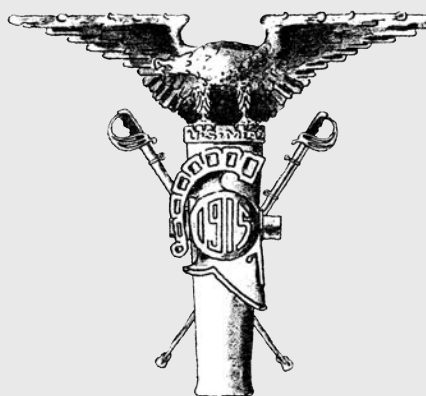


United States Military Academy
West Point, New York

1915 • 1965 • 2015



50-Year Affiliation





Complimentary copies have been distributed to all members of the Class of 2015 as well as all living members and next of kin for deceased members of the Class of 1965.

This publication is produced/art work directed by Denny Coll, '65.
Class historical synopses written by John W. (Tim) Thames, '65.
Edited by Denny Coll.
Graphic design by Lorraine Ortner Blake, Portage, Wisconsin.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the 50 Year Affiliation Program is to strengthen the ties between graduates of yesterday and today, as both groups work together to strengthen the Long Gray Line as it continues to provide Leaders of Character for our Nation.

These Affiliation Class Activities enable the cadet class and the graduated class to interact with one another throughout the four years that the cadet class spends at West Point.

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Strength & Drive

The Class of '65 is proud to present this booklet to the Class of 2015

PLEBE

Fourth Class Year

2011–12

YEARLING

Third Class Year

2012–13

Reception Day (R Day) Parent Welcome Breakfast Sponsor for the families of the New Cadets as they reported to the Academy to begin their military careers.

March Back Members of the Class of '65 marched back with the entire Class of 2015, 13+ miles from Camp Buckner and were joined by other classmates at the Ski Slope. Along with the New Cadets, they were met by a welcoming reception as they entered Main Post. They then passed in review in front of the Superintendent.

Acceptance Day (A Day) New Cadets, having successfully completed Beast Barracks, were accepted into the Corps of Cadets as Plebes. Several '65 members attended the ceremony.

Class Crest Unveiling The new 2015 Class Crest and Motto, "For Those We Lead," was unveiled at the Plebe Parent Weekend Banquet. Members of the "Strength & Drive '65" Class Ring and Crest Committee represented the Class of '65.

Class Flag Presentation and Award Ceremony '65 gifted the official Class Flag to 2015 at Camp Buckner; Paul (Buddy) Bucha '65 (Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Vietnam) was the speaker.

RECEPTION DAY (R DAY)

Welcome Breakfast for Parents and Family Members



MARCH BACK





ACCEPTANCE DAY (A DAY)

Acceptance Day Parade



March On
Class of 2015 A Day
Parade

CLASS CREST UNVEILING



GLEE CLUB



CLASS FLAG PRESENTATION AND AWARD CEREMONY



COW

Second Class Year

2013–14

FIRSTIE

First Class Year

2014–15

Cow Affirmation Ceremoni

Third-year Cadets, the day before the start of their Cow academic year, reaffirmed their commitment to th Military Academy and to five years of military service. Members of '65 presented a commemorative coin to each Cow. GEN Ric Shinseki '65 (Veteran's Affair Secretary) was the speaker

Ring Melt Class rings were donated from living and deceased '65 classmates (Alger, Buckosky, Metzner, Plotkin, Ruggles, and Sanchez). These rings and other donated class rings were melted into gold at the Josten's plant to make the Class of 2015 class rings.

Ring Weekend '65 hosted the Donor Reception after the Class Ring Ceremony and attended the Ring Banquet.

Branch Night '65 gifted the Branch Insignia to each Firstie during the ceremony in which they found out what branch of the Army or other Services they had received; LTG Joe De Francisco '65 (USMA Distinguished Graduate) was the speaker.

Class Officers Dinn A private dinner with the 2015 Class Leadership and '65 Class Leaders, hosted by '65.

