



# Class of **1958** Newsletter

## Fall 2008

### Letter from the Executive Committee Chairman (Palmer McGrew)

After the Alumni Review last May, at our 50th Reunion, several of the wives commented how proud they were of the way the Class of 1958 marched across diagonal walk to the Thayer Statue. As with many of the habits we acquired so long ago while in Kaydet Grey, the marching reflex just seems to kick in under the right circumstances. I was reminded of this when recently the Department of Veterans Affairs released the news that legislation had been passed making it proper for Veterans to render the hand salute under circumstances where the Nation's flag is being honored -- parades, reviews, and during the playing of the National Anthem. Many of us have been doing that for years and it is good to know that we are now "authorized," to render such honors to our Nation and its flag. I must admit that placing my hand over my heart just didn't satisfy the reflexes instilled over fifty years ago. Like marching, the reflex to salute our flag is not easily shed. This latest law doesn't cover all situations, but I am going to act in the spirit of the law and you can bet I will be saluting to honor those laid to rest with the playing of Taps. For those who need it, a session of extra instruction on the hand salute will be held at the next class luncheon.

Grip Hands,

Palmer

### TAPS: Deaths reported since the Summer 2008 Newsletter:

- a. Rae Ramsden, widow of Jim. Death reported on 9 Sep 2008
- b. Libby Schroeder, wife of John. Died 21 Sep 2008
- c. Robert E. (Bob) Tierney. Died 17 Oct 2008

The following is the link to our class Eulogy page which **Jack Downing** (CINC Obit) suggests we all put in our "Favorites" file for ready reference:

<http://defender.westpoint.org/service/eulogy/1,1123.usma1958,00.html>.

**Class Flag:** **Lee Fay** recently served as courier carrying the flag to and from the funeral of **Bob Tierney** in California. In this case, Lee reported that provisions had not been made for the flag at the church, so it was prominently displayed at the Reception following. This follows the pattern of flexibility and innovation that has characterized the program from the start. When it is learned that a Classmate has died, the EXCOM attempts to contact a classmate likely to attend the funeral to ask that he receive and deploy the class flag on behalf of us all. The flag, less the flag staff and Reunion Streamers, is normally sent by overnight mail (which actually takes three days to the West Coast). We have had great success getting the flag to these events, provided we get timely notification. The response of the families of our departed classmates to the presence of our class flag at ceremonies and funerals has been overwhelmingly positive and grateful. This is a great symbolic reaching out of the class to our grieving friends and deserves the support of all. Sincere thanks to all who have performed this important duty for the class.

**Widow News:** **Bill Serchak** provided the following: "This month's issue of MOAA's magazine, "Military Officer", features our own **Mary Kay Olson**. The website below will take you to the cover of the magazine. Once there, put your cursor on the article, "Their Memory Lives On". Clicking once on the text/title will bring you to page 62 where the story about four widows begins. Mary Kay's story is interspersed with the other widows' stories from page 62-69 and is continued on page 85. Mary Kay's picture is on page 68...

Go To: <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/moaa/mo1108/>

**Class Organization:** The essential elements of Class Organization can be found as an Enclosure to the Summer and Winter Newsletters.

**Class Communications Resources:** A partial listing of the Communications Resources available to the class is at Enclosure 1.

**Wounded Warrior Mentor Program:** The Class of 1958 continues its strong support of the Wounded Warrior Mentor Program. Recently, nineteen classmates from across the country signed up to be follow-on mentors for wounded soldiers once they are discharged from the Army and Walter Reed Hospital and go back home. That brings our number to twenty seven follow-on mentors. Combining that with nine classmates mentoring in the Washington DC area and we have a total of thirty six mentors. Pop up your chests all you volunteers and thanks for your support! **Lee Miller** continues his strong leadership of the overall mentoring program which has some 120 mentors from a number of West Point Classes plus others mentoring over 240 wounded warriors from Walter Reed and Naval Bethesda Hospital. He and Dick Schonberger are also assisting the 101st Airborne at Ft. Campbell in setting up a similar mentoring effort. **John Herren**, (301) 229-7713, [jdherr@aol.com](mailto:jdherr@aol.com), has sent out a call for the active Mentors in the DC area to take on multiple recovering troopers to assist in their transitions. New Mentors are needed both in the DC Area and throughout the country. Training will be provided. '58 truly is Great!

