



USMA Class of 1965

Strength and Drive

Jim Harvey, President (757) 288-6684 jimjunch@cox.net
Bob Wolff, Sr Vice President (703) 795-8869 rdwolff65@gmail.com
Fred Smith, Vice President (610) 716-0177 fjs8108@aol.com
Mitch Bonnett, Treasurer (248) 766-6654 mebonnett@icloud.com
Bob Frank, Historian (410) 829-2366 jjfbergen@gmail.com
Chuck McCloskey, Secretary (919) 610-9325 ccmccloskey@yahoo.com
Denny Coll, Scribe (847) 404-1767 dc65scribe@comcast.net
Chuck Nichols, Info Systems Officer (703) 345-8611 cnichols6@verizon.net

September 24, 2025

To: Members, Family and Friends of the Class of 1965

From: Class of 1965 Leadership Team

Subject: Annual Letter

The Class Bylaws call for the Leadership Team to provide an annual letter report to members on class activities; this constitutes the July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 report. The Leadership Team meets on the first Wednesday of even numbered months via Zoom. Minutes are available for each meeting. We frequently exchange emails and phone calls.

Class Financial Status.

We have four endowments. AOG provides reports on our endowments in October, with data as of the end of the previous year, thus the data shown below is as of 31 December 2023. The AOG manages the endowments following New York State non-profit law and guidelines established by the Board of Directors ensuring funds are prudently spent and for their intended purpose. The current policy is to spend approximately 4% annually, allowing the income stream to support the activity in perpetuity. Thus the reports read about the same from year to year. Below is the latest financial status of each fund.

- The Harry Dermody '65 Summer Leaders Experience Scholar Endowment covers personal expenses for one summer experience scholar each year. Balance: \$44,024, as of 12/31/2023 with \$1,777 available for disbursement.
- The Harry Dermody '65 Cadet Public Relations Council Endowment covers the cost for a cadet each year to travel to Massachusetts to speak to potential WP candidates. Balance: is \$68,584 as of 12/31/2023 with \$2,756 available for disbursement.
- The Bob Jones '65 Fallen Graduates Memorial Scholarship Endowment, now essentially a part of the Gripping Hands Endowment, provides educational benefits to families of those killed or wounded in the line of duty and provides aid to families of graduates in "times of trouble" without defining every trouble. Balance: \$581,973, as of 12/1/2023 with \$21,931 available for disbursement.

- The Class of 1965 Maintenance Endowment provides funds for the maintenance of the Arvin Alcove, Thayer Walk Memorial, and the Class Forum at Jefferson Library. Balance: \$132,384, as of 12/31/2023 with \$5,017 available for disbursement.

We have two other funds for the class.

- The Class Administrative Fund covers incidental expenses such as funeral flowers and charitable contributions in the name of the deceased, and shipment of the class flag. Since this fund covers class expenses rather than supporting a charitable cause, contributions to this fund are **not** tax deductible. The current balance of the fund is \$64,639.31. Our target for this fund remains \$100,000.
- The Class of 1965 Gift Fund had a balance of \$433,954 as of 31 March 2025. As we reported last year the fund was not designated for any particular purpose. If we had left it that way when the class was history, AOG could have used the balance as it saw fit. We thought a better idea was to distribute those assets to existing AOG endowments in a manner we thought appropriate, and that is what we did. As was announced at the 60th Reunion the balance was distributed as follows:
 - Superintendent's Unrestricted Fund: \$86,791
 - Dean's Unrestricted Fund: \$86,791
 - Center for Oral History Endowment: \$65,093
 - Commandant's Unrestricted Fund: \$65,093
 - Army A-Club Fund: \$65,093
 - Long Gray Line Endowment: \$65,093

If you want to contribute to AOG funds, suggest you designate a specific AOG fund and send a check to West Point Association of Graduates, 698 Mills Rd, West Point NY 10996, ATTN: Amy Plotkin. Place the name of the fund to which you are contributing on the memo line. Donations to our Admin Fund should include the following on the memo line, "1965 Admin Fund." If you need assistance contact our Treasurer, Mitch Bonnett, at mebonnett@icloud.com.

