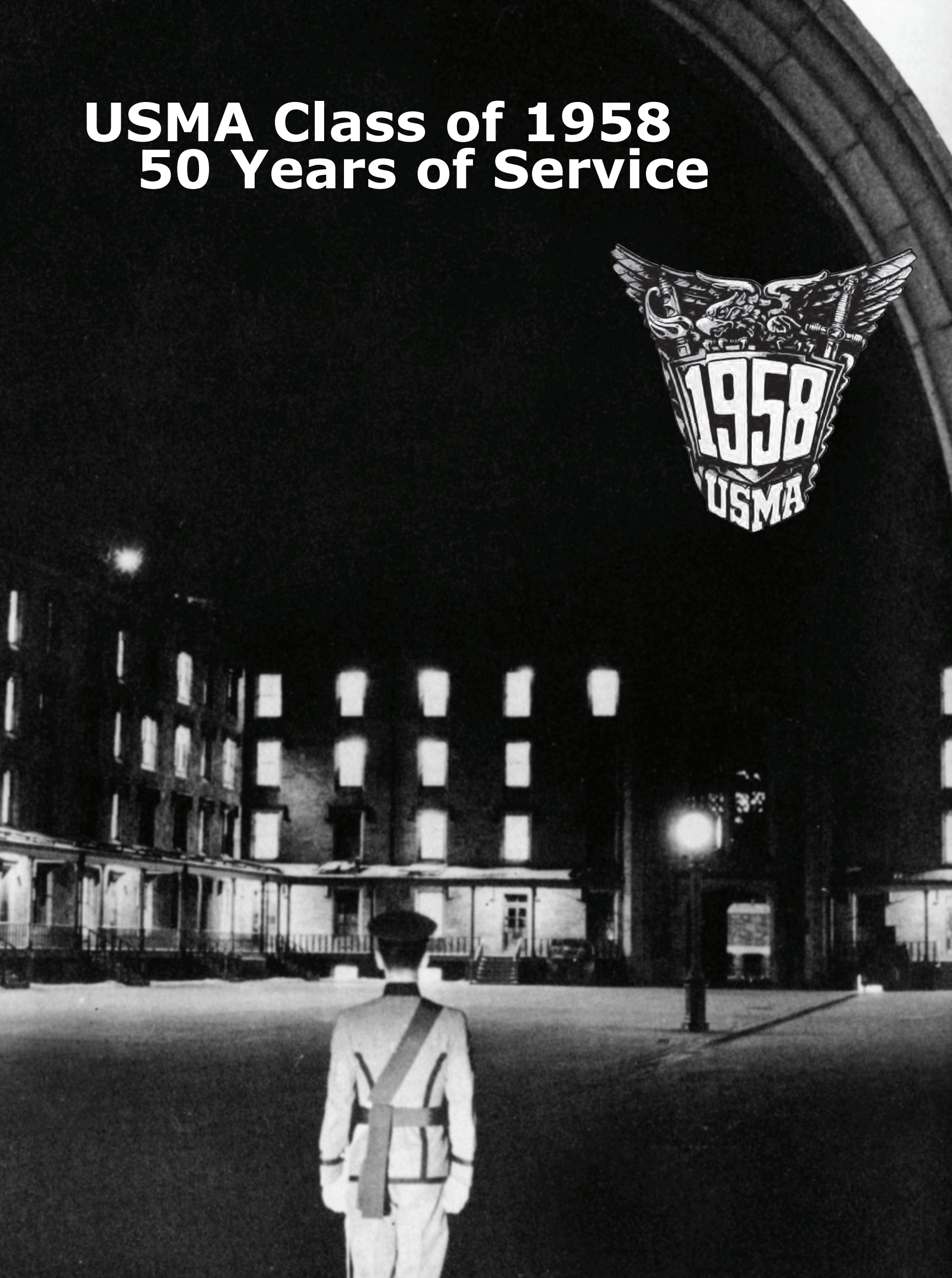


USMA Class of 1958 50 Years of Service





Foreword

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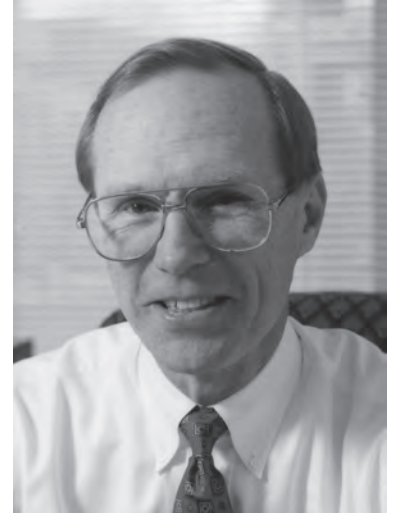
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Two score and ten years ago,does it really seem possible? Fifty years, a full half-century, have gone by since the great Class of 1958 walked across the platform in the old Field House and received our diplomas! Some 573 of us graduated, almost all joining the Army and the Air Force as newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenants, becoming the 160th graduating class of the United States Military Academy.

When the class Executive Committee first asked me, over six years ago, to take on the task of directing the Class History Project and producing the 50th Reunion Year-book, I knew it would be a massive project, but I was confident that I could put together a team of classmates who would be more than equal to the task. Our class did not disappoint me. Indeed, we are truly blessed with having within our ranks so many exceptionally talented people who have been more than generous with the time and energy they have committed over the past five years to producing the book you are now reading.



The "masthead" on this page details the list of those directly responsible for the book and the roles they played. On behalf of the class, I want to extend to each of them my deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks for all of their hard work. Don Martin and Karl Oelke were superb editors for the various sections of the book. Above all, however, I want to single out one member of the team, Frank Waskowicz, without whom this book would simply not have come together as the quality product that it is. This page, along with each and every one of the other 479 pages in the book, was personally designed and laid out by Frank, a true professional in the graphic design field. We salute you, Frank!

