

# 1958 CLASS NOTES

## Weekend Trip

7/16/2021

**Lynne and I (your scribe)** did a weekend trip to Arlington, VA, to visit our elder son, Peter, and his girlfriend, Anne-Marie, leaving on a Thursday and stopping in Quakertown, PA, for lunch with **Mel and Kay Farrar** that included an interesting walk around downtown Quakertown. It's an old downtown with the buildings in good condition and lunch in the food court in the old trolley barn. Then we continued down to Phoenixville, PA, to stay overnight with my brother and sister-in-law, **Rudy and Doreen Penczer '62**. From there we went down to Gaithersburg, MA, where we visited and had lunch with **Mike and Marcia York**. They have beautiful gardens, mostly shade garden, that includes pool and a frog pond. They also had a loud buzz from the cicadas.

## Class Mini Reunion

7/16/2021

**Tom and Barbara Sands** are once again working hard at putting together a mini reunion for the class in New Orleans in October, with what looks like a lot more success than last year's attempt. The last communication I saw was that 48 have signed up for it. I did see that **Chuck and Celia Hansult** were the first to sign up and **John and Alice Brinson**, from my own company, were also very early. There will be a lot more later about it.

## Vietnam Memorial Service

7/16/2021

The annual service in memory of those of our class who died in Vietnam, as well as to family members of classmates, was held at the Vietnam War Memorial on May 23 at 10:30 AM. The service was attended by little over 30 in person and about the same amount watching on Zoom arranged for by **Alan Salisbury**. The agenda follows:

- **Andy Andreson** will lead the service, beginning with the Invocation.
- **Chuck Toftoy** will do a scripture reading and lead the class in reciting the 23rd Psalm.
- Andy will read the names of our 13 fallen classmates, plus our two family members of classmates.
- **Palmer McGrew** will lead the Alma Mater and the recitation of the Cadet Prayer.
- The service will conclude with the placement of 15 roses at the base of the panels with each of the honorees names.



A recording of the service was made by Alan who I understand could make it available to anyone interested through zoom.

## Brownbag Lunch Gathering

7/16/2021

The class also had a brownbag lunch gathering over Zoom, again arranged for by **Alan Salisbury**, on June 21st at 1:15 PM. The zoom link was distributed by email. The subtitle for the lunch was “58’s Got Talent” and featured **Chuck Cabell** discussing music and theatrical pursuits.

There will be more brown bag lunches. I think I missed one.

## From Gettysburg, PA

7/16/2021

I heard from **Judy and Larry Bullis**. Judy wrote, “Larry and I have completed our vaccines and have been able to enjoy being with family again.

Our grandson, Joe Bullis, is graduating from the University of Maryland with a BS in Economics and is hunting for a job.

Our daughter, Cyndi Vasco, is a nurse practitioner at the Washington Hospital Center. She was vaccinated before Christmas 2020 as she had patients with Coronavirus. She’s had a busy year at work. Her older daughter just finished her freshman year at LSU and her younger daughter is graduating from Bullis School and will begin at Penn State in the fall.

Larry asked about someone in **Paul Wagner’s** Okinawa picture, the man standing dead center in a different uniform ( full dress, open jacket with bow tie ). I think it’s been answered. I hope so.

## The Capelle Trophy

7/15/2021

**Hugh Trumbull** wrote about his year’s award of the Capelle Trophy. “The Capelle Trophy was awarded to Charlie Company, USMAPS on May 21st. According to the Deputy Commandant, “This award had the loudest and most energetic reaction at our banquet.”

Here we see



## CC AJ Pilate

Cadet Candidate AJ Pilate, former Charlie Company second Platoon Sergeant, has been chosen to receive the CPT Gerald C. Capelle Memorial Trophy on behalf of Charlie Company due to its athletic achievement. Charlie Company's athletic achievements began in CCBT, when CC's Lewis, Pilate, and McNeilly maxed the ACFT. They continued during the academic year, when CC Crocker came in first place during a West Point-wide half marathon event. On top of this, CC's Damico and Ryabenko came in first in the USMAPS BN during the annual Norwegian Foot March. C CO's athletic achievements have shown its members possess desire, grit and tenacity.

**Hometown:** Massapequa, New York

**Hobbies:** Spike-ball

**CC Pilate's Favorite Thing About USMAPS:** The people.

## Class Grandchildren

7/15/2021

**Jack Downing** wrote, "This year there are four class grandchildren graduating from West Point:

**Justice McKenrick '21** grandson of **Dale and Dodie Hruby**

**Greg Coffey '21** Grandson of **Ray** (deceased) and **Gerry Coffey**

**Peter Echevarria '21** grandson of **Pete and Lana Bahnsen**

**Weston Graves '21** grandson of **Dick and Bev Graves**

We are proud of them and have presented each with an engraved pewter tray. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions on attendance due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were not able to assemble at West Point for the presentation however, each cadet will receive his tray from his grandfather or father.

