

Dear '66 reunion organizers,

On behalf of all the widows in our '66 Sail On Solo group, congratulations on the formidable job you did organizing our reunion. It was a phenomenal success! Thank you for making this memorable event possible for so many of us.

The overwhelming generosity of the class enabled quite a few widows to attend who may not have done so otherwise. Taking care of the reunion activities, as well as travel and lodging, was such a benevolent gesture to all of us. It has made us feel so much a part of the class of '66 to know that you have included us on equal footing, even though our husbands are no longer with us.

The reunion provided us with not only the opportunity to get to know the other SOS gals we have seen on Zoom, but also the chance to reunite with old friends, as well as meet new '66 classmates and wives. All the events really flowed with conversation and camaraderie. The Westin was a great venue. With all the people working behind the scenes, things seemed to move seamlessly from one event to another, from the opening registration to the farewell breakfast. Our reunion packages, with updated directories, programs and pillows, were well done and useful, as were the large name tags with the schedule of events on the back.

For the widows especially, the Memorial Service in the chapel was a significant event. Many in our group were moved by the reading of the names and the tolling of the bell. Sitting together in the first two rows, we really felt the love and support of one another, as we reflected on those we knew who have gone before.

Our Sail On Solo group has found that the unique bond you classmates share has been passed on to us. We find so many similarities with each other because our husbands were cast from the same mold. Thank you for encouraging us to come to the reunion. It was an experience we will not forget. Bette Mandich wrote, upon her return home, what we all feel:

Good Morning, Ladies

What to say? Overwhelmed, grateful, nostalgic, lonely and most of all thankful for all the time, work and effort that went into making the last four days none other than SPECTACULAR!!! The time, treasure and effort that went into that "production " was beyond anything I can imagine. My SOS sisters are spectacular, as I knew they would be. We all had the most spectacular husbands and it stands to reason that they chose spectacular women. The only sadness I feel today is the distance that separates us. I carry you all in my heart and my memory of the very best weekend ever since Joe died. Love you, Sisters!

Bette

So many thanks to so many people from those of us sailing on solo,
Linda McCook