Others deserve acknowledgement as well, beginning with the CCQ's who helped us track down the laggards in the class to be sure that each and every classmate would be represented in the book in the best possible way. The CCQ's were also extremely helpful in checking names and faces for accuracy. Our esteemed Scribe, George Sibert, was our "go-to" guy for information, advice, and fact checking across the board. Our appreciation, also, to John Nun and Tony Bauer for their services in generating mailing lists and managing our finances, respectively.

We are indebted to West-Point.Org for implementing and hosting the class database which we have used to both collect and preserve information about the class. Warren Hearnese, '89, and Dian Wells of wp.org provided continuous support to us over the past five years and we sincerely thank them for their valuable help. That database, accessible through our class website (<http://www.west-point.org/class/usma1958/>), remains a living entity and will continue to be a long-term repository of information about our class. There is extensive information in the database that could not be included in the

book. If you enjoy the War Stories in the book, for example, you will find many, many more in the database. We encourage everyone to continue to add information to the database in the future.

Finally, my sincere appreciation to all members of the Class of 1958. This is your book, and its contents reflect your 50 years of service to the nation. I am proud to be one of you, and to call you classmates.

Alan B. Salisbury
Editor-in-Chief

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Introduction and Dedication

On behalf of the great Class of 1958, we would like to dedicate this 50th Reunion Yearbook.



To our parents who prepared us, the Long Gray Line who inspired us, the upper classes who molded us, and the staff and faculty who taught us;



To our families, spouses and friends who supported us at every step along the way, and the senior officers who mentored us over the years; and, most especially,



To our sons and daughters, our grandchildren, and generations yet to come: may what you read here inspire you, too, to commit yourselves to a lifetime of selfless service to our nation and to mankind.

Legacy. It has become a somewhat overused word in recent times, frequently associated with presidents who in their last years in office begin to concern themselves with how they will be seen in the history books. But it's an appropriate word to describe what this book represents. It documents the legacies of the 573 members of our Class who graduated together in 1958, as well as many additional classmates who went on to graduate with other classes, or left USMA to take their lives in different directions.

George Sibert has calculated that the 569 members of the class who were commissioned served an aggregate total of 11,050 years on active duty. Another 29 classmates, who graduated later with '59 or '60, added an additional 518. All together, not a bad return on investment for our nation. But the legacy of the Class of 1958 will not be measured in such statistics. Rather, it will be measured in individual accomplishments, one classmate at a time. And that's what this book attempts to document.



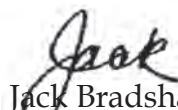
There is, however, a Class legacy of a collective nature that will live on long after the last man is gone. Perhaps the most visible element of that legacy is the First Class Club, described and pictured on pages 23-25. While not the most expensive gift ever given to the Academy, it ranks among the top gifts with respect to impact on the Corps of Cadets. Its true value is as a vehicle to enhance the bonds between classmates. Therein lies the greatest legacy that our class can leave behind. Few classes have achieved the level of bonding, and the degree of friendship and mutual support that have developed within the Class of 1958. There is no greater legacy that we could pass to future members of the Corps of Cadets and the Long Gray Line.

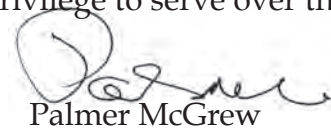


We also will leave behind a material legacy in the form of our Perpetual Endowment Fund (PEF). True to our nature as mavericks, we have created a long-term USMA gift fund outside of the traditional giving structures that will keep on giving in our name in perpetuity. The PEF is described in the Class History section (page 26), and instructions for contributing can be found on page 474.

For now, we invite you to read and enjoy this book, and through it, the Class of 1958. Begin with a Brief History of our class, from our cadet days through active duty and beyond, and then read our individual stories as we Pass-in-Review for our 50th anniversary. Discover our beautiful families as each company displays its full-color family pictures. And then move on to our War Stories & Remembrances, where you'll laugh and cry with us through these wonderful, often moving, anecdotes.

And there you have the USMA Class of 1958, which it has been our privilege to serve over the years.


Jack Bradshaw
Class President


Palmer McGrew
Chairman, Executive Committee



An Brief History of the U.S. Military Academy Class of 1958

History Overview Editor: Don Martin Jr.



53 members of the Class of '58 joined the Class of 2008 as they marched back to the Academy from Camp Buckner at the end of Plebe Summer in 2004.

The Class of 1958 reported for Plebe Summer “Beast Barracks” on 6 July 1954, ten years and a month after the landings at Normandy. World War II had ended only nine years earlier, and the Korean Conflict had resulted in an uneasy truce in July of the previous year. Nikita Krushchev was trying to secure his leadership of the Soviet Union through his attacks on the legacy of Joseph Stalin, who had died the previous year, but not in a manner that would lead to peaceful relations with the Western powers or most of the rest of the world. In China, Mao’s takeover of 1948 was bringing hardship, poverty and starvation to tens of millions.

The Cold War could turn intensely hot. This was demonstrated just two months before our entry date by the humiliating surrender of the French garrison at Dienbienphu to Ho Chi Minh’s Vietminh forces. (How many of us considered, at that time, the consequences that the French withdrawal from Indochina might bring to our lives?) Civil conflicts and widespread turmoil troubled much of Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, with authoritarian or dictatorial regimes threatening not only their own peoples but also many outside of their borders. For the next four years, we would be preparing to lead U.S. forces into a very dangerous future.

Thus it was appropriate that our Class endured a difficult “regime” during Beast Barracks at West Point. We needed the hardening of that summer to help us successfully face the future challenges and responsibilities that we so eagerly sought when we arrived at the Cadet Area and encountered our First Class Summer Detail “up close and personal.”

“You, Dumbsmack! Yes you! What are you staring at! Hit the ground and give me 10 pushups, now!”



Cadet Days

Author, Cadet Days: Karl E. Oelke

The history of the Class of 1958 began in the fall of 1953, when nominations for the March 1954 exams were lagging. However, the admissions people got busy and 2003 people were examined for entrance in March and June for 1,048 total vacancies. (This was more than the classes of 1957, 1956, and 1955; less than the Classes of 1954 and 1953). 965 of us were judged fully qualified (less than Classes of 1957, 1956, 1954, and 1953; more than the Class of 1955), and 752 were admitted (more than all the previous five classes, except the class of 1954). Seven new cadets resigned during the summer, but 14 turnbacks joined us in July and August, so we began the academic year in September 1954 759 strong.

