

August 2014

Back in 1952-1953, I had the opportunity to attend an after school class in woodworking at the Eliot. The nuns at Our Lady Of Lourdes weren't too happy, as they were prepping me for Don Bosco High School.

I can still remember the lamp we all made in class and the new friends I met from other schools. Before graduation from OLOL, I took the first entrance exam needed to attend Boston Technical High School and completely upset the nuns because I passed with flying colors. After graduating from Boston Tech, I entered the Coast Guard, got married, we raised 4 children and are grandparents of 7 grandchildren. We now live in South Dennis, MA.

I went into the Coast Guard Reserve in 1977 and retired in 2001 with almost 30 years service to our country. The one rule that I learned at Eliot stuck with me: "Measure twice, cut once."

We are now retired and I am the caregiver of my wife, who is a severe stroke survivor. Maybe twice a year whenever we are in the JP area checking out our old homes, I still have to drive by the Eliot and remember the good times spent there, and "the Tank" swimming pool across from the Monument at Curtis Hall.

- Rich Fichter