



WPSA NEWS

WEST POINT SOCIETY OF ATLANTA * PO BOX 492511 * ATLANTA, GA 30349-2511

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Circulated quarterly to grads and friends of West Point~

NOVEMBER 2003

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Graduates and Friends of West Point,

There are many events taking place in our Atlanta Society and I hope you can find one or more that interest you. Our October luncheon was a fascinating journey where we were taken back to a time in our nation's military history – a decisive Army/Navy "joint" operation of great significance. It was a tropical, coastal-riverine guerrilla warfare theater of operations in a jungle environment where the indigenous population was undermining the local government. No, it was not Vietnam, as you might expect. The time was 1863 and the place was South Florida where the Union's naval power was trying to thwart the South's main supply route to the Confederate Army. Award-winning and nationally recognized writer and lecturer, Robert Macomber, was our guest speaker, and brought to life the historical account of Daniel P. Woodbury, West Point Class of 1836. After Woodbury built pontoon bridges for the successful river crossing at the Battle of Fredericksburg, he was sent to Florida to use his engineering skill and experience in a "Joint Operations" effort that did not get much publicity. Bob Macomber gave an intriguing account of this interesting figure that was immensely entertaining for all. He also signed his award-winning book At the Edge of Honor. We also conducted a networking event in October in conjunction with the Harvard Business School of Atlanta where Michael Montelongo, CFO for the Air Force, and Class of 77, spoke to a well receiving crowd at the Ashford Club. We have a Platoon Leader from Iraqi Freedom speaking at our November luncheon, December has the Army/Navy competition at the GPTV fundraising event and of course the big game on the "fields of friendly strife". We plan on having a raffle for great prizes at the Army/Navy game on December 6th. All this and more... The "more" would be you telling us what "more" you want. Give us a call, or better yet, meet us at one of our upcoming events and let's talk. See you there.

JESSE McCORVEY '74

The Days...

November 20, 2003, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Monthly Luncheon at The Commons at Fort McPherson, GA.

Speaker: LT Neil Hilderbrand
Topic: Small Unit Leadership during Iraqi Freedom

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November 26, 2003, and the last Wednesday of every month: Benny Havens Monthly Happy Hour at Frankie's Sports Bar (Prado Shopping Center on Roswell Rd), 6:30 pm-until. Call Kerry Cecil '93 at 678-591-6715.

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December 4, 2003, 7 p.m. GPTV Army/Navy Fundraiser at GPTV Studios, 14th Street, Atlanta, GA. Call Mike Gaines at 404-696-3330.

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January 29, 2004, Benny Havens *Southside* Happy Hour at the Hartsfield Airport Grill & Bar (1325 Virginia Ave), 6:30 p.m.-until. For details, call Vernon Thomas (404-766-1632 ext 23), or Grant Steffan (404-464-5412).

HOLIDAY HELP FOR VETERANS AND SOLDIERS

This year WPSA will be taking gifts and refreshments to the VA Nursing Home across from Atlanta's VA Hospital on Briarcliff Road. **We need your contributions to make this happen!** All the donations will go toward purchasing Christmas gifts and holiday refreshments for these distinguished veterans who are isolated at the VA Nursing Home. You can write your checks to the West Point Charitable Enterprises of Atlanta (WPCEA) and send to PO Box 492511, Atlanta, GA 30349. All donations to WPCEA are tax-deductible.



We are also planning to assist the massive USO effort at the airport this holiday season as our soldiers go through the busy Atlanta air terminal. We will be providing food and refreshments on certain days during this very busy travel time for soldiers. Be watching your email and our website for more details.

You can judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.
~James D. Miles

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON Features Infantry Platoon Leader

Lt Hilderbrand is a mechanized infantry platoon leader in the 3rd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Benning. He is the son of one of our local members, Terry Hilderbrand '70. Neil commanded his platoon in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. We have all read and heard about this war from the strategic level, but Neil provides some "boot on the ground" perspective at the small-unit tactical level.

Look for an article on the November Luncheon in the next quarterly Newsletter.

MAKE YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DAY!

Please update your membership information when sending in your dues for 2004 by completing & returning the invoice/date information form on page 7.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Greetings! Can you believe the holidays are just around the corner????!!

Holiday activities for WPSA will be a little different this year. Currently, Veterans Opportunity and Resource Center, Inc. (VORCI) is in the throes of a complete reorganization. They are presently operating with a much smaller staff while still providing much-needed services to veterans. Discussions with VORCI's Executive Director and the President of the Board of Directors have concluded that it is not feasible to plan and organize a Christmas party this year. We are looking forward to next year and having a complete staff in full operation to service our target population. We are also looking forward to restarting the tradition of hosting a Christmas party for all VORCI participants and their family members.

So what does WPSA have in mind??? Jesse McCorvey '74, President, has outlined two other activities WPSA members can contribute to as part of their holiday giving, described in "Holiday Help for Veterans and Soldiers," above. These are two terrific opportunities to help our fellow veterans—those retired and living at the VA Nursing Home, and active duty service members coming through our airport.