Losses: Plebe Year took its toll. We lost 151 classmates because of deficiency in academics or tactics as well as resignations, but gained 25 total turnbacks, leaving us with 626 to begin Yearling Year. That year was more merciful, taking only a net of 28 classmates (lost 33, gained five), leaving 598 at the end of the year. We must have gained some advantage over the system by virtue of two years' experience, because Cow Year, despite rigorous academics, took only a net of 22 (26 lost, six gained). And Firstie Year confirmed our mastery of the system: we lost only five, leaving 573 to graduate! The following table approximates our losses by category:

Resignations	9.4 percent
Academics	12.8 percent
Conduct	0.4 percent
Aptitude	0.4 percent
Honor	1.9 percent
Phys. Ed.	0.8 percent
Other	3.2 percent (physical

disability, death, admin discharge, habits and traits, sickness, dropped, suspended, released)

As with all statistics, we don't come out completely even. If you add up the percentages of the table, provided in the Supe's Annual Report at the end of 1958, the total comes to 28.9%. However, if you take the number graduated (573) and the number with which we started (752), you get a loss of 24.5%. Let's just say we graduated about 75% of our entry class and call that a success! (For what

it's worth, 75% of our losses came during Plebe Year, and 87% of Plebe resignations came before the end of the first semester.)

West Point was led by Superintendent Lieutenant General Blackshear M. Bryan from early September of our Plebe year, assisted by his Chief of Staff, Colonel John L. Throckmorton, and the Commandant, Brigadier General Edwin J. Messinger. General Bryan continued as Supe our Yearling year, assisted by a new Commandant, Brigadier General John L. Throckmorton (newly promoted) and Assistant Commandant, Colonel Julian J. Ewell (fresh from his stint as our commander at Buckner during Yearling Summer). Lieutenant General Garrison H. Davidson took over as Supe our Cow year, with Throckmorton and Ewell continuing in their respective posts. All three continued these duties our Firstie year. The continuity and excellence of senior leadership contributed to our outstanding Firstie year, but more about that later.

Two aspects of the Cadet Hoor system were particularly significant during all four years of our cadet life — absence

cards and the "All Right." A cadet giving an "All Right" when outside his room, or in response to the inquiry "All Right, Sir?" was confirming that he was going or coming on authorized business, and no place else, and that he had not violated the regulations concerning limits, liquor, gambling, hazing, or narcotics. We had to "mark" our absence cards to indicate the reason for our absence when leaving our rooms



2nd New Cadet Company marching to Trophy Point for the Swearing-In Ceremony on 6 July 1954.

during call to quarters on Sunday through Friday (e.g., guard duty, authorized absence, leave). When the card was marked, it was the equivalent of an "All Right." We couldn't gamble, drink, go off limits, or otherwise violate regulations. To do so intentionally would be an honor violation.

George Sibert remembers being taken off limits by a taxi when his card was marked "authorized absence." According to the Tactical Department, the proper report was "unintentional violation of honor," but George reported "unintentional violation of limits while card marked." When his company TAC challenged him on that interpretation, George pointed out that no one can unintentionally violate honor. His offense was going off limits with the card marked: if intentional, it would have been an honor violation; but because he went off limits unintentionally (the taxi driver took him there without his knowledge) it was a violation of limits, not honor. After



Shower Formation, 4th or 5th Co, New Cadet Barracks, 44th division; L to R: Bob Regut, John Raymond, Mac Williams, Stan Bacon

about three exchanges in writing and visits to the TAC's office, George got no demerits, which was his definition of "winning."

From Classmates' Almanacs:

- Moving artillery pieces from Trophy Point. Did that lead to the decision to anchor all of them in concrete?
- Chapel Squads marching to chapel on cold winter Sunday mornings, and then sleeping through chapel in a comfy, warm building.
- A grade a day in every subject.
- Wednesday steak night and Sunday cold cuts night.
- Cigarette manufacturers advertising in the back of our *Howitzer*.

PLEBE YEAR

We were assigned to companies by size. We looked great on the parade field, one unbroken panorama of same-sized cadets from company A1 to company M2. However, intramural participants from A-2 and B-2 and M-1 and L-1, when playing lacrosse or football with L-2 and M-2 or A-1 and B-1, cursed the "Flanker" advantage. Running intramural cross-country, however, the shorter "Runt" legs seemed built to outlast the Flankers on the long uphill end of the course.

English and Math dominated our Plebe year. In English we wrote some 20 papers, 14 of the dreaded "500-word themes," and gave three speeches. We spent six days a week in Math class, trying valiantly to master the slide rule, algebra, plane trigonometry, solid geometry, spherical trigonometry, plane and solid analytic geometry,

and, at the end of the second semester, calculus. Who can forget Math board recitations – colored chalk spotting our board solutions like chicken pox, chalk dust clogging up slide rules and dusting our uniforms? When you add the descriptive geometry we tackled in Military Topography & Graphics (MT&G), you can see the weight the Academy placed on proficiency in Math. (The policy of "a grade a day in every subject for every cadet" only increased the pressure.) The intensity we experienced differed little from that endured by Edgar Allan Poe and his classmates during their Plebe year of 1830-31. One of Poe's classmates wrote home in September saying they had covered in that short time all the math he had studied in prep school the entire year before. Academic intensity could be measured by our losses from academic deficiency: 41 discharged at the end of the first term; 36 at the end of the second. Sigh.



