

## Twenty Years Service to the West Point Community

If you are receiving this message you are a beneficiary of one of the earliest networking groups on the Internet, going back 1995. Over 20 years ago. Long before Facebook, Skype, and other social networking gateways.

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Reflecting

on preparing this message, I was mulling over the unbelievable good fortune that opened life's opportunities when I qualified to walk through Thayer Gate back in 1960. I was an Army brat and had been baptized in Army green, had admired older grads, and wanted the toughest challenges life could bring. I went from being a big fish in a small pond to just the opposite. Now, pick whatever standard, and there was someone out there who could stomp me. And, we were told, a third of us would be gone by graduation. (True)

But, the biggest shock was the loss of family and friend networking. I had entered another World. The Army Navy game got us off post, but Christmas (before it became Winter Holiday) did not. Everyone went home except the plebes. Letters were cheap, but phone calls were horrendously expensive.

As much as West Point has changed, the connectivity has changed more. WP-ORG was a big part of this. When AOG deferred going onto the internet in '95, a group of graduates and cadet parents started what became WP-ORG. The protocol was to have a volunteer moderator for each list. We currently have 221 moderators who have accepted the challenge. Those groups have received immense benefits over the years. My own class has innumerable social events that have held the class together and continue to bind us to West Point. My only regret is for those groups who never stood up moderators.

Today, our domain includes cadet families, West Point classes, eulogy pages, parent clubs, discussion forums, and credit card sites in support of all those. Additionally, we also support Navy parents, war orphans from WWII, and families of Japanese POWs.

Our primary user groups are Army/Navy parents and USMA graduates. I hope you know how special you are. The parents for producing such marvelous kids, the cadets for having risen to the top, and the graduates for having served their Nation so well, in peace and war. Many people go through life, never being challenged nor realizing their potential. However you may have answered the question "What is the purpose of life?", those of us in this group have been blessed with ample tools to pursue that purpose.

To the extent that WP-ORG has helped to expand your horizons, bonding you with other members of our community, and helped you help others, please donate to support WP-ORG operations through September 30:  
<http://www.west-point.org/donate/> Checks: WP-ORG INC 3800 Buffalo Mountain RD SW, Willis VA 24380  
"Beeman Buffalo Jack" Price '64 CFO WP-ORG INC on Buffalo Mountain

FD41 Donation Report, sorted by WP-ORG member group:<https://secure.west-point.org/donate/report/>  
WP-ORG Budget April 1, 2017 - September 30, 2017:<http://www.west-point.org/budget>