This mailing also includes an individualized data sheet and invoice. It is very important that you review the information carefully and provide me with any necessary corrections or updates by 1 Dec 03. This information will be in the next directory, which will be sent only to current (CY 03) dues-paying members. Checks should be made payable to WPSA in the amount of \$35 (\$20 for active duty) and be mailed to the P.O. Box address shown on this newsletter.

I pray you and your family share a blessed and safe holiday season.

JAN HEATH, Executive Director

GPTV FUNDRAISER and ARMY/NAVY COMPETITION

Thursday, 4 December, 7:00 PM-midnight

This Georgia Public Television (GPTV) pledge drive occurs every year, just before the Army/Navy Game. From 7 o'clock until around midnight, USMA and USNA graduates and friends fill the booths to answer phone calls on live TV for pledges to this worthy cause. We will have WPSA T-shirts for everyone. Food will be provided. Call Mike Gaines at 404-696-3330 to sign up and join in the fun. If you can't make it, watch your local GPTV station and call in a pledge.

Go Army! Beat Navy!

ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER PROJECT

In May of 2004 the Atlanta History Center (AHC) will be presenting V for Victory: Georgia Remembers World War II, an exhibit on the experiences of the greatest conflict in history. Below are some ways the West Point Society of Atlanta can help preserve the legacy of our veterans of W.W.II; both on the home front and the battlefield:

- The History Center is looking for folks who were on the home front and in the factories during the war to give their stories. Please call (404) 814-4052 to set up an appointment at AHC so that we can record your stories.
- We are also looking for any artifacts or objects related to the home front and factory: work uniforms, welding masks, tools, ID badges, food packaging, rationing-related items, posters, booklets, etc.
- We are looking for veterans of both the home front and the front lines who might be interested in volunteering to spend some time in the exhibit to interact with visitors.

For further Information or to lend an artifact, please contact Glen Kyle, Curator of Military History, at (404) 814-2057 or contact me directly at (404) 459-3833. **MAX HILSMAN '96**

ATTENTION ALL READERS WHO ARE NOT * LIFETIME * NOR ANNUAL MEMBERS OF THE WPSA:

Beginning in 2004, the West Point Society of Atlanta will no longer send "free" newsletters in the mail. If you are not a member, consider joining and continuing your subscription to quarterly newsletters. Membership also entitles you to the Annual Directory and event discounts. If you would like to get the **WPSA NEWS** via **email** you may do so "free" at any time by sending your name, class and email address to: subscribe2enews@yahoo.com.

BUSINESS NEWS, NOTES & SALUTATIONS

One of our new WPSA initiatives is an effort to highlight Business Leaders within our society. Within each newsletter we will devote a section to members who have distinguished themselves in business, civic or non-profit organizations. It is our goal to highlight at least three members each quarter. In order to make this a success, we need your help! If you know of anyone who has distinguished themselves through promotion, election, or significant accomplishment, please contact me at 404-459-3833.

MAX HILSMAN '96

BUSINESS NETWORKING

High on our agenda for the coming year is creating or finding a more vibrant and widespread business networking forum for Academy grads in the metro Atlanta area. One avenue under consideration is to establish an affiliation the AcademyConnect Business Forum, which will resume its quarterly events here in the Atlanta area. If you were fortunate enough to have participated in previous events, then you know that this is the Premier Networking Event for Service Academy Grads in our region. If you were not, then what you need to know is that the program is designed to provide both established and emerging business leaders with a networking forum to grow and expand their business and their career. The events are open to any service academy grad and their escorted guests and will consist of 30 minutes of an informal networking session followed by a keynote address from a well respected business leader (prior military experience is not required). Watch your newsletters or the WPSA website for more information. If you have questions or would like to actively participate in upcoming events, please call at 404-936-8565, or email: carrc43us@yahoo.com.

CHRIS CARR '92

HAPPY HOURS (BENNY HAVENS)

Come join fellow grads for Monthly Happy Hours (Benny Havens) on the last Wednesday and/or Thursday of every month at 6:00 P.M. Take advantage of an informal environment in which to learn what old and young grads in Atlanta are up to. This event provides an invaluable opportunity to meet with graduates, learn about some of their businesses, and use the greatest network in the country--*The Long Gray Line*.

We are currently hosting the event in two locations: one on the **Southside** at the Hartsfield Grill & Bar, west off I85 on Virginia Avenue, and one on the **Northside** at Frankie's Sports Bar, located in the Prado Shopping Mall on Roswell Rd, a half mile south of exit 25 on I-285. This month, there will be no scheduled Southside Happy Hour-- You ought to be busy on Thanksgiving Day! During December, there's no scheduled Happy Hour on the North or Southside.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kerry Cecil '93 at 678-591-6715,

Vernon Thomas '81 at 404-766-1632,

Ext 23, or

COL Grant Steffan '81 at 404-464-5412.

The West Point Charitable Enterprises of Atlanta (WPCEA) will conduct a charity raffle at the Army-Navy Game on December 6th at TJ's. Please be there to support the **Brave Old Army Team** and bid on Army-Navy memorabilia*.

*The items have been graciously donated by **Robert Felio'85** and **Don Reinhard '59**.