Graduation Gifted the gold bars of a second lieutenant to the new officer

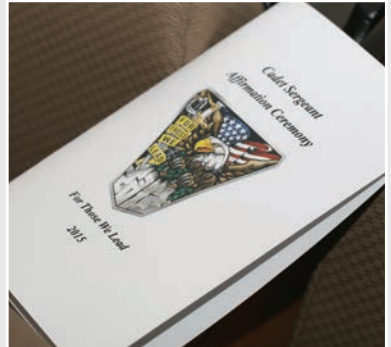
COW AFFIRMATION CEREMONY



USMA 2015 at the US Air Force Academy

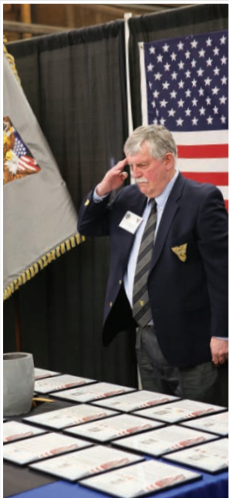


USMA 2015 Affirmation Ceremo



USMA 2015 at the
US Coast Guard Academy

RING MELT





RING WEEKEND



Tying the bond between our Classes, Emery Chase '65 stands with his grandson, Gavin, USMA 2015.

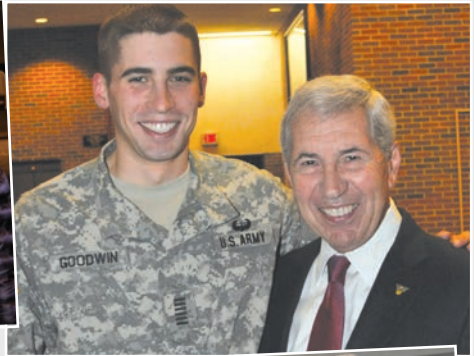
RING WEEKEND



BRANCH NIGHT



BRANCH NIGHT



DINNER-CLASS OFFICERS FROM USMA '65 AND USMA '15

MARCH 2015



GRADUATION

MAY 2015



DISTINGUISHED ACCOMPLISHMENTS – USMA ‘65



GEN Ric Shinseki

USMA 2009 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

GEN (R) Eric K. Shinseki ‘65

- “My name is Shinseki and I’m a Soldier.”
- Army’s 34th Chief of Staff
- First holder of the Class of 1951 Chair on Leadership at West Point
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs



LTG Dan Christman

USMA 2010 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

LTG (R) Dan Christman ‘65

- Graduated #1 in the Class
- 55th Superintendent of the United States Military Academy
- Led an unprecedented fundraising campaign with the West Point Association of Graduates that raised over \$200 million in private funds
- Lead the vast international operations of the US Chamber of Commerce



**Class President and
LTG Joe DeFrancisco**

USMA 2013 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

LTG (R) Joseph E. DeFrancisco ‘65

- Executive Officer to the Secretary of the Army
- Deputy Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Command
- Transition team for three USMA Superintendents
- Board of Directors – West Point Association of Graduates



Paul Bucha

USMA 2014 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

Paul W. Bucha ‘65

- Helped plan the rescue of U.S. citizens illegally detained in Iran just before that nation’s 1979 revolution
- Congressional Medal of Honor recipient in 1970 for his courageous actions to rescue and recover men of his company during a 1968 battle with a North Vietnamese battalion



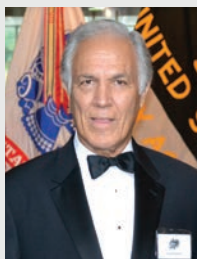
Robert C Jones

PRISONER OF WAR – VIETNAM

Robert C. Jones ‘65

- Major, U.S. Air Force
- 435th Tactical Fighter Squadron
- POW - Jan 18, 1968 – March 14, 1973

SPORTS HALL OF FAME – USMA '65



Jose Gonzalez

USMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Jose Gonzalez '65 • Soccer

