

Before I say a few words (which I know you're just dying to hear), I'd like to give special mention to a few people among many who, through their great efforts, made this event possible: Tom Shaner, Ray Banks, Mike Dunn, and especially our class Vice President and our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Leader – Mike Glick. Thanks Guys!

Hey men of City – good to see you again after 50 years... 50 F'ing years! Sometimes it feels like a very long time ago. But, today, when I set my old eyes on this castle it seems like yesterday. And the memories come flooding back: I remember Principal Yost telling us that we passed our first big test – choosing City; I remember climbing that hill to get to an 8 am homeroom; . I remember when 2,000 of us stood in the rain under the tower our sophomore year during a City Poly rally; I remember Captain Ray Banks bursting through the “Go City” sign at Memorial Stadium before we beat Poly; on a personal note I remember winning the upper classman debate and literary week with Eddie Gold and David Hoffman for our Bancroft Literary Society. I remember Mrs. Hall in the cafeteria absolutely believing that Bobby Bank and I were brothers. I remember John Desch's public speaking class – he used to smoke in the classroom! I remember so many terrific teachers – two of my favorites are here today – Bob Moskowitz and Jerry Levin and I remember our great class advisor, who couldn't be here today, Joel Glasser. And I'm still proud that we were the first class in the history of the school to graduate in caps & gowns. But we also experienced some painful as well as profoundly meaningful events during our time at City: John Kennedy's assassination, the passing of civil rights and voting rights legislation and the early days of the Vietnam War which, eventually, took the lives of some of our classmates. When I graduated City in 1965 I was essentially clueless, but I was sure we were going to change the world. Well – sadly we didn't. During my farewell address at graduation 50 years ago, I ended with the Robert Frost poem “The Road Less Travelled.” I hope that you all have lived the life you chose; accomplished what you wanted to; and have realized your dreams. For me, I managed to do the first one and had some fun along the way. But looking back at our 3 years at City, I feel very lucky that we experienced a time and a place where we shared something special with kids that were different than us – some white, some black; some rich, some poor; some Gentile, some Jewish; some Greek, some Polish; some booksmart, some streetmart. We were lucky to have that truly integrated experience. When I won the election for Class President by 12 votes, I know that I received black votes and I know that Chuck Bowers received white votes – probably more than me! I know that City had to have made us better people – better citizens – more tolerant of our fellow man; more understanding; more empathetic. And for that alone, I'm grateful for my time at City 50 years ago. So my fellow collegians, I salute you and I salute the castle on the hill... “City Forever.”