In addition to the engraved plate, each received this letter.

"I wish that I could be with you as you move from the atmosphere of "West Point to that of the army in the field. Do not lose the culture you have lived in here: Duty, Honor, Country; working hard, leading, helping, continuous- learning.

Much has changed in the 63 years since we graduated, technology has advanced into what we saw only in the comic strips. In our day, there were no women, at West Point, few minorities, and classes were about ½ the -size of yours. But don't let these differences overwhelm the similarities. The dedication to excellence with which we are both imbued. You four graduating '58 grandchildren know each other and I hope that friendship continues for the rest of your lives. Our class has that still. I don't mean for you to not form friendships outside your class, far from it, but periodically, I hope and expect your class to reunite and share memories as our class continues to do.

On the bottom of the plate is taped a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the class of 1958 and 2008, our 50-year class. It outlines a 100th year celebration to which you are cordially invited. No members of our class will be there so we will depend on our children and grandchildren to represent us. Please remember us. We will be there in spirit.

Accept this pewter plate as a token of our lasting friendship. Over the coming years it may become tarnished and forgotten, but never forget the bond we now establish.”

## Ramsden Award

7/15/2021

**Jack Downing** wrote me again about our Ramsden Award winner, **Kalei Hering '21**.

CDT Kalei Hering excelled academically and as a leader during her time at West Point as a Life Science Major. She earned a 4.0 GPA and served as the President of the Pre-Medical Society where she led a variety of outreach and education efforts for cadets interested in attending medical school. She conducted a several impactful research projects including research on Lyme disease, bacterial biofilm formation, and 3D bioprinting. She earned the Goldwater Scholarship and was a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. She will be attending Harvard Medical School after graduation from West Point.



## Class Grandson ( Bahnsen )

7/15/2021



**Pete and Lana Bahnsen** sent me a picture of Pete with his grandson, **Peter Echevarria '21**, taken during a post-graduation visit by Grandson, Peter, out in Sequim, Washington. The other picture was taken at West Point by Pete's brother, **John "Doc" Bahnsen '56"**

*Photo Left: **Peter Echevarria '21***



Lana also wrote "His branch is field artillery and after a volunteer stint at Camp Buckner, he will report to Ft Sill for Basic then on to Ft Polk."

*Photo Right: **Pete Bahnsen** with Grandson, **Peter***

## Class Grandchild ( Hruby )

7/15/2021

**Jack Downing** sent me **Dale Hruby's** note telling us about his grandson, **Justice McKendrick'21**, Justice chose Infantry to follow in his father's footsteps. He will attend the Basic Infantry course as well as both Airborne and Ranger schools. His first station will be Fort Lewis. He is unmarried and not currently courting anyone that we know of. He is an Ironman competitor and goes on all sorts of challenging tournaments involving long distances and heavy loads. As a side note, Justice and his brother, **Christian '16** join their two cousins, Nate and Nick Hruby (USAFA) as the 4th generation of brothers who have graduated from a Military Academy.



## Class Grandchild ( Coffey )

7/15/2021

**Jack Downing** sent me a note from **Ray Coffey's** son, David, about his son, **Greg Coffey '21**. "Greg got his first choice of Infantry, and he reports to Fort Benning in August for Officer's Basic followed by Ranger School. Once through the training pipeline he is scheduled to work with Basic Training for a year at Benning before PCS to Fort Stewart for platoon leader time." David also sent a picture of the plate presentation to Greg with a note, "My sister **Valerie Coffey '85** is holding flag on the right. She is class of '85. Her husband Doug McSwain is holding flag on the left side. My mother Gerry Coffey is presenting the plate and reading your letter on behalf of the class of '58. My son Greg Coffey is class of 2021. Also in attendance were **Sean Coffey'13**, my oldest son ( who was in an earlier edition of Class Notes with a picture of him with David ) and youngest



daughter who got Greg's silver dollar as a PFC in Army Reserves and who starts USMAPS in July." I asked about Greg's ribbons. He was in the Cav Scouts for two years before USMAPS.

## The Gonzo Compadres

7/15/2021



Paul and Patty Ruud sent me a picture of the Gonzo Compadres taken at the 60th reunion at West Point. From right to left we have **Stan Bacon, Chuck Densford and Sam Myers. Gerry Schurtz** is in the picture of to the left waiting to speak next.