- Three-time All-America selection
- Pair of NCAA Final Four appearances and a 28–7–2 mark
- USMA single-season mark for victories (12) and goals (47)
- Tied the single-game mark of 10 goals in a 10–1 win over Rider



Rollie Stichweh

USMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Rollie Stichweh '65 • Football

- Three-time varsity letter winner
- Starred as the quarterback, halfback, defensive back and kick and punt returner
- Twice named Most Valuable Player of the Army-Navy game (playing against Navy's Roger Staubach)
- All-East selection; 1964 North-South Shrine All-Star Game and the Coaches All-America Game in 1965
- Ranked number one in Class for physical education
- Selected by Navy football as the "best opposition back in the country"
- His touchdown run against Navy in 1963 became first play ever broadcast via television instant replay



Walter Ohrlein

USMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Walter Ohrlein '65 • Squash/Men's Tennis

- Only individual National Champion in the history of Army squash
- Three varsity letters each in squash and tennis (Freshman could not play Varsity)
- Led Army Team to national runnerup finishes in squash in both 1964 and 1965
- Three successive victories over Navy
- Tennis Team captain
- NCAA Tournament in singles and doubles in both 1963 and 1964
- Enshrined in the College Squash Association Hall of Fame
- Head men's tennis coach at Air Force (1969–71)



Strength and Drive
 Admitted 839
 Graduated 596 (including 3 International)
 Commissioned: USA 523; USN 2; USAF 57; USMC 6,
 Disabled upon graduation 5

When the “Sons of the Greatest Generation” entered West Point on 5 July 1961, the United States was booming with industry and saw the beginning of an Interstate Highway system. The American automotive industry was at its peak with no international competition and the phenomenon of television was ubiquitous. President John F. Kennedy was inaugurated on 20 January 1961. However, all was not well with the World nor at home during the late 50s and early 60s. Allied Powers from WWII, France and Great Britain were engaged in heavy conflict against communist inspired forces in their former colonies in Southeast Asia and North Africa. The Berlin Wall went up in 1961. Close to home, Caribbean countries were experiencing revolutions with Cuba establishing a Communist Government 90 miles offshore. President Eisenhower stated his Domino Theory that would eventually involve the Class of '65 in Vietnam. At home, forced desegregation in Southern schools was causing major social rift. At West Point, military emphasis for 1965 gradually evolved from Europe toward Southeast Asia and the Caribbean was still a concern. By graduation, President Kennedy had been assassinated and the Vietnam War had started.

At graduation, the Class of 1965 was the first class allowed to branch other than the then five Combat Arms with the stipulation that all would serve their first two years in CA. Also, '65, like '64 before them, attended Ranger School en masse in lieu of Officers Basic Course.

Initial assignments for some were in units bound for Vietnam; others in European assignments immediately assumed command because of the Vietnam build up. Vietnam was a defining life point for all members of the Class of '65 with virtually every member serving at least one tour. The class lost 25 in Vietnam to include their First Captain **Bob Arvin**. The members of the Class distinguished themselves in combat with one graduate, **Paul (Bud) Bucha** being awarded the Medal of Honor and one former member, **James Gardner** also receiving the MOH. Four received the Distinguished Service Cross.. Many of the Class resigned after Vietnam and went on very successful careers in other fields to include medicine, engineering, law, education, business and finance.

Those who remained on active duty assumed positions of greater responsibility. **Wes Taylor**, in the first combat since Vietnam, led the lead assault element, the 1st Battalion, 75th Infantry (Rangers) into Grenada in Urgent Fury 1983. Many members became District Engineers, Division and Corps Commanders and **Eric Shinseki** became the Chief of Staff of the Army before becoming the Secretary, of Veterans Affairs. **Dan Christman** became the 55th Superintendent of USMA. Nineteen members of the Class attained General Officer rank.

The Class was awarded: Two Congressional Medals of Honor, 4 Distinguished Service Crosses, 76 Silver Stars, 115 Bronze Stars for Valor and 79 Purple Hearts. Additionally, one member was a Prisoner of War in Vietnam from January 1968 until March 1973. Four members have been awarded the USMA Distinguished Graduate Award and three have been inducted into the USMA Sports Hall of Fame.

