



The United States Military Academy



West Point, New York

Dear Society Members and Friends,

Most of you will be receiving this letter on March 16th. Wish a fond 209th birthday to West Point on that date.

I had the privilege of attending the graduation of the United States Military Academy's class of 2010 last May. Think back to the day you threw your hat up in the air. Remember the joy you felt? Well, the class of 2010 had just as much enthusiasm as had the classes before them. I got to do the ceremonial commissioning for two of the graduates, both young men from Albuquerque. One of them is the grandson of a 1946 West Point grad. The other is the grandson of a 1952 USNA grad. Truly, "the long line stiffens and straightens."

One of those young men, now an Infantry Second Lieutenant who recently completed Ranger School, was the winner of our West Point Leadership Program award in the spring of his junior year of high school. He knew of West Point because of his grandfather. Most of the great high school juniors we fete at those Leadership program lunches have never heard of West Point. We ask the schools to bring their best leaders, regardless of whether or not that student has an interest in the military. We get to meet some incredible students at these luncheons. Some of them come from chaotic or impoverished backgrounds and are working multiple jobs to be able to pay for their SAT and ACT exam fees or their AP exam fees. Some of them come from privileged backgrounds, yet they still consider it their obligation to step up and lead in their schools. Come meet these kids. Volunteer to attend one of this year's four award luncheons. They will be from 11:30am to 1:30pm on March 29th, March 31st, April 5th, and April 7th at the Sheraton Uptown (NE corner of Menaul and Louisiana). Jim Hickok, USMA '71, is our WPLP coordinator, so if you'd like to participate, contact him at: jbhickok@comcast.net or 505-980-0672.

By the way, Jim and his wife, Barbara, will be retiring at the end of this year, and moving to Colorado. While we wish them the best, that means someone needs to step in and oversee this program. Jim has the names and contact information at the local schools. It's a very rewarding and laudable thing we do for some great kids. How could you go wrong getting involved in an endeavor that celebrates these stellar teenaged leaders?

On that note, it's time for my annual appeal for financial donations to the West Point Leadership Program. This society started the lunch program recognition model about 40 years ago. We don't serve these kids filet mignon and lobster tails; they get a sandwich. We don't go to a fast food joint; we want to show them a due amount of respect for their achievements. It costs about \$3500.00 for all the meals and the framed certificates and plaques. Make a donation to the program, please.

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We had our largest turnout in a number of years at our Founder’s Day celebration last year. We’ve decided to stay with the potluck format for at least another year, so get your recipes out and bring us your favorites. Jane Algermissen, wife of Colonel (retired) Bob, 1980, not to be confused with Colonel (retired) Bob, 1944, has graciously offered to be the “head chef” for the night. Jane, for those of you who might remember, ran a prepared meals business named “Pass your Plate” several years back. Jane is planning right now to make brisket for the main dish. The attached registration form provides details about the dinner. See the map below for driving directions to the home of Leonard and Jean Ann Delayo, Jane’s sister and brother-in-law, brave souls to allow us into their home for that night. We will have Rob Perry, the newly appointed City of Albuquerque Chief Administrative Officer as our guest speaker. Please make sure to let me know if you will be attending the Founder’s Day dinner by the deadline listed. Otherwise you may be standing up eating off of a tray. Please make plans to join us on April 16th. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00PM and dinner begins at 7:00 PM. Uniform: Casual.

Please note the URL of our society webpage where we post all of the documents which are sent out in snail mail and other pertinent news items. That URL is: www.west-point.org/society/wps-nm.

Let’s keep our thoughts and prayers focused on the men and women who are serving in harm’s way. See you at Founder’s Day. Go Army! Donna Alesch White

