

# News Release

## For Immediate Release

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### **Book Captures Small-Town Life During The Turbulent 1960s**

When someone tells you that nothing ever happens in small towns, one thing is for certain: They didn't grow up in one.

*In the Moment: The Journey of the Class of '70* is a coming-of-age story set during the turbulent 1960's on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This historical fiction follows a group of students from elementary school to their graduation from high school in Talbot County, Maryland, in June 1970. Specifically, the story evolves through a period starting with the Cuban Missile Crisis and the JFK assassination through campus anti-war protests and the moon landing. It also was a time when civil rights were front-and-center of public debate, as the county's racially segregated schools were integrated for the first time, there were two violent race riots in nearby Cambridge, and segregationist Alabama Gov. George Wallace brought his presidential campaign to the Eastern Shore.

"All of the events you saw on the front pages of the big city newspapers played out at varying degrees in small-town America," said David W. Guth, the book's author. "World events and national politics played as prominent role in drugstore counter discussions as they did in congressional debates – although the local discussions tended to be more civil."

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Guth is intimately familiar of life in Talbot County in the 1960s. He attended elementary and junior high school in St. Michaels and graduated from Easton High School in 1970. Guth graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in radio-television-speech from the University of Maryland – College Park in December 1973 and with a Master of Journalism from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill in August 1990.

“My first six years of school was with exclusively white classmates from the St. Michaels area,” Guth said. “That all changed in the seventh grade with school desegregation.

“On top of that, seventh grade brought students from very conservative and racially homogenous Tilghman Island,” he added. “Change did not come very easily to those folks.”

Guth retired at the end of 2019 after nearly 30 years on the faculty of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of Kansas. Prior to that, he was a Peabody Award-winning broadcast journalist and a government public information officer. He is the author of three books, *Bridging the Chesapeake: A ‘Fool Idea’ The Unified Maryland* (2017), *Thirteen Minutes: Death of an American High School* (2022) and *In the Moment: The Journey of the Class of ’70* (2025). Guth is also a co-author of three college textbooks and a media relations guide for attorneys.

*In the Moment* is published by Vanguard Press, an imprint of Pegasus Publishers and Pegasus Elliot MacKenzie of Cambridge, United Kingdom. Pegasus has published over 2,000 titles sold in 33 countries.