Welcome to the MTHS CLASS OF 1970 40th Reunion. You guys all look great. Is everybody here? Where’s Snooki? Oh that’s right…Snooki is from the FAKE Jersey Shore….WE are the REAL Jersey Shore!

I’m Jeff Pike, and on behalf of the entire Reunion Committee I’d like to welcome you all. Our school was so large that some of you might not remember me…Back in 1970 I was a nerd……But during high school I developed a SIGNATURE MOVE that might help remember me….would you like to see it? [*pushes eyeglasses back up his nose]* ….I know, I know you’ve seen that move in every nerd movie that’s ever been made…..But the thing that makes MY move so special is that I was doing that move before I wore glasses….

A little more than 40 years ago we lined up outside the football stadium in our caps and gowns ready to graduate and take on the world. As you might recall, the best laid plans often go astray and it began to rain cats & dogs which turned our stately ceremony into pandemonium…..What you probably didn’t know is that I was prepared to give a speech that evening and I never got to give that speech…..So tonight, after 40 years of practice, you get to hear my graduation speech…..So for any of you gents who have a going problem or a growing problem……this would be a good time to hit the men’s room…..Just kidding…..

Here’s a lyric that you are all familiar with…..

You, who are on the road
Must have a code
That you can live by.
And so, become yourself
Because the past
Is just a goodbye.

Teach, your children well
Their father's hell
Did slowly go by
And feed them on your dreams
The one they pick's
The one you'll know by.
Don't you ever ask them why
If they told you, you would die
So just look at them and sigh
And know they love you.

So WHO ARE WE after 40 years? We’ve shared some dramatic historical experiences.

* We are the Television Generation…We grew up on the boob tube. Next time you tell your kids to get off the Internet, think about how many hours you logged watching I Love Lucy, Leave it to Beaver and the Honeymooners.
* We are the generation that went from Pay Phones to Cell Phones.
* We went from hiring babysitters and buying diapers for our kids to hiring babysitters and buying diapers for our parents.
* We have witnessed great tragedies like Katrina and 9/11.
* We have also witnessed great Miracles like putting a man on the moon in 1969.
* The only miracle that could overshadow the moon landing was the 1969 Amazing NY Mets. Of course the last 4 seasons of the Mets could be placed in the TRAGEDY CATEGORY.
* We challenged the accepted beliefs of our parents and their society. What must our parents have thought about sending us into a world full of Social Change?
* We are the Assassination Generation.
* We hid under our school desks from the dangers of the Cold War.
* We demonstrated for Civil Rights and Voting Rights.
* We protested the Viet Nam War, and yet many of our generation served with honor in the military.
* We engaged in Campus Unrest most vividly over the Kent State shootings…Right here at MTHS.
* We also Celebrated intensely…We are the WOODSTOCK Generation
* It says here…We are the Free Love Generation…..Must have missed that one….Any of you guys remember that one?

Personally I associate the historical events with all the great music of our era. We are the Generation of Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison and John Lennon…..

Where’s ANGELA DI FILLIPPI? Angela, the FBI would still like to know your whereabouts when each of these people died….

I am amazed by how many MTHS musicians are still involved with music. Dennis Hern…..a member of our band [*Danger Zone*] tonight…..After 40 years….you finally mastered that C chord….Congratulations….

We knew Bruce Springsteen before he was the Boss…. we knew our own Steve Van Zandt before he was Miami Steve, and before he was Little Steven and certainly before he was Silvio Dante….

I’d like to take just a minute to summarize the last 40 years using the music of Crosby Stills Nash & Young.

We left MTHS in 1970…Some got jobs, some started businesses, some went into the service and others went to school. In short….we had to clean up our acts….The theme song for the day became that great song by David Crosby, ALMOST CUT MY HAIR…. Where’s ROGER JENNINGS? Roger….the ladies of Middletown are grateful that you never heard this song….and doesn’t Roger look great ladies?

So you got your feet on the ground…maybe got married….maybe had some kids…and you settled down in your first Home….How many times have you caught yourself humming along to Graham Nash’s OUR HOUSE?……a very, very fine house indeed.

And then maybe you had a few more kids and maybe changed jobs….some of you even changed SPOUSES… You started to notice signs of age as your kids grew up…Maybe you started to color your hair or you tried to get in shape….and maybe you took the wife to a rock concert just to let everyone know that you still kick ass…

But after raising kids for 10 or 12 years, your vocabulary kind of slips into one syllable words…

Thankfully, Neil Young wrote a kickass song for all of us with limited vocabularies….Care to sing along with me?

HEY HEY MY MY….ROCK & ROLL WILL NEVER DIE

MY MY HEY HEY…ROCK & ROLL IS HERE TO STAY….

Pretty thought provoking lyrics, Neil……

So now we find ourselves here tonight reconnecting with old friends and filling in the details of this outline I’ve described.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR US? ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE…

40 years ago, who knew that I’d be doing stand-up comedy at Buck Smith’s….Not me..

MAYBE, Steven Stills will finally write a hit song….

For tonight it’s okay to live in the past. But we still have many years left to continue to leave our mark. We could not have survived the turmoil of our youth without TOLERANCE of the viewpoints of others…To our children and grandchildren; TODAY’S world is just as tumultuous as it once was for us.

When you hummed along to TEACH YOUR CHILDREN you probably glossed over Verse 2. But now WE are the teachers…WE’RE on the other end of the lyric.

And you of tender years can’t know the fears that your elders grew by.

And so please help them with your youth.

They seek the truth before they can die.

Teach you parents well. Their children’s hell will slowly go by.

And feed them on your dreams. The one they pick’s the one you’ll know by.

Don’t you ever ask them why. If they told you, you would cry. So just look at them and sigh…..

And know they love you.

IT’S GREAT SEEING YOU ALL TOGETHER AGAIN.

Have a great evening…