

FD 41: Oh, the places I have gone!

I have stood in the area between the barracks of West Point and in the sallyports. I have heard the rumblings of cadets going to and fro as the sun rises over the Hudson, just as they have for over 200 years. I am not a graduate of West Point, but I have seen into the heart of the Academy through their eyes and their words. I have touched the bricks in the attic of the 1st Division and read a thousand names and class years on those bricks. I have searched for crawlspaces in closet panels, used for spirit missions. I've held a map to the steam tunnels in my hand that has been used by cadets on a mission (called moles), and I have read the words and poems of old graduates, and graduates long dead. I have gone through boxes of photos, poems, and letters in the library archives. I thumbed through a textbook that Patton wrote notes in. I have slept in homes on Professor's row, and in other homes on post. I have had coffee in the kitchen of the Superintendent, and attended a meeting with every Professor who could attend, in the Commandant's office. I have had the honor of speaking with Generals and diplomats. I had the great honor of being a guest at the 50th reunion of the class of '51. I have known many of the people whose names are now etched in stone in the cemetery. I visit them sometimes. Yes, I have experienced the handshake that comes from the shadows as I explored secret places within West Point. All of this, because of WP-ORG.

WP-ORG is near the completion of its fund drive. The first person to donate to the WP-ORG fund drive following this message will receive a complimentary signed copy of the book "Memories and Traditions, The Real West Point Story", written and published by the late LTC Richard C. Breakiron, USMA 1951 and me.

<http://www.west-point.org/donate/>

Published in 2002, this book is no longer in print, and while there are a few for sale online, there are only 25 new books in existence. It is a hardbound book with an embossed image of the cadet chapel on the cover. The work we did on the book is a memory I will always have to cherish. The stories that appeared in the book came from graduates, and came about because of a website hosted by WP-ORG. They are the stories of cadet life through the years. Pranks, memories, tributes, and history.

WP-ORG (<http://www.west-point.org>) hosts lists and forums you are subscribed to. We host class lists, parent lists (USMA and USNA), lists for societies, reunions, ring recovery, military related job contacts, academy sports, politics, finances, special interests, health, class widows, and many more. While you may not realize it, WP-ORG is working in the background to provide you with information and services. We provide email addresses to graduates at no charge. We host websites for graduates, societies, and parent clubs at no charge. Quietly in the background, our servers are busy working for you. Twice each year we have a fund drive to pay for the servers and employees that keep WP-ORG working.

What Academy related organization answers your calls personally early in

the day and late at night, week days and weekends, and doesn't hang a "closed" sign? What Academy related organization does everything possible to provide you with so many services at no charge? Only one that I know of: WP-ORG.

To cadet and midshipmen parents who are reading this: I am, and was, nothing more than a parent such as yourself. In the days before Facebook, WP-ORG gave parents a place to ask questions and share the experience of having a cadet at USMA. Those WP-ORG lists exist today, which is most likely how you are receiving this note. They are quieter now, but I was very glad when my child was serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, that our names and any association with West Point was safely on private servers, and not on an open social media page for anyone to see. Information on the WP-ORG parent lists are always timely, accurate and secure. I hope you find value in that. As the parent of a graduate, I was blessed more than I could ever express, because of WP-ORG. It was through WP-ORG that circumstances led to a book. A book that took years to compile, and changed my life in ways I can't express. Why I was given that gift, I will never know, but I will be forever grateful.

As I said in the beginning, to the first person to donate after this email is sent, I will send a copy of the book (I will contact you via your email address), and in memory of LTC Richard C. Breakiron, I will also send a second book to the person whose donation brings this fund drive to a close. We are at _____% as of this writing. We end the fund drive at 100% of our goal. Please donate today, so that we may get down to the business of just serving you.

Donation page for all payment methods (credit card, check or PayPal):

<http://www.west-point.org/donate>

If donating by check, please indicate class year and affiliation:

WP-ORG

3800 Buffalo Mountain Road SW

Willis, VA 24380-5082

FD41 Donation Report, sorted by WP-ORG member group, etc.:

<https://secure.west-point.org/donate/report/>

WP-ORG Budget April 1, 2017 - September 31, 2017:

<http://www.west-point.org/budget>

What is WP-ORG?:

http://www.west-point.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=66&Itemid=73

With affection,

Dian Welle

WP-ORG, Inc.

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The recipient of the first book was J.D. Leamon, USMA '96