

The March Back 2020 with '24

8/27/2020

From Bel Air, Maryland, I heard from **Ed & Cathy Weckel** about actually doing the virtual March back this year. I'll let him tell it.

"On Sat morning the alarm rang at 0440. I departed the house at 0530 and started the MB at 0540, just about BMNT. The total route selected was ten miles, over terrain quite similar to that from Buckner. I walked 6.6 miles in 2 hrs., 32 seconds. I was shooting for less than two hours, but my legs just said "NO". After a five-minute break, my wife Cathy joined me for a more relaxing 3.4 mile trek. I selected Saturday, because the weather report for that day was the best.



Temperatures were mild, and though the humidity was a bit high, it not unbearable. The enclosed picture shows me taking a brief rest after 6.6 miles. I appreciate that fact that I was able to join the Class of 2024 virtually, however, nothing quite beats the experience of marching with the cadets, my classmates, fellow grads and the cadre. I even missed Vince barking orders to us from the ski slope onwards, for picture taking, mass grad formation, and guiding us to the ski slope. What I didn't miss, were the showers in the gym – being herded butt to butt with grads in the sweltering, humid gym. Taking a hot shower back home was a treat. Hopefully, in the future, the gym showering experience can be improved. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to the 22d March Back with the Class of 2025. Hopefully we old timers can return to West Point, and once again interact with the Corps.

I just registered for the 2021 Grad MB Notification. You can register at www.westpointaog.org/GradMarchback. Date is 8 – 9 August."

We don't know how **Wally Ward** or **Will Collett** did. Did Gainesville, VA, or Doylestown, PA, see the same thing? I'm sure they did do it once again.

Photo: Ed Weckel

Awards To Classmates

8/27/2020

In the course of the executive committee meeting for the class I found out about two additional awards that honor members of our class, **John McKillop** award given to the one or two outstanding members of the Glee club and **William Tuttle** award which was established by the Institute of Defense and Business in 2000 to recognize annually an outstanding logistician in the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard.

From Carmel, CA

8/27/2020

I received the book from **Jody LeTowt** that **Diane** wrote about the fairytale houses in Carmel. When we were in Carmel for our 58th reunion in 1958, some of you may have taken the walking tour suggested by the book of these really interesting and unusual houses. The name of the book is the *Fairy Tale Houses of Carmel* and you should contact Jody directly if you're going there to get a copy and take the walk.

From Portland, Oregon

8/27/2020



I heard from **Terry and Harriett Connell** about a gathering in Portland. You can see the pictures. As Terry said, "They are from a visit **Tony and Gabrielle Nadal** made to Portland prior to **Jody LeTowt's** Carmel Mini in 2016. Our son, Evan, asked Tony if he would provide a presentation on the Ia Drang Battle on behalf of a VFW group here in

Portland, which Tony very generously accomplished.

*Photo Left: **Tony Nadal and Orlie Hill***

The picture shows **Orlie and Harriet Hill, Terry and Harriett Connell, and Gay Nadal** attending. About one hundred attended the presentation, including a large number of VN Vets. Orlie presented Tony with one of his quintessential certificates of

appreciation awards in commemoration of his presentation. ...Note that we

provided tours of our Great Northwest for the Nadals in an effort to convince them to move out here, but they decided to stay in Williamsburg.”



Photo Right: Orlie and Harriet Hill, Terry and Harriett Connell, and Gay Nadal

Photo: Tony Nadal

Class Grandson

8/27/2020



Jack Downing sent me a note from Colin Graves'11 who is the grandson of **Bev & Dick Graves**. Colin was commissioned a Field Artillery Officer and served for just over five years. He attended Basic Officer Leadership Course and Captain's Career Course at Ft. Sill, and was stationed in Ft. Polk in the 10th Mountain Division - there he was a Fire Direction Officer, Platoon

Leader, and HHB Executive Officer. He filled a unique combination of roles in Afghanistan, as a Fire Support Officer for a Special Operations Task Force and an Infantry Company Executive Officer. He finished his service at Rock Island Arsenal as the First Army G-357 Executive Officer. He now lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area at Franklin Templeton Investments as a Product Manager for the firm's Global Macro strategies.

Picture of the Graves family Old Grads (from left to right): Colin, his uncle Tom Graves ('86), his father Bill Graves ('82), and his grandfather Dick Graves ('58). This picture was taken in summer 2017 at Camp Buckner, where they were fortunate to participate in the New Cadet March Back

with another grandson and future member of the Long Gray Line, Weston Graves ('21).

From Grand Cayman (or was a Georgetown MA)

8/27/2020

From **Lenny and Carol McCormack** I got a great picture. When he wrote, "Came across this pic the other day when traveling was OK to do. Carol and I spent nine days on Grand Cayman in February with **Mike and Marcia York**. One couldn't ask for better weather or a climate for out-door's activity." They're at Rum Point across the street from the York's clearly enjoying themselves.

Photo Right: Lenny and Carol McCormack

"Back in MA the Covid-19 started to take its toll on our lives. We took the message from the medical folks seriously to wear masks and socially distance. Used our garage with proper

separation to invite our daughter up for take-out lunch in May. As MA started to open, met **Frank and Linda Waskowicz** for lunch in No. Andover MA as they were traveling from NH to southern MA to visit friends. Carol celebrated her 81st birthday on July 26th and we spent three days on the beach on Plum Island, MA. Water was freezing, but Carol, having visited these waters as a kid, frolicked while I shivered at the thought of dunking. We are still practicing what the experts suggest and I am managing to get a round of golf in every Thursday."



