

## ***First Class Club Fund Rabble Rousers***

***Mike Dugan - February 2016***

Esteemed Members of the World Famous and Highly Respected Class of 1958,

I write to thank the first responders -- and to encourage the rest of the class -- in support of the refurbishment of the First Class Club at West Point.

The history of the Long Gray Line is punctuated by many notable classes, none of which -- except the Class of 1958 -- have left a class gift that produced a functional legacy, especially one that is used and appreciated by Cadets on a regular and continuing basis. In my view we, the Class, need to take this opportunity to reinforce that legacy.

For understandable reasons the Old Ordnance Compound building, the site of the First Class Club, has suffered serious deterioration. The Academy leadership has committed funding and priority to fix the structural problems. After the structural issues are addressed there will remain a need for the "stuff" that makes a facility into a "Club" -- sturdy pub furniture, lighting, photos and framing of cadet activities the last century (perhaps, 1950s - 1980s or so). The plan is largely in place; the resources are coming together.

The January fund drive report from Tom Claffey, Drive Chairman, was very encouraging: class contributions approaching \$200,000 had been recorded by AOG Gift Operations. The Class leadership hopes to see full participation by all class members so that this effort will truly be a class effort. Now is the time; today is the day.

Warmest regards,

Mike Dugan