**Gift Ideas for the Holiday Season:** Our DVD, "'58 is Great" and the Reunion Book, 50 Years of Service make great gifts for family and friends. Other ideas include our Class Coin and the Glee Club Alumni CD and DVD. They can be ordered as follows:

**DVD "58 is Great"** – Mail requests to Dale Hruby, 9502 Burning Branch Road, Burke, VA 22015; \$20 per copy; Checks made out to 1958 Class Fund. No Credit Cards, please. Include family addresses and we will mail directly to them at no extra charge.

**50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Book** – Handled by the AOG Gift Shop. Copies can be ordered by contacting Holger Bernhardt: [holger.bernhardt@wpaog.org](mailto:holger.bernhardt@wpaog.org); Phone: (845) 446-1526. The price is \$85 plus \$14 S&H per copy. Credit Cards are acceptable.

**Class of '58 – '08 Coins** – Contact Jack Downing (703) 569-2887, [ejdowning@cox.net](mailto:ejdowning@cox.net). The price is \$12. Please pay by check made out to the 1958 Class Fund.

**West Point Alumni Glee Club CD & DVD:** Order from Terry Ryan (703) 263-2232, [tryan@esinova.org](mailto:tryan@esinova.org). CD is \$15, DVD is \$20. Checks made payable to West Point Alumni Glee Club.

**Calendar of Upcoming Events:** This calendar (Enclosure 2) is based largely upon the Social Events List of the Washington DC Area put together by **Joe Luman** (703) 548-0889, [jluman1@verizon.net](mailto:jluman1@verizon.net). It is provided with the hope that those of you living outside the DC Area might coordinate a visit to the Nation's Capitol with a Class of '58 gathering of one sort or another. The calendar also includes activities taking place elsewhere in the world. If you are planning some type of activity involving a gathering of classmates and want to open it to the rest of the Class, let us (ExCom) know and we will add the event to this list.

**Marchback from Plebe Hike:** On August 18-19, **Ed Weckel, Wally Ward and Will Collett** represented the Class of '58 by participating in the 9th annual Plebe - Alumni march back. Ed's account is too good not to include. An edited version of Ed's report is at Enclosure 3.

### **FCC Handover:**

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008, a representative group of our classmates and spouses "handed over" the First Class Club to the class of '09, entrusting them with the responsibility to keep the Club in good shape and pass it on to the class of 2010 in as good a condition as it is now. There was a large turnout of Firsties, including the class officers and the First Captain.

'58 was represented by **Tony and Bonnie Smith, Andy Andreson, Bob and Judy Moore, Branch and Nancy Worsham, and Brad and Carol Johnson**. Brad did a great job with his remarks on behalf of the class, stressing that the FCC is a place where the cadets can get to know their classmates, and how important that will be later in life.

Tony reported that the Cadets were squared away and the Club looked good. The roof replacement (costing over \$1M from the budget of the Director of Public Works, i.e., appropriated funds) was not quite finished, but was to the point where putting on the finishing touches did not prevent the use of the Club for this ceremony and continued activities with the Class of 2009.

**Al Salisbury** also reports from his recent visit to West Point: "Tonight I sat with the Comm (BG Mike Linnington '80) and his wife at dinner. I asked him how the FCC was. He said he was there last night and it's in great shape. In his words, the leadership shown by '09 is "like night and day better than '08" and they are taking great care of the club. As you have heard before, he was again tonight profuse in his appreciation to '58 for this fantastic gift to the Corps.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to participate in this proud annual event, pencil it in on one of the late Thursdays in late August for next year and watch out for a specific date. Tony Smith (703) 838-0338, [aasmith58@msn.com](mailto:aasmith58@msn.com).

### **Reunions and Mini Reunions:**

2009 – Mini in Tucson, AZ, **Art Meyer** is the coordinator. The Hotel is now accepting reservations for our Mini. The Mini begins Sunday, Oct 25, 2009 and ends Thursday morning, Oct 29, 2009. We will be located at the Double Tree Hotel Tucson at Reid Park. Our group is known as "West Point Academy Class of 1958 Reunion" You may make reservation by calling 1-800-222-8733 or online at [doubletree.com](http://doubletree.com). The on-line group code is "WPA".

Please let us know where you will be staying if you will not be at the Double Tree.