Plebe Year Physical Education helped us work off the tension caused by the intensity of academics. Boxing, wrestling, swimming, and gymnastics (24 periods each) humbled most of us. Boxing demanded 3 two-minute rounds and wrestling periods were two or three minutes each, but they certainly dragged on longer than a root canal. Plebe boxing was notorious – the more blood, the higher the grade. Ed Linkiewicz remembers being nailed by George Hussey so badly he bled for two days. Everybody laughed, including the instructor, and George, not that good a boxer, got a 2.6 of a possible 3.0. (Ed eventually had to have surgery to repair the septum.) Jerry Hoblit says Coach Kroeten liked his profuse bleeding so much the Coach conned Hoblit into joining the Corps Squad boxing team. Many of the runts who got to box Pete Kullivanajaya, who came from a kick-boxing background in Thailand, will never forget getting an occasional heel to the face. If you could hold your breath long enough,



Plebe boxing team: front row, l to r: Max Pearsall, Don Johnson, Ralph Cassetta, Pete Kullavanijaya, Barry Zwick. Rear, l to r: John Nowak, Joe DiTomasso, Bill Harry, Ken Clark, Jack Burke, Jerry Hoblit, Coach Kroeten, and Wayne Hagberg



swimming was a piece of cake. And who can forget the soprano-inducing "horse" in gymnastics! Oh yes, in the spring, the Physical Education department gave us a break and let us play with golf clubs (a 5 iron, I believe) and tennis rackets, as well as four periods of "command voice."

To give us the strength (and will?) to accomplish all that was put before us, the Cadet Mess fed us three square meals a day, totaling 4,500 calories. In the summer, that total rose to 6,000 calories a day! (Ah youth! And breakneck metabolism.) What joy when we found those round, plump prunes for breakfast. An intrepid few even "qualified" with prunes, eating at least a hundred so they and their classmates at the table could "fall out" for a week (and a day extra for each prune over 100 consumed, "I did 107," says he oh so modestly).



Jim Hankee and Jay Tirre enjoying a bite to eat

Trips gave us a break from routine. We were treated to three football trips, the Second Regiment going to the Yale game in New Haven, the First Regiment to the Penn game in Philadelphia. We all went to the Columbia game in New York City and the Navy game in Philadelphia. We were also invited to the premiere of the movie, *The Long Gray Line*, which had been filmed during the Spring of 1954, and to the Armed Forces Day Parade, both in New York City. For many of us from small-town America, these trips to the big city introduced us to an aspect of America we had never seen. Wide-eyed despite our pseudo-sophistication, we drank in the bustling urban scene and gorged on the exotica found therein. Of course the Glee Club and the Chapel Choirs, as well as other clubs, took more trips than all of us put together (that's "singing envy" speaking). Tryouts for the Cadet Chapel Choir (and other choirs too?) brought us up to a piano, in long lines, with the choir director playing a simple, four-note chord, one note at a time, and asking us to sing to those notes, "Glow-ree-to-God." As I approached the piano, I noticed he would say to some cadets, "Good," and to others, "Next." When my turn came, I got only to "ree" when he said, "Next." Sigh.

Remember the Southern Sweepstakes during Plebe Christmas at Smith Rink? All of us non-skaters were allowed to demonstrate our ultra-spasticism (is that a word?), to the amusement of raucous spectators. However Carol Heiss, later '56 Olympic Silver Medalist and '60 Gold Medalist, and



Plebe Christmas "Comedy Night." Front row (left to right) Kirkgaard, Patterson, Tomlinson. Back row: Brunner, Shellenberger, Cabell, Haushill.

the Skating Club of New York demonstrated some genuine skating, showing us how it could be done. It helped a little to ameliorate the fact that, as plebes, we were not allowed to go home for Christmas

Our corps squad athletes did well, if not spectacularly well. Of 177 contests, they won 99 (56 percent), lost 73, and tied five. We pretty much split with Navy, winning seven (baseball, track, cross country, gymnastics, pistol, squash, and golf), losing six, and tying one. However, cross country placed second in the Heptagonals and beat Navy for the eighth consecutive year. The pistol team was undefeated and won the National Championship, and Rifle lost only to Navy in ten matches.

Hanson Baldwin, Military Editor of the *New York Times*, lectured us in October on "The Cold War: Where Do We Go From Here?" Captain Alexander .M. Haig, Officer-in-Charge of the Special Program Committee, arranged for Victor Borge and Buddy Hackett to entertain us.



Recognition at last in H-1: (left to right) Jon Marshall, Dan Carter, Bill Parker, Bob Pugh, Jim Bishop, Stan Maxson, George Robertson (face hidden), Wes Loffert

disposable income of \$48.35 per month! I'm sure we all noticed it immediately.



Two months at Camp Buckner continued the military field training begun during our Plebe Year, focusing on map reading, terrain analysis, basic weapons and squad tactics. At Buckner, the Tactical Department and Class of '56 introduced us to platoon tactics, Armor, Artillery, Engineers, Quartermaster, Signal and

General Bryan surprised everyone early in the year at reveille, discovering that most upperclassmen weren't in proper uniforms (we plebes were too green not to be in proper uniform). The shock waves reverberated for several months, with TACs showing up frequently and doing spot inspections. (Law of Unintended Consequences: we learned we didn't have to be fully dressed under the long overcoat. Remember cutting the bottoms off dress gray trousers and pinning them to the bottom of your long overcoat?)

Squad drill was another highlight of our Plebe Year, instituted early in the fall semester after we had done only mass marching during Beast Barracks. Talk about the raggedy-ass militia! It made drill periods much more demanding (interesting?), giving platoon leaders plenty of opportunity to exercise leadership by example. Squad drill may have been instituted for the movie, *The Long Gray Line*, filming that fall, but the TACs must have liked it because they kept us doing it until we were Firsties.

The Commandant, General Messinger, made returning late from any leave, regardless of how late, a sluggable offense resulting in automatic bust, 15 demerits, 22 hours on the area, and a month's confinement: no grace period, no gray area, "no excuse, sir!" Any cadets traveling far enough away to need public transportation (air, train, or bus) had to leave home (or wherever) early enough to assure that no untoward delays beyond their control made them late. Who cared if you had to give up two or three days of leave to insure getting back on time?!