The Class of '65 also includes **CPT C. Robert Arvin**, killed in action in Vietnam, who provides cadets with daily inspiration every time they walk through the hallowed doors of Arvin Gym. In addition to their First Captain, 35 classmates, 6 wives and 6 family members (one the Class of '91) are also buried at the West Point Cemetery.

GRADUATION DAY JUNE 1965 50TH REUNION USMA 1915



The squad with the longevity record...



Beast...

Front Row, L to R: Don Pavells, Hank Starbom,
Don Apple, Ed Armstrong, Joe Sanchez, Second
Row: Bruce Marshall, Phil Giesek, Ed Manning,
Bob Beldi, Larry Tutchings.

to Graduation.





1915

Admitted 236

Graduated 164

This Class, part of the Greatest Generation and the Class upon which Stars Fell, entered West Point in June 1911 during the Border Wars (1910-1920) between the US and Mexico. After graduation in 1915, most joined the 25,000 soldiers stationed in the Southwest where in 1916, General Pershing led the Punitive Expedition (PE) of 6000 into Mexico against warlord Pancho Villa. The PE saw the first use of airplanes and motor transport by the Army in combat. Seventy members of the Class participated in the PE. Two died and one was awarded the DSM. During the Class's active duty years, 28 members would serve in the Air Corps beginning with the PE.

Meanwhile, World War I was raging in Europe; however, when the Class of 1915 graduated the US was neutral. Events beginning in 1915 ended that neutrality in April 1917. Gen. Pershing was recalled from Mexico and led the American Expeditionary Forces to France. One Hundred Ten members of the class deployed. Two who did not were **Eisenhower** and **Bradley**; both were in units alerted to deploy when the war ended. Five members were killed in action. Four were awarded Distinguished Service Crosses, nine received Silver Stars and nine received Purple Hearts. One individual **Charles Ryder** was awarded 2 DSCs, a SS and a PH and later was the Commandant of Cadets.

World War II began in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. By late Spring of 1940, France had fallen. In 1941, Germany attacked Russia and their ally Japan attacked the US forcing an end to the US quasi-neutrality. The class of 1915 having served in two conflicts already found themselves with over twenty years of service and swept into World War II. By the beginning of US involvement, one hundred thirteen members remained on active duty.


Members of the Class deployed to North Africa in November '42 and Italy in July '43. In Europe from D-Day, 6 June '44, until the end of the war, Class members were in command positions from Regiment, Division, Corps, and Army to **Dwight Eisenhower** being the Supreme Allied Commander. One member, a War Department civilian, was captured and interned by the Germans from '41 to '45. In the Pacific, the class deployed in 1942 and served in command positions throughout the Theater. Three members of the Class survived the Bataan Death March. Four members were killed in action.

Three served in the Korean War (1950-1953). One was the 1st Supt. of the USAFA.

The Class produced a President of the United States and 60 General Officers--2 Five Star Generals, 2 Four Star Generals, 7 Three Star Generals, 24 Two Star Generals (to include one from the Puerto Rican Nat'l Guard), and 25 One Star Generals. They were awarded 2 DSCs, 47 Army DSMs, 4 Navy DSMs, 3 DFCs, 18 SSs, 63 LMs, 40 BSMs, 8 AMs, and 7 PHs.

GRADUATION DAY JUNE 1965

50TH REUNION USMA 1915



DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER
ABILENE, KANSAS
Senatorial Appointee, Kansas
"Ike"



Captain, Sergeant, Color Sergeant; A.B., B.A., Sharpshooter; Football Squad (3, 2); "A" in Football; Baseball Squad (4); Cheer Leader; Indoor Meet (4, 3).