If you plan on booking reservations for the shoulder dates (3 days pre and 3 days post reunion) please call Kirsten Naskedov, Reservations Manager at (520) 323-5266. She will be happy to see that your reservation is completed. She is at the DoubleTree and has control of how many rooms are available for "shoulder dates". On line and 800 reservations may not have access to those rooms unless she has made them available. If you still have a problem, please let us know.  
Art & Sue

2010 – Mini in Denver, CO, **Rich Clements** is the coordinator

\*2011 – Open

\*2012 – Open

2013 – 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion at West Point – **Gary Roosma** is, as always, Coordinator.

- (Note: There are rumors of a Hawaii or Orlando Reunion shaping up. Stay tuned)

**Perpetual Endowment Fund (PEF)** – Jack Bradshaw sent the following e-mail to the class: "The Supe sent me a letter, thanking the Class of 1958 for the Perpetual Endowment Fund.

Pete Trainor has posted it on the Class Web Site at <http://www.west-point.org/class/usma1958/>  
I hope the Supe is not following stock prices every day! May I say again, on behalf of our Class,

thank you to the members of the PEF Board, present and past." ...Jack

**Enclosures:**

- Enclosure 1: Class Communications Resources
- Enclosure 2: Class of 1958 Social Schedule 2008 – Joe Luman
- Enclosure 3: 2008 Marchback Report – Ed Weckel
- Enclosure 4: Army/Navy Tailgate Invitation – Al Salisbury

**Enclosure 1: Communications Resources:**

- a. Assembly –“The magazine of Historical Record for USMA Graduates.” – **George Sibert**, [gsibert@comcast.net](mailto:gsibert@comcast.net), is our Scribe and he does a tremendous job providing the running Historical Record of our class. Join the AOG and subscribe to ASSEMBLY!
- b. Class E-mail Net & Forum – Moderator, **Dick Buckalew**, who also keeps the class E-Mail Roster updated. Changes go to Dick at: [Buckalew@West-Point.Org](mailto:Buckalew@West-Point.Org). In addition to the spirited and informative exchanges on the Class Forum, the E-mail network is also used by our Class Representatives to the Association of Graduates and West Point, currently Alan Salisbury and Tony Smith, to report on briefings and other activities at West Point.
- c. Class Web Site – Our Web Site includes a number of handy links and pages reporting on such recurring items of interest as Skiing, Golf, Prostate Health, Obituaries, Class History, Articles from George Sibert’s Class of 1958 column in Assembly, as well as the most recent of these Class of 1958 Newsletters. Webmaster is **Pete Trainor** at: [PBTrainor@cox.net](mailto:PBTrainor@cox.net).
- d. AOG Website – The AOG recently announced a new and enhanced website. Each class has a dedicated page. “...the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) new web site is operational and ready at [www.westpointaog.org](http://www.westpointaog.org). Log in with your Cullum number and password as you did with the old site.”
- e. CCQ's – The CCQ Roster is maintained by **Dale Hruby** and is part of Enclosure 1
- f. Snail Mail roster -- George Lawton, the tracer of lost classmates, keeps tab on home addresses and phone numbers. Send all changes to George at: [GCL58@aol.com](mailto:GCL58@aol.com), and he will coordinate with AOG and John Nun who actually updates the class computer records.
- g. ExCom Meeting Minutes – Produced and distributed via E-mail by **John Raymond**, Class Secretary. John is also the proctor of our Policies and Procedures.”
- h. Class Newsletter – **Dale Hruby**, Editor (703) 250-7182, [dalehruby@aol.com](mailto:dalehruby@aol.com). Published quarterly. Send him any items of interest or upcoming events and mention that you want it to appear in the next Newsletter.

**Enclosure 2: Class of 1958 Social/Activity Schedule for 2008 - 2009:**

**National events:**--Ski trip March 1-6. POC – Paul Ruud at: [ruud@starband.net](mailto:ruud@starband.net)

Mini Reunion Tucson AZ October 25-29. POC --Art Meyer at: [AWSAMEYER@cox.net](mailto:AWSAMEYER@cox.net).