YEARLING YEAR

Yearling Year began on a high note. Our pay was raised to 50 percent of a second lieutenant's pay (with less than two years service), or \$111.15 per month. With \$9.80 deducted for taxes, and \$53 going to our fixed account, we were left with

Tank training, Proctoria Range, Camp Buckner, August 1955

Transportation. Map reading came alive with patrolling and night compass exercises. Weapons firing led us to ranges for M1 qualification (what do you mean, 500 yards?), machine gun, pistol, automatic rifle (the Browning Automatic Rifle or BAR), grenades, mortars, the recoilless rifle and the rocket launcher. I well remember my first assignment, an Artillery battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington, when I was tasked to qualify the battalion on the M1 rifle and machine gun. I actually remembered the procedures we used Yearling Year at Camp Buckner! Who would have guessed?

We also had fun in other pursuits – hops, swimming, and the "Color Line Show" (see page 91). I also remember Colonel Ewell, dressed impeccably in pressed khakis, walking by a pull-up bar and casually knocking off 20 pull-ups without breaking a sweat. What a guy! As our Buckner commander, he gave us the immortal words of encouragement, "Work hard, play hard, and wear pajamas." I'm sure it was Ewell who thought up the log drills and obstacle course that alternated with after-reveille runs.



Julian J. Ewell, USMA '39. OIC, Camp Buckner training, summer 1955. See story on Page 308.



Bill Brower's cover for our Buckner "yearbook" captured our introduction to ponchos and days in the woods.

Yearling Year academics seemed tame compared to those we had endured Plebe Year. The English Department introduced us to literature, from the Bible to modern poetry,



under the rubrics of Man and Nature, Man and his Fellow Man, and Man and God, and they required only six themes and an in-class book review. Foreign Languages (French, German, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, the same as Plebe Year) introduced a new exercise

with our Class: a sand-table problem on rifle squad tactics. Some cadets presented a solution to a tactical problem and others critiqued their solution, all in the appropriate foreign language, of course. The Math Department held classes only three times a week (but still 80-minute classes) and led us into the rarified atmosphere of calculus, differential equations and statistics.



An outdoor topography class. Left to right: Major Glab, Profflet, Raymond, Slater, Powers

MT&G provided entertaining ventures into plane table surveying and military sketching (has Trophy Point ever been so badly rendered – where was Whistler when we needed him?).

The major challenges of Yearling academics were, of course, Physics and Chemistry. Six days a week we spent half a period (40 minutes) with each of them. Soon subjects like mechanics, heat, electricity and magnetism, wave motion, sound and light rolled off our tongues. The “essential principles of general chemistry” were, likewise, a big mystery to most of us.

Military Psychology and leadership (MP&L) regaled us with basic psychology. We studied such topics as growth and development, motivation, emotion, learning, perceiving, thinking and individuality. Is it just my bad memory, or did they test us on all these important topics only with multiple choice exams? And is it true that a janitor discovered one of the tests, completed it, and got a 96 percent?



Tennis instruction on the courts across from the library, L-R: Paul Rice, Hutson, Lupi and J. Burke.

In PE we “graduated” to more gentlemanly sports: basketball, volleyball, handball, squash and badminton. Unarmed combat (in a knife fight, always run) filled out the schedule. However, all Yearlings were required to take the Physical Fitness Test twice (as opposed to the Physical Aptitude Test) – pull ups, squat jumps, pushups, sit ups, 250-yard shuttle run. How many knees were destroyed by the requirement of 75 squat jumps for a max score?

In Tactical Department instruction, we graduated from squad to platoon tactics, as well as an introduction to the U. S. Air Force.

Football trips remained the same: the Corps to the Navy game in Philadelphia; 1st Regiment to New Haven for the Yale game, 2nd Regiment to Philadelphia for Pennsylvania. The Corps again got to go to New York City for the Armed Forces Day parade. Eligible upperclassmen (grade of 2.0, within limits on demerits) got 12 days of Christmas and three days of Spring Leave.

Corps squad teams performed about the same as during our Plebe Year: 182 contests, won 102, lost 76, tied 4 (56 percent wins). With Navy, we did somewhat worse: won six (football, lacrosse, cross country, pistol, gymnastics, and golf), lost eight. However, the Water Polo Club won the Eastern Intercollegiate Championship for the fifth straight year.



A victorious Army team celebrates the epic 1955 win over Navy. l to r: Dave Bourland, Coach Earl “Red” Blaik, Russ Mericle, Capt Pat Uebel, Dick Murtland, The Supe LTG Blackshear Bryan, Pete Lash, Bob Kyasky (partially hidden) Don Holleder, unidentified player, Loren Reid, and trainer Rollie Bevan (whose face is covered by his clapping hands) (Photo and identifications courtesy of Tom Kehoe, West Point ‘57)

Brigadier John Masters spoke to our Class on “The Novelist and the Soldier.” Special programs included Les Elgart and his Orchestra and Errol Garner, described as “an interpretive piano player” by those who didn’t appreciate his gifts.

One trip only a few people participated in, but which was a momentous occasion, was the swearing in of the first class to enter the U.S. Air Force Academy. We sent a couple of platoons, with Class of ‘56 platoon leaders. Our own Chuck Davis went, and his father flew one of the two aircraft transporting them to Lowry Air Force Base in Denver (site of the USAFA classes before the Academy was completed).

COW YEAR

at Fort Benning, Georgia, for Infantry-Armor-Artillery combined-arms training.



During the academic year, the Department of Tactics led us through the rifle company, Armor, Anti-aircraft Artillery, Guided Missiles and Army Aviation. As part of our inter-service orientation, we exchanged weekends with midshipmen at the Naval Academy. (Not sure how much we learned about the Navy, but we did learn much about off-campus activities.)

