



May 15, 2002

'77 Class Gift Project

Scott Anders and Vinnie Viola

Dear Classmates:

As you are contemplating our reunion, we wanted to take this opportunity to give you a brief update on the class gift project and our fundraising efforts to date.

The construction of the Sports Marquee has run into some controversy in regards to its placement at the Academy. The second phase of construction at the Thayer Hotel would have involved reconfiguring roads around Buffalo Soldier Field, and when those plans were complete they would have determined our preferred site. This second phase has been delayed indefinitely, and we have actively sought out alternative locations. A meeting of the Installation Planning Board is scheduled for late May to address and, hopefully, finalize the Marquee's location. Upon approval AOG will begin working the contract and we hope to have work in progress or completed by the time of our reunion in September. We all owe a great deal of thanks to COL Mike McGinnis, Andy Chmar and Lisa Strine at AOG, who have gone above and beyond to push this project to this point, and who are still working hard to get it done.

As of March 31st, 2002, we have raised a total of \$417,423 with 35% of our classmates participating. Our original goal when we began fundraising was to build toward a fund of \$7.7 million, with a participation rate of 77%. We need financial support from the entire class, not just 35%! This marquee will replace the wooden sign painted annually by AAA. It will also serve as a message board to welcome visitors and reunion classes, along with daily activities on post. Without your support this project would never be fulfilled. Gifts designated to other activities at West Point or the Bicentennial support those activities and not our class gift. You must specify Class Gift to make your donation count. You can give directly by going to our class website at <http://www.west-point.org/class/usma1977/welcome.html> or you can simply mail in a contribution payable to "The West Point Fund – Class of 1977" at The Association of Graduates, 698 Mills Road, West Point, New York, 10996.

In the spirit of competition, we have implemented a challenge to encourage more participation. The original cadet company who has the highest participation in terms of percentage will earn preferential treatment at the reunion. Preferential may mean to some PMI, and others "Big bites" or seating near the door, but we have yet to finalize what the deal will be. To have your gift count for participation it must be at least \$25 and it must be from you. In other words, for all you creative and competitive types, you can't gift for your buddy. Of course if your circumstances permit, we hope you will consider a larger gift. As of the end of April, C-1 is in the lead for highest participation %, 4th Regt. leads in most contributors and 2nd Regt. has the highest average contribution. Only a few, quick months until the reunion, so if you can contribute don't wait!

We hope you will consider doing what you can to help fund this Marquee. It will be of real value to the Academy and something that we will all be proud of. We look forward to seeing you all at the reunion. Thank you all for your help in making this happen.

Esprit de Corps!