**D.C. Area Activities:**

February 19--Members of 58 and guests, at the Army Navy Country Club, either Arlington or Fairfax, beginning at 11:30 POC for 58 lunches Joe Luman [jcluman1@verizon.net](mailto:jcluman1@verizon.net)

Army-Navy Game Tailgate 6 Dec 2008 – Florence and Alan Salisbury are in their new digs at Evans Farm in McLean, VA and will once again host the Tailgate – See invitation at Enclosure 4.

FOUR Thursday luncheons with members of '58 and guests are held at the Army Navy Country Club (ANCC) (either in Arlington or Fairfax – stay alert!) beginning at 11:30 -- Joe Luman [jcluman1@verizon.net](mailto:jcluman1@verizon.net)

Following our general pattern, our initial 2009 lunch will be held on Thursday, Feb 19. Details to follow.

#### Other Lunches—

March--date TBA--with class of 1957 Fort Myer O Club. POC -- John Herren <[jdherr@aol.com](mailto:jdherr@aol.com)>

April 16--Army Navy Country Club, either Arlington or Fairfax, 11:30.

May 17 --Class Memorial Service at Vietnam Memorial and Brunch at ANCC Arlington, held the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend, 10 AM at VN Memorial, Washington, DC and 11:30 AM at ANCC Arlington. Contact George Sibert at [gsibert@comcast.net](mailto:gsibert@comcast.net) to attend memorial service. POC for lunch is Joe Luman [jcluman1@verizon.net](mailto:jcluman1@verizon.net).

Other D.C. area

JANUARY Possible Hexagon Satire entertainment, Lee Miller

Different times--Civil War activities, Herb Puscheck & Jack Downing.

**West Point Society of the District of Columbia and the National Capital Region:** Has a wide variety of activities including the Annual Founders Day Gala. Look for more details in the Winter Newsletter.

#### **Events at West Point:**

Plebe Hike March Back, August 2009, USMA, West Point, NY. POC = Ed Weckel at [Weck58@comcast.net](mailto:Weck58@comcast.net).

First Class Club Turnover to Class of 2010 -- August 2009, USMA, West Point, NY. POC = Tony Smith, at [aasmith58@msn.com](mailto:aasmith58@msn.com).

Jim Ramsden Chemistry Award Presentation, May 2009 USMA, West Point, NY. POC = Jack Downing at [ejdowning@cox.net](mailto:ejdowning@cox.net).

George Walker Debating Award Presentation May 2009, USMA, West Point, NY. POC = Tom Carpenter at [tom1236@comcast.net](mailto:tom1236@comcast.net) .

#### **Other Events of Note and Interest:**

Larry Malone Award: (May 2009) Annual presentation of the Malone Award to the most outstanding "Cadet Ranger," in the graduating Georgetown University ROTC unit at the annual military ball at Ft. Meyer Officer's Club. POC = John Herren at [jdherr@aol.com](mailto:jdherr@aol.com).

Jerry Capelle USMA Prep School Award, May 2009 at the USMA Prep School, Fort Monmouth, NJ. POC = Bill Serchak at [wserchak@comcast.net](mailto:wserchak@comcast.net) .

#### **Enclosure 3: Marchback Report – Plebe Hike 2008**

Fellow Classmates and Friends:

Since this is my 9th March Back After Action Report, I had planned to simply state: "We came, we saw, and we conquered." However, a number of interesting "vignettes" appeared along the way, which I hope some of you may find of interest.

Before the march began, at around 0530 hrs, we (Wally, Will and I) were introduced to our cadet Platoon Leader and his staff. Naturally they were surprised when they learned of our Class and our ages. One responded - - you guys look young enough to be in your 50s!!!! We took that as a great compliment. Then the Platoon Leader addressed his company of plebes, and exhorted them to "have fun". No kidding!!! How many of us were ever told to have fun as plebes?

Shortly after we started the MB, I asked a cadet where he was from. The answer - - "Croatia." In perfect English! I was quite surprised. In addition to Croatian and English, he is also fluent in Russian. Upon graduation, he will serve in the Croatian Army.

There was another cadet from Georgia - - not the state but the former Soviet Republic. I heard (but can not confirm) that upon the outbreak of hostilities, he wanted to return to his country, but after being convinced that he could contribute more as a Grad later on, rather than now, he decided to remain at the Academy.