Cow Year academics brought us back to reality with a snap of the head (and strained necks for most of us). Welcome to electricity, solids, and fluids! The Department of Electrical Engineering bewildered most of us with circuits, machinery, nuclear physics and electronics. I sympathized with E.B. White's aunt, who carefully marked out all the electrical outlets in her house and, as she went from room to room, walked as far away from them as she could. The electricity, after all, was pouring out of them by the bucketful! The Mechanics Department hit us hard: solids (engineering mechanics and strength of materials) three times a week, both semesters; fluids (thermodynamics and fluid mechanics) three times a week, both semesters. A highlight was Col. Harvey's famous "Hot Body" lecture, which he always delivered wearing a cadet bathrobe. Some thrived in one or two of those sub-specialties, a rare few in all of them, while many floundered. We were learning the system, however, because only 17 were discharged for academic deficiency and only four were turned back.

MP&L hit us with 44 hours of military instructor training, preparing us for our looming duties as First Classmen. We were required to present a 30-minute lesson on a military subject, a 15-minute lecture, a critique of a classmate's presentation, an impromptu talk, and a "theater talk."

PE gave us instructor training and coaching techniques, the Fitness Test again, and the obstacle course—once in the fall and once in the spring. I believe that was the test where, if you didn't throw up at the finish line on the indoor track, you were judged not to have put out enough?.

Football trips included two for the whole Corps (Columbia at New York City, Navy at Philadelphia), and one for each regiment (1st Regiment to Syracuse, 2nd Regiment to Pittsburgh). We and the Class of '57 marched in the Inauguration Parade for President Eisenhower in Washington, D.C., and the Corps did the Armed Forces Day Parade in NYC. Second Classmen got two weekend leaves during the year, as well as the 12-day Christmas and three-day Spring Leaves.

Corps squad teams did better this year: 113 contests, 74 wins, 6 ties (65 percent wins). We won seven vs. Navy (baseball, track, cross country, golf, gymnastics, rifle, swimming), lost seven, and tied one. The pistol team won the Bastogne Trophy and First Army Pistol Championship. The Rifle team won the First Army Rifle Championship. The Water Polo Club won the Eastern Intercollegiate Championship for the sixth consecutive year. And the Class of '58 began to be noticed. Nels Conner was named to the Eastern Intercollegiate Baseball League's All-League Team. Gar O'Quinn (side horse) and Paul Dean (rope climb) were Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics Champions.

Cow summer was a lark. Naval training on the aircraft carrier USS *Tarawa* (the "Dirty T") and then smaller groups of us assigned to destroyers, cruisers, and a battleship, as well as exposure to amphibious operations. Trips to Fort Eustis, Virginia, for orientation with the Transportation



On board the *Tarawa*, left to right: Daley, Regut, Denson.



Above: Maxwell Air Force Base, (Left to right) Gillette and Vanture.



Loading out on C-124 during our Cow Trip — carrying all we needed for 51 days on the road

Corps, to Fort Lee, Virginia, with the Quartermaster Corps (the attack of the Shower Platoon), and Fort Rucker, Alabama, with Army Aviation (piloting the L-19 was fun, but how *do* those H-13 pilots coordinate hands, feet and knees?). The Engineers and Signal Corps at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, also graced us with orientations, as did the Air Force at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The highlight of the summer—for some anyway—was the two-week stay



Speakers and special programs gave us Billy Graham, evangelist, Roger Williams, pianist, Duke Ellington and his Orchestra, and the Four Freshman.

Other entertainment included the infamous Supé's Sentry Box Caper – The Lonely Rope. According to reliable sources, one Fall day Jack Bujalski observed a long piece of rope discarded from repair work on North Barracks. Putting that together with the Arvin Gym and the Supé's Sentry Box, both nearby, G-2 classmates were soon



Properly attired cadets from G-2 with a sentry box on top of Arvin Gym.

moving the Sentry Box (with several more cadets when they discovered the box was anchored in concrete) to Arvin Gym. With cadets pulling from Arvin Gym's roof (even more when they discovered how much it really weighed), and pushing from underneath the Box, the Supé's Sentry Box soon stood, upright and proud, on the roof of Arvin Gym. After a day or two, when someone noticed it, Colonel Oglesby called all company commanders from the 2nd Regiment to his office to "discuss" the situation. With no confessions forthcoming, they drew lots and L-2 plebes returned it to its proper location.

Who Can Forget Department:

Erma the Body, being escorted to the Weapons Room by Art Johnson (Class of '57), and enjoyed by all who were privileged to be present.

FIRSTIE YEAR

Graduates remember June Week, 1957, as the year that "Black '57" broke ranks at the graduation parade. That action had a profound effect on the Class of '58.

USMA leadership, after much reflection, decided that they would treat the Class of '58 differently than they treated '57. As a result, we were granted more privileges, but were asked to assume more responsibilities. The Tactical Department gave more "mission type" orders and required company TACs to give only such guidance and supervision as absolutely necessary.



"Hi! My name's Will..." — Will Roosma, Beast Detail, summer 1957.

Colonel Julian Ewell, 2nd Regiment TAC and Assistant Commandant, set almost impossibly high standards, but focused on our (First Classmen) leadership development enough to go along with recommendations that might prove right or wrong. An example of one "right" recommendation was Dale Hruby's to remove "automatic dismissal" for honor violations in cases of inadvertent mistakes when the intent was not to deceive – and Ewell backed Dale's recommendation.

The administration also implemented a new system of First Class Authorizations:

- Firsties could be absent from rooms during evening call to quarters until 2145 hours.
- On Monday through Friday evenings, Firsties could dine with officers or civilians in their quarters on Post, at the Hotel Thayer or in the Officers' Club.
- Firsties were granted nine weekends during the academic year.
- Firsties could leave the reservation on Sunday and legal holidays from 1200 to 1800 hours.
- In early May, off-post privileges were extended to include Wednesdays and Saturday afternoons.
- Firsties could drink alcoholic beverages in officer's quarters or in the company of an officer.
- However, all privileges were withdrawn if one was academically deficient or had excessive demerits.

Summer training before Firstie Year started with flying (literally) trips to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Fort Knox, Fort Sill, and Fort Bliss. After that, we did the annual M1 qualification and got sent off to command and instructor duties at Beast Barracks, Camp Buckner, and the Army Training Center at Fort Dix, New Jersey. This was the summer in which we had to perform, and most of us relished the chance, finally, to stand on the other side of the lecturn.