"Now, fellows, it's just like this. I've been asked to set a few words this evening about my business. Now, me and Walter Camp, we think—"
—Himself

THIS is Senior Dwight David Eisenhower, gentlemen, the terrible Swedish-Jew, as big as life and twice as natural. He claims to have the best authority for the statement that he is the handsomest man in the Corps and is ready to back up his claim at any time. At any rate you'll have to give it to him that he's well-developed abdominally—and more graceful in pushing it around than Charles Calvert Benedict. In common with most fat men, he is an enthusiastic and voracious devotee of the King of Indoor Sports, and roars homage at the shrine of Morpheus on every possible occasion.

However, the memory of man runneth back to the time when the little Dwight was but a slender lad of some 'teen years, full of joy and energy and craving for life and movement and change. "I was then that the romantic appeal of West Point's glamour grabbed him by the scruff of the neck and dragged him to his doom. Three weeks of Beast gave him his fill of life and movement and as all the change was locked up at the Cadet Store out of reach, poor Dwight merely consents to exist until graduation shall set him free."

At one time he threatened to get interested in life and won his "A" by being the most promising back in Eastern football—but the Tufts game broke his knee and the promise. Now Ike must content himself with ten, fiddly-dwinks and talk, at all of which he excels. Said prodigy will now lead us in a long, loud yell for—Dare: Devil Dwight, the Dauntless Don.


JAMES ALWARD VAN FLEET
BARTOW, FLORIDA
Appointed from First District, Florida
"Van"

Sergeant; Expert Rifleman; Football Squad (1); "A" in Football.

"He held his seat—a friend to human race"
—Pope

VAN'S First Class year has been an eventful one for him. He started out in summer camp by making high score on the target range and in the fall he followed this up by a remarkable exhibition of football. Turning out for the first time last season, he improved so rapidly and did such consistent work that the Navy Game found him in the original line-up. He played the entire game and contributed not a little to the efforts that brought us that 20-0 score.

Van is a brusque, outspoken individual and not much of a mixer. He finds pleasure in the society of magazine and books, and is a frequenter of the gym. Perhaps this reticent attitude has kept some of us from knowing him as well as we should, but nevertheless even though our associations with Van have not been of the closest nature, we are all sure of his ability and worth and we are glad he has been with us.




Tying the bond between our Classes, GEN Van Fleet '15 presents the diploma to his grandson, Joe McChristian '65.



1865

La Patria Arma El Acto (Our Country is the Reason for Our Actions)

106 Admitted

68 Graduated

The Class of 1865 graduated on 23 June 1865 shortly after Lee had surrendered to Grant on 9 April ending the Civil War or War Between the States and after the assassination of President Lincoln on 15 April. Their time at West Point from 1861 until 1865 was under the cloud of a war ripping the nation apart. Five of their class were admitted in 1860 before the beginning of hostilities. Three were from the Southern States of Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. They all graduated and served in the Union Army. Two who were admitted in 1860 were from the disputed states of Kentucky and Missouri and were dismissed before graduation for refusing to take the oath of allegiance. All others were from the 21 Union States. Seven resigned before graduation to join the Union Forces in combat. Two others died before graduation.

Fifty three of the graduating Cadets were commissioned as 1st Lieutenants and 15 graduated as 2nd Lieutenants. Virtually all were initially assigned to the occupation Army in the South during Reconstruction. This was not easy duty as the men they led in garrison were hardened war veterans and the surrounding civilian population was generally hostile. There were constant skirmishes between the Federal soldiers trying to enforce the peace particularly among the Freedmen, Carpetbaggers, Southern Plantation Class and insurgent forces who refused to completely surrender. The three most notorious, the Ku Klux Klan and the Red Shirts were particularly difficult in the Deep South and the Quantrill Raiders under Clement in the West. Four men of the Class of 1865 lost their lives in the South during the occupation.

In 1867 most were able to escape the onerous occupation duty by being assigned to Frontier duty or to Rivers and Ports reconstruction in the northern States. Twenty members of the Class were on the Frontier in the Western Territories or in West Texas where the Comanche and Kiowa had taken advantage of the absence of soldiers gone east for the Civil War. Nine of the members of the class, all engineers and from the top of the class, were assigned rivers and ports duties. Also seven members of the class were retained at West Point as instructors. Thirteen members of the class resigned or were honorably discharged by 1870 and three were dismissed. Seventeen members of the class remained on active duty for 39 years or longer. Three members of the Class served in the Spanish American War in 1898. **Charles Keller** served in the Philippines and **Charles Dempsey** received a Silver Star for action at Santa Cruz, Cuba. **Albert Farze** was killed in action in San, Juan Puerto Rico. Seven members of the class retired as Brigadier or Major Generals.