## Class Grandson

7/15/2021

**Dick and Bev Graves** sent along a picture of their Grandson, **Weston Graves'21** getting his plate from Dick who also said, "I had hoped that I could present the platter at the pin on ceremony but that became too difficult. So, we did it in my hotel room. Weston branched Infantry. After IOB, Ranger and Airborne, he will be assigned to the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Bev and I were fortunate to be able to attend Weston's graduation. Before driving to West Point, we also attended the graduation at Texas A&M of our grandson, Kyle Wright. Kyle branched Artillery and will be assigned to the Artillery Brigade at Fort Sill, OK"

The picture shows Dick presenting the plate to Weston.



## A Funeral

7/15/2021



Usually I don't write about funerals, but **Sandy Evan's** funeral was well attended and there is a picture including the class flag. **Jack Downing** wrote, "The flag was in front surrounded by flowers next to the small grave. About 25 people were there including his wife Virginia and many relatives and friends. "**Ham**" **Evans '61**, Sandy's brother and class of '61 (our plebe class) G2 asked about **George Lawton**. Sandy, his father, and brothers were Quartermaster, as was my own father which is how I first met Sandy in 1951 at Ft. Lee.

Everything was beautiful—weather, trees, gravesite, Hollywood cemetery. "'58 was well represented- **Margie and I, Dale and Dodie Hruby, Stu Willis, Gabrielle and Tony Nadal, Tom Carpenter, and Bob and Judy Moore.**"

## '58 Nano Reunions

7/15/2021

**Chuck Cabell** wrote me about two fun happenings, "Last week **Hallie and I (Chuck)** participated in two very nice Class of '58 nano-reunions, both set up by **Charlie Densford**. The first was on Friday, 6/25.

I had driven down from Colo Spgs to Joint Base San Antonio (Randolph) to address the annual national meeting of the "Order of Daedalians," a fraternal and professional organization of American military pilots formed in 1934 by a bunch of pilots who had flown in WWI. **Andy (Ron) Andreson** is Vice National Commander (and was my sponsor for the presentation); Charlie Densford is one of the Directors; I am a member.

The subject of the address was my Dad's ( **Charles Cabell '25** ) involvement in planning the use of air power in the weeks preceding the Normandy invasion. (This is covered in detail in my Dad's memoirs: "A Man of Intelligence." See [impavidepublications.com](http://impavidepublications.com).)





That night, Charlie arranged for us and a number of our San Antonio classmates to have dinner at Mamacita's Mexican Restaurant. Attending were Charlie (Patsy, sadly, could not be with him), Hallie and I, Andy Andreson (Artie did not come to San Antonio with him), **Bob and Jo Lynn Puff**, **Dick and Bev Graves**, **Dick**



**Buckalew** and his grandson, and **Glenn and Polly Bugay**.

## '58 Nano Reunion

7/15/2021

Next morning, **Hallie and I ( Chuck )** drove to Round Rock, TX, mainly to see my old roomie and his wife, **Sam and Leslie Myers**. Once again, party-animal-first-class **Charlie Densford** set up a wonderful get-together and barbecue, this time at Sam's house.

*Photo right: Sam Myers, Charlie Densford, Stan Bacon, Jill Bacon*

The attendees were Sam and Les Myers (and their daughter, Laura), Hallie and I, **Dale Cockle**, **Charlie Densford**, **Stan and Jill Bacon**, **Phil Raign** and **Glenn Hall**. The Gonzo Compadres sang *Guantanamera* and we sat around and told stories from our cadet days, e.g.:

1. "Sir, that is Mr. Cabell's sock," a classic tale of classmating.
2. The great plebe year 100th Night 13th Division early morning reveille caper.
3. My firsts Beast Barracks SI inspection with the great "Stone Faced" tac officer, **Captain Arnold Tucker '47**, quarterback of the Blanchard/Davis





football teams.

4. After-TAPS Trophy Point raid to bring the reveille cannon into the mess hall.

*Photo left: Stan Bacon, Jill Bacon, Leslie Myers*

To those who do not already know these tales, I offer (properly lubricated) to recount them at our next reunion.

Once again I was reminded of the wonderful camaraderie we have had among our amazing West Point classmates for the 67 years that have elapsed since we first heard those inspiring words: "Drop that bag, Dumsmak!"

## Traffic

7/15/2021

I'll try to do better at keeping track of some of the e-mail traffic I see. It tells me many of us are OK. I'm on a couple of lists. **Herb Johnson** sends out things he finds interesting or amazing and **Bill Serchak** sends out some humor, some photo essays primarily from his time as a Military Attaché, and some articles or comment of current interest.

I do some e-mail exchanges with several of my C-2 classmates ( I'm the CCQ ) and **Jack Downing** has been a regular with the Grandchild program, Others like **Chuck Cabell, Paul Ruud, Mel Farrar, Pete Trainor** and **Chuck Toftoy** plus the class Excom members show up elsewhere in the notes.