Getting back to West Point and the academic year, we learned that the English Department required 27 hours

of “advanced exposition,” continuing the Yearling Year categorization “Man and . . .,” only this year it was “Society,” “State” and “Future.” The Department of Law tried to prepare us for imminent duties as company/battery officers, defense counsels, and trial counsels with 90 hours of elementary, constitutional, criminal, and military law, as well as the rules of evidence. And the Department of MP&L, in their 51 hours, exposed us to military management and leadership. George Walker won the Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for excellence in MP&L, one of his many awards.

In the Social Science Department, upper sections were allowed to take some electives (one per cadet). Was this the beginning of the end of our 100-percent-required core curriculum? The beginning of majors?



Assembling a Jeep engine during Ordnance class: l to r: Seltzer, Myers, Lupi, Bunker.

The two most challenging courses, for most of us, were Military Art and Engineering (MA&E) and Ordnance. Military Art exposed us to 104 hours of military history: great captains before Napoleon, Napoleon, the American Civil War, military historians and theoreticians (Jomini, Clausewitz, and Schlieffen), WWI, WWII, nuclear weapons, and Korea. (Do you still have your “West Point Atlas of American Wars”?) Mike Mahler remembers the old black and white movies, stitched together from newsreels, in the old stadium-style lecture halls, wider than deep, with blackboards behind long black lab tables running across the front. One showed America going to WWI, men wearing fedoras and shirts, some with ties, from farms and factories and small towns, innocent and unworldly, soon to face the horrors of the trench warfare we had just studied. It was a perfect picture of the loss of innocence about to occur, much like what we would encounter soon in Vietnam.

In their 104 hours, Military Engineering gave us that joyful-to-behold structural design problem (a span of the Bear Mountain Bridge, at least for the lower sections where I dwelt). They also exposed us to structural analysis and Army engineering. Oh yes, they also sponsored a trip for us to Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Ordnance Department also had 104 hours of our time, which they divided into three main sub-courses: engineering materials and processes, automotive engineering, and, with half of those hours (52), armament engineering.

I hold the Ordnance Department fully responsible for the total destruction of my car’s engine block. After disassembling and reassembling the Jeep engine in the automotive engineering course, I knew I could handle any car engine. Getting ready to leave Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1961, I tuned my car’s engine, including adjusting the valves in the auto hobby shop. By the time we got to Des Moines, Iowa, I was getting no more than 35 mph. Limping in to the dealer, begging for help, I was told that whoever had adjusted my valves really screwed them up, and they would have to replace the whole head. One-month’s pay later, we resumed our trip. Sigh. I didn’t touch my car’s engine, even to change the oil, for some 20 years.



The Tactical Department used their military instruction time to orient us on company administration, company supply, junior officer responsibilities, combat arms employment, Army and Air Force organization, map reading, and the perennial favorite, dismounted drill.

For our last year, the powers in charge modified the curriculum to include instruction in the probable impact of atomic weapons (especially in MA&E, Ordnance, and Tactics) and the organization of the new Pentomic Division. Some of the lectures we received showed this new emphasis:

- “Psychiatry of Nuclear Warfare” 20 Sep 57, 1st class
- “Medical Aspects of Nuclear Warfare” 27 Sep 57, 1st class
- Werner von Braun, Director, Development Operations Division, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, “The Conquest of Space,” Jan ’58, 1st and 2nd classes

Breaks from routine included trips to Philadelphia for the Notre Dame and Navy football games (entire Corps) and to Charlottesville for the Virginia football game (1st class only).



The perks of First Class year: in Philadelphia l to r: Jane Saunders, Mel Drisko, Tom Sands, and Lynn Shrader. Jane and Mel were married in June, ’58.

We also enjoyed a trip to NYC for the annual Armed Forces Day Parade in May. The Glee Club achieved fame with two appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show, and we were graced with a performance by the Glenn Miller Band. Our 1st Class year was also the year that a segment of the old Ordnance Compound was converted into the new First Class Club for our partying enjoyment.

Our Corps squad teams competed in 214 contests, winning 144, losing 66, and tying four. (The 67 percent winning record was the best of our four years at the Academy, due,



of course, to the superb leadership of the Class of '58.) Against Navy we won nine (basketball, lacrosse, 150-lb football, swimming, gymnastics, pistol, rifle, squash, wrestling), and lost seven. (Winning all seven winter season sports gave us the largest number of wins over Navy in a single day.) Some other highlights of the year's athletic accomplishments:

- The Football Team's record of seven wins and two losses was diminished only by a loss to Navy.
- Nels Conner, baseball captain, was named to the Eastern Intercollegiate Baseball League's All-League team for the second consecutive year and All America
- The 150-lb football team was undefeated (tied once), winning the Eastern Intercollegiate 150-lb football League Championship. Seven members were named to the 22-man All-League team, including Bill Shely and Brad Johnson from the Class of '58.
- Jim Kernan, captain Varsity football team, was named to the All-East team.
- Gymnastics was undefeated in 11 meets and won the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League Championship. Gar O'Quinn won the Eastern individual title on parallel bars.
- In Hockey, Dave Hettinger broke both points and assists career records with 107 points and 63 assists.
- Lacrosse was undefeated for the first time in history and won both Open and Intercollegiate Championships. Jim Ramsden competed in the North-South All Star Lacrosse game. Ray Riggan, Mike Harvey, Bob Grete and John Evans were named All America.
- The Pistol team won the Mid-Winter Championship at Tampa and set a cadet range record of 1,401 points in beating Navy and breaking Navy's 18-match winning streak.

- The Rifle team was undefeated in 16 matches, an Academy record, and set the West Point indoor range record with 1,456 points against Norwich and Fordham.
- Pat Kirk, co-captain of the Swimming Team, won the Eastern Backstroke Championship, breaking the Academy backstroke record with a 2:11.3 time.
- The Hockey team beat the Canadian Royal Military College, our chief rival, for the third consecutive year.
- The Water Polo Club won the Eastern Intercollegiate Championship for the seventh consecutive year.

