know a few of my classmates even though he attended Jesuit HS. I am one of 8 children and have had a very close relationship with both my siblings and Ruben's. I can't wait to have time to visit with them as we begin our travels throughout the United States.

I am looking forward to this high school reunion and seeing my classmates again. Facebook has been a great way to renew friendships, either with classmates I knew and those I am getting to know for the first time. I also have a secret to reveal. Robert, my brother who graduated with me, and I are NOT twins as everyone assumed since we graduated together. Now that is another story...but I will say that he graduated on time.

Today: Ruben and Zita



Our son Ruben Andre



Ruben's dog Vinny, our granddog



Our daughter: Zita Janette



Zita's dogs Pinky and Johnny, our granddogs