Lynne and I (Pete Penczer) also visited Mike and Marcia, but in January, just in time before shut down, as did **Lee and Betty Miller**, but they visited a little later. I loved Grand Cayman for the scuba diving, but now it's for a walk, some snorkeling and good food in the many good restaurants.

Photo Left: Lynne Penczer, Marcia

York, Mike York and Pete Penczer

Another Class Grandson

8/27/2020

Jack Downing sent me a note about another class grandson, Rob Grete'09, son of **Bob Grete**. Rob "Served on active duty as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer for 7.5yrs. Stationed at Eglin AFB, Ft Riley, Ft Lee, and Ft Stewart. Deployed to Afghanistan twice; the second time as a trainer/advisor to the Afghan 201st Corps. Transitioned to DA Civilian in DEC 2016. Currently working at the Supercomputing Research Center, US Army Corps of Engineers."

I didn't get a picture, but I think you can find one in Facebook.

Mentoring a Cadet

8/27/2020

Chuck Toftoy has been mentoring a cadet for the last four years, a program that I did not know about.

Chuck wrote, "My cadet mentee, Donia Nichols, 5th from left, shown with friends.

Was her Mentor for 4 years. Company commander. Cross country runner. Most wonderful young person I've ever met.

She, along with her parents and sister

and brother, came to our house on May 23. I read her the commissioning oath. Out back by our pond and waterfall. Very moving ceremony. She will be a med Evac Chopper pilot." Chuck.

Unfortunately, we don't have the names of Donia's friends in the picture, but I can see that they all did very well during their four years there.



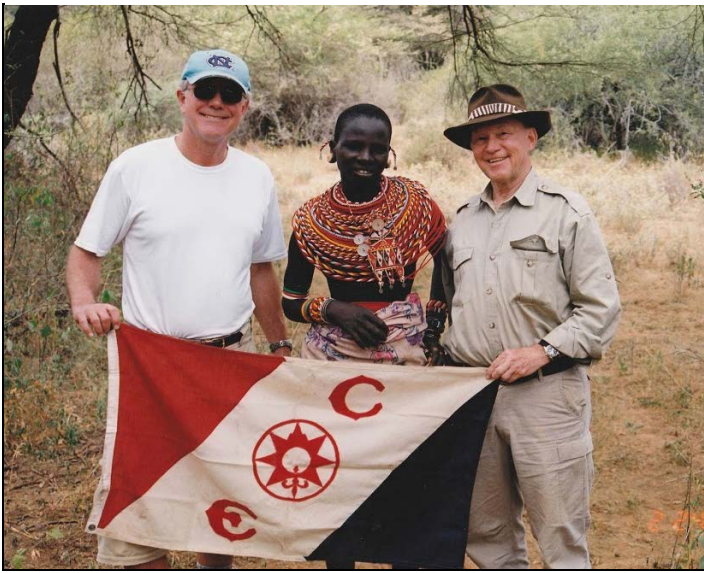
Photo: Donia Nichols, 5th from left, Chuck's mentee

From Gainesville, Florida

8/27/2020

I got a note from **Jack May** about his ExplorerClub Flag Award in 2004 for an expedition he participated in then.

Photo: Jack May (on left)



Charles Toftoy - "Blunders: Shocking Mistakes That Altered History"

8/7/2020

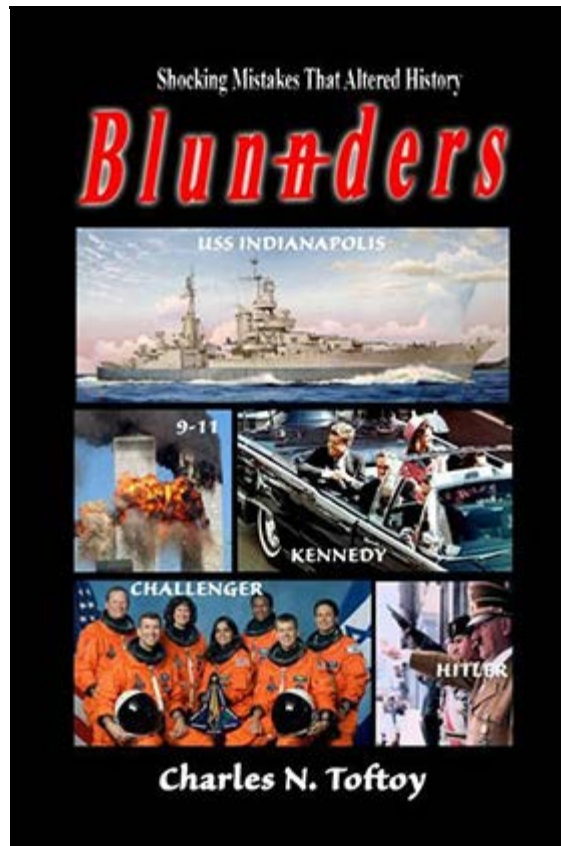
Charles Toftoy is excited about the upcoming release of his book, *Blunders: Shocking Mistakes That Altered History*. The Alpha Team is back! This time they explore **little known** facts about History's worst Blunders, a series of mistakes causing and leading up to a disaster or horrific event, where numerous lives are lost that could've been saved.

Six years of research has brought forth the truth about what really happened, the cover-ups and more!

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to: Wounded Warrior Mentor Program. (Dr. Toftoy is a mentor in the program.)

The book will be made available at Amazon and **all major online bookstores** everywhere. Get your copy when it comes out and please, pass this information onto your contacts, too, so they can enjoy reading all about the history of these disasters that most people do not know.

Dr. Charles N. Toftoy has worked in three sectors: military (20 years), corporate (12 years), academic (17 years). He was a U.S. Army airborne ranger, infantry officer. Toftoy is a highly



decorated (wounded twice) Vietnam veteran (two tours).