Our Debate Team of George Walker and Tom Carpenter won the initial RMC-USMA Debate Trophy. And one member of the Class of '58 (John Sewall) was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and entered Oxford in the fall of that year.

One of our eagerly anticipated occasions was the branch drawings. They broke down as follows:

427 of us were commissioned Regular Army, 142 Air Force (25 percent)

Regular Army choices were:

Infantry	129 (30.1 percent)
Artillery	155 (36.2 percent)
Engineers	54 (12.5 percent)
Armor	49 (11.2 percent)
Signal Corps	40 (9.5 percent)

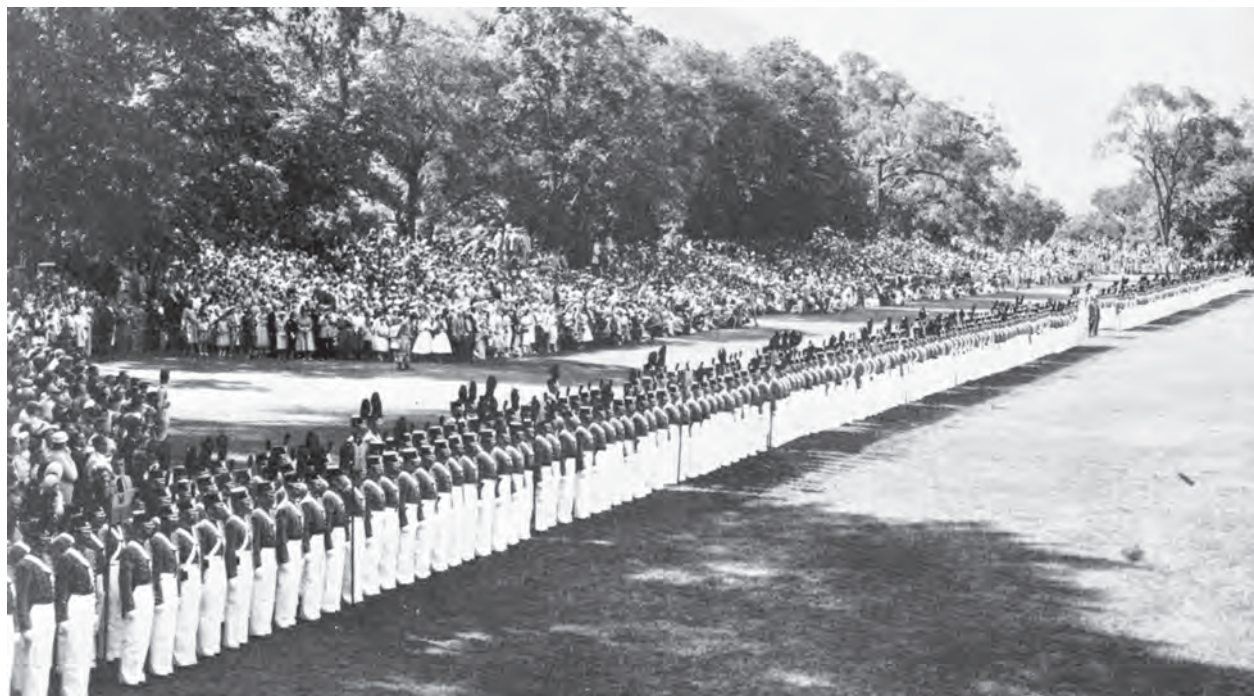
93.7 percent of the Class got their 1st choice.

We were the last class to graduate before the Air Force Academy's first graduating class, so we were the last class with 25% of the class going Air Force.

Harbinger of Things to Come Department: The Class of '61(our Plebes) was assigned to companies to achieve a more even distribution of abilities (academics, physical, and leadership potential), allowing a six-inch variation in height



Undefeated Naional Lacrosse Champions. Front Row: L to R: Harvey, TH Jr.; Eliot, BF; Robertson CB; Robertson GS; Riggan, RB; Grete, RL; Ramsden, JH; Smith, RL; Evans JG; Second Row: Baker, RE (Manager); Getz, CE; Howard, FI; Beurket, RT; Jansen, RH; Miser, RS; Tillar, D; Howe, RB; Nunn LR; (Capt) Marcum (Asst Coach); Third Row" (Capt) McEnery (OIC); Fitzgerald, WA; Beach, DW; Belan, CG; Tomiczek, PW; Owens, BI; Fertig, SW; Campbell, JF, Mr. Adams (Coach)



Graduation Parade, June 4, 1958. The real McCoy from the '59 Howitzer.

instead of the previous variation of only 4 inches, and for the Class of '62 that would be increased to an eight-inch variation. So long "Runts" and "Flankers." Sigh! Did being assigned to companies based on our height permanently warp the way we viewed the world?

For those assigned to West Point in later years, it's significant that 1957-58 was the year Major William H. Schempf became Director of Music, USMA, and Leader of the USMA Band. Also, the conversion of the Riding Hall into an academic building (Thayer Hall) was in its final stages, and it was expected to be completely occupied by 15 July 1958.

The first Sylvanus Thayer Award was presented to Dr. Ernest O. Lawrence, Professor of Physics and Director of the Radiation Laboratory of the University of California, Berkeley, on Friday, 21 March '58 (the worst snow storm of the year prevented President Eisenhower from attending and making the presentation).

Kudos for the Class of 1958 Department:

The resignation rate for the Class of '58 dropped to a 4-year low, 35 percent below the 9-year average. 75 percent of our total resignations occurred during Plebe Year, with 87 percent of plebe resignations coming before the end of the first semester.

The Superintendent said that the Class of '58's performance during June Week was "the best I have ever observed." As we carried our mattresses and brown-boys to our cars, and slurred our good-byes to comrades with whom we had bonded in ways we had yet to discover, the lines of *Army Blue* wafted gently through our minds:

*We'll bid farewell to Kaydet Gray,
And don the Army Blue
And
Our future is a cloudless sky,
We'll don the Army