During the march, there was a female plebe who was literally gasping for breath. In all my life, I've never experienced such a sound coming from one's lungs. Yet she was being rushed to her proper place in the formation -- still gasping. A while later she collapsed. Fortunately she was med-evacuated. I was told that she had asthma which was only discovered at Buckner. She is a swimmer. IMHO she should have been evacuated much earlier, for if anything serious happened, I suspect heads would have rolled.

At a break, the three of us were approached by a very mature cadet. He had previous Army experience, had served in Afghanistan, seemed very mature and at ease. He was 22 yrs old. I asked him if he was a Cow or Firstie, since I could not make out his insignia. He informed me he was a plebe. The three of us were quite astonished. We had a very frank and interesting talk with This young cadet, and wished him well, but he is obviously frustrated with the inexperience and relative immaturity of some upperclassmen, as he has been in combat and is older than most of the upperclassmen. We "old foggies" recommended that he keep his sense of humor, and that in a year, he would be a valuable asset to the Corps, as he would be able to impart his knowledge to both the upper and lower classmen. But the three of us agree - - he will probably have a hard time staying at the Academy, since we sensed that his frustration level was quite high.

We spoke with two Majors. One had served in Germany with his family for 5 ½ years, with several deployments in Iraq/Afg. While he was deployed, his family of wife and 4 children were allowed to remain in Germany. The other Major has also been deployed several times, but due to family considerations, was seriously considering leaving the service. His wife is frustrated by his frequent deployments and the effect on his family. As an aside - - that day before I had read about the shortages of Army Majors in the newspaper.

As usual, the senior marcher was Col Dick Williams - - Class of 45. He has set the bar extremely high for the rest of us. I shook his hand, and there is nothing wimpy about his handshake. He indicated that he'll be back next year, health permitting.

At the after march luncheon, the Supe addressed us. His key point was that he wanted to push the "West Point" brand, as 80 percent of the people West of the Mississippi do not know about the Academy. For example, shirts with the "Army" and "Black Knights" mean something to us, but not to most outsiders (my example - - not his, but this illustrates his point). Therefore, the focus will change to more clearly place "West Point" in public view.

Next year we will commemorate the 55th Anniversary of the Class of '58 plebe march back. Lord willing, Wally, Will and I plan to be there. Hope a few of you will join us.

Ed Weckel

Enclosure 4: Army/Navy Tailgate , December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 11:30 AM:

**USMA CLASS OF 1958  
&  
WEST POINT ALUMNI GLEE CLUB**

INVITES YOU TO AN

**ARMY/NAVY TAILGATE PARTY  
& POTLUCK LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, December 6th, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.**

**at**

**Alan & Florence Salisbury's  
7249 Addington Dr., McLean, VA**

**Kickoff at 12:00 Noon.**

**Watch the Game on Big Screen in High Definition!**

**Snacks/Hors d'oeuvres throughout Game**

**Potluck Luncheon beginning at Half-Time**

**Please bring a Main Dish, Hors d'oeuvre, Vegetable, Salad or Dessert.**

**(Out-of-Towners Just Bring Yourself!)**

**Beverages Provided!**

**RSVP (Acceptances Only) to Florence at 703-821-1660  
to coordinate who is coming and what you are bringing.  
(Adult children, friends and guests are welcome!)**

**DIRECTIONS:**

We are in Evans Farm (very close to Tyson's Corner.) between Route 123 (Dolley Madison Blvd) and Chain Bridge Rd in McLean. **PARKING will be in the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church lot next door!!!**

From the Beltway, take the Rte 123 (north) McLean exit. Proceed through a couple of lights to the light at the top of the hill which is Great Falls Rd. Turn right on Great Falls Rd. At the first light, turn left on to Chain Bridge Rd. Lewinsville

Presbyterian church is on your immediate left. Turn left into the rightmost parking lot. Follow the path (and signs) at the back of the lot on the right to our house (a short block).

From the DC/Arlington area, take I-66 west and exit at the I-495 (Beltway) exit marked for Dulles Airport and Tysons Corner. Stay to the right. Take the Rte 123 McLean exit and continue with directions above. You can also come out the George Washington Parkway (south) from DC/Arlington and take the Chain Bridge Road McLean exit. This will put you on Route 123 (south) which will become Dolley Madison Blvd. Continue through several lights. After you cross Old Dominion Rd (at a light), turn left on Great Falls Rd. Continue with directions above.

HANDICAPPED: We can accommodate a couple of cars behind our house....call for more detail.