60th Reunion

Our 60th Reunion was held April 24-27, 2025, at West Point. The event was a rousing success thanks primarily to the efforts of the reunion Planning Team, of Joe & Diane Barkley and Mike & Carol Lapolla. The Team was assisted by numerous class subcommittees, as well as by the staff of AOG, primarily represented by Teresa Ridgeway, and the staff of the Hotel Thayer. The reunion was attended by 129 classmates, 13 surviving spouses, and 154 guests, primarily spouses and other family

members. In addition to being a social success, it was also a financial success. The registration fee was augmented by \$46,000 raised by the class Treasurer, Mitch Bonnet, from willing classmates. With that supplement, revenue exceeded expenses and \$17,000 was added to the Class Administrative Fund.

Notable Events and Activities

- The **Ring Melt** for the Class of 2026 took place at West Point on January 24, 2025 and included the donation of some 73 rings to include the rings of classmates Richard Endicott and Steve Harman.
- In conjunction with our 60th Reunion a golf outing was held at the West Point Golf Course on reunion registration day. The outing, organized by Bruce Clarke and Larry Neal, was primarily a tribute to Bob (Robert Fielding) Radcliffe who organized numerous golf outings over a 20-year period. The hat worn by participants included the caption “RFR MHRIP.”

Classmate Deaths. We lost 13 classmates since the last report to the class. Each is missed but not forgotten. We have lost a total of 222 classmates with 374 remaining.

Name	DOD	Company
David Bangert	15 July 2024	I1
Paul Bucha	31 July 2024	F2
Edward Foehl	1 August 2024	A2
Robert Radcliffe	29 August 2024	B1
Thomas Powers	14 October 2024	E1
David DeMoulpied	22 October 2024	H1
Ralph Shaw	15 November 2024	A1
Robert Butterfield	23 December 2024	C2
John Cullen	17 February 2025	C2
Guenter Hennig	28 March 2025	E2
Michael Viani	10 April 2025	E2
James Berry	3 May 2025	G2
Richard Wirth	3 June 2025	M1

2024 Memorial Articles

The class goal remains a memorial article for every deceased classmate. This year's issue of Taps will include memorial articles for 13 classmates:

Lorin Albright
David Bangert
Paul Bucha
Stephen Burrell
David DeMoulpied
Edward Foehl
John Howell
Walter Kulbacki
John Malpass
Robert Radcliffe
George Ruggles
Raymond Schaltenbrand
Terri Throckmorton

We need help for those without a memorial article. Please consider being the coordinator for one of those listed below. Instructions are at westpointaog.org, or contact Chuck McCloskey ccmccloskey@yahoo.com for assistance. The following classmates need a memorial article coordinator:

Robert Belanger	I1	5/13/2024
Glade Bishop	K2	9/2/2017
William Brush	D1	7/31/2021
Woodrow Epperson	X B2	6/18/2020
Garrett Davis	E2	4/22/2023
Warren Kennedy	B2	9/18/2023
Kermit Larson	D2	1/6/2024
Michael Matteson	E2	9/20/2022
Thomas Powers	E1	10/14/2024
Thomas Ridenour	E2	1/13/2024
Edward Sharkness	F1	5/2/2022
William Sherrell	A2	9/11/2024
Jerry Stockton	B1	6/29/2019
Thomas VanDyk	I2	2/22/2023

We encourage you to author your own memorial article, or prepare an autobiographical sketch, using AOG's outline as a guide. Such an exercise on your part will help your family and the person who will draft your memorial article. Submit what you write to Desrae Gibby, AOG Memorial Articles Coordinator (desrae.gibby@wpaog.org), and she will file for future use

Funeral Support

The class continues to support families of deceased classmates. While company reps do their best to find someone to serve as the link between the class and the family of the deceased, finding that Point of Contact (POC) can be difficult. Making an informal agreement with another classmate to serve as the POC is an excellent move. If you have not done so already consider finding a POC for your family and inform Chuck Nichols of your arrangement. Ideally the POC should be a classmate, but it could be someone outside the class.

Closing

What was mentioned last year remains true today, our journey through life continues, with all its difficulties and all its pleasures. We remain an active and vibrant class. We travel, participate in gatherings, share opinions in lively discussions on the class forum, enjoy our family and friends and maintain our individual pride at being a member of the Class of 1965.

The Leadership Team wishes you all the best.

Strength and Drive!