Among the class notables, **Charles Raymond** and **William Stanton** were responsible for building the Cadet Hospital and expanding the Cadet barracks in the mid-1880s. William Heuer was extremely instrumental in designing and building the Embarcadero in San Francisco and Samuel Mills was Commandant of Cadets from '92 to '97.



1815

Graduated 40

The Class of 1815 was the last class to graduate before Captain Sylvanus Thayer was appointed superintendent in 1817 and established standard rules and qualifications for admission, a set curriculum including length of study and required standards for graduation and commissioning. Some members of the Class of 1815 attended West Point for only one year before graduating. The Academy graduated this class in two increments. 30 cadets graduated in March 1815 and 10 graduated in December 1815. They did not graduate in order of merit but rather by when they took and passed their final exams. There were no graduates in 1816.

In 1815, there were 18 States in the Union and the Graduates represented only 12 of those States and the District of Columbia. During their time as Cadets the War of 1812 raged throughout the United States and particularly in New York and New England since the sovereignty of Canada was one of the several disputed issues. The British burned the US Capitol in August 1814 in retaliation for the American attack on Toronto. At the time the strategic State of Louisiana was the only state west of the Mississippi having received statehood in 1812. The War of 1812 officially ended with the Treaty of Ghent signed by both the United States and Great Britain on 24 December 1814; however, word of its ending was slow in reaching the combatants and the US Senate did not ratify the Treaty until 12 February 1815. Major General Andrew Jackson defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans on 8 January 1815 after the official end of the war but the British won the last battle of the War at Ft. Bowyer on Mobile Bay on the 12th of February.

Several members of the class had important family ties. **Henry Middleton**, listed first in the class was the great grandson of the President of the Continental Congress, grandson of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and son of the Governor of Virginia. He resigned early, graduated from law school in Edinburgh, Scotland and became a very notable political and economic writer. **James Monroe** was the namesake and nephew of then Secretary of State and Secretary of War James Monroe. He was the only member of '15 to have fought in the Second Barbary War where he was wounded in Algiers shortly after graduation. He served 17 years in the Army, resigned and was elected to Congress representing New York. **William Washington Gordon** was a distinguished graduate of wealthy and prominent parentage. He was the first graduate from Georgia. He served only one year on active duty before resigning and studying law. He became an extremely prominent politician and businessman. He built the Georgia Central Railroad and Banking Company. He died early (46) but his legacy lives on in the town and county named for him. Perhaps the most famous member of '15 was **Benjamin Bonneville**. He led the expedition that mapped and opened up the Oregon Trail and the California Trail. He also served on active duty for 51 years including the Civil War. He has at least 14 landmarks named for him to include the Bonneville Flats, Lake Bonneville, Bonneville Peak, Bonneville Dam and Bonneville County, Idaho.



The Corps

The Corps, bareheaded, salute it,
with eyes up, thanking our God.
That we of the Corps are treading,
where they of the Corps have trod.

They are here in ghostly assemblage.

The men of the Corps long dead.
And our hearts are standing attention,
while we wait for their passing tread.

We sons of today, we salute you.

You sons of an earlier day;
We follow, close order, behind you,
where you have pointed the way;

The Long Gray Line of us stretches,
thro' the years of a century told
And the last man feels to his marrow,
the grip of your far off hold

Grip hands with us now though we see
not, grip hands with us strengthen our
hearts. As the long line stiffens and
straightens with the thrill that your
presence imparts.

Grip hands tho' it be from the shadows.
While we swear, as you did of yore.
Or living, or dying, to honor, the Corps,
and the Corps, and the Corps.

