

# Dedication

This book is dedicated to my classmates, both living and deceased, from the *Class of 1966*.



After we graduated from St. James High School, each of us moved in our own direction and established our own lives. Some stayed in Michigan while others moved to other states and even other countries. Most, but not all, married and had children. Lots of those who did have kids, now have grandchildren and even great grandchildren.

After we left St. James, more than a few male members of our class went off to fight in the Vietnam War. Some of them were physically injured or emotionally scarred by what they experienced in the military. I am grateful for their service to the nation.

We may be scattered throughout the United States, and have lived very different lives with a wide range of occupational and professional interests, but we share a common bond nonetheless. We spent many of our most formative years together – at St. James and in Ferndale – and, at least for me, those memories endure.

I feel that my experiences in Ferndale – whether good, bad, or somewhere in-between – contributed to who I am today. I therefore remember the Class of 1966 with deep and lasting affection.

I also gratefully acknowledge my eight brothers and sisters: Larry, Dan, Gary, Maryann, Cathy, Carolyn, Diane, and Michael. Without them, growing up in Ferndale would not have been half as much fun or nearly as interesting. Life in a large family has had its rewards.

Finally, even though he entered into my life a decade after I moved from Michigan, Michael A. Vasquez has been my spouse, life partner, and best friend for the past 35 years. As such, he has experienced the effects of my life in Ferndale – a life that contributed to my strengths as well as my weaknesses. His patience and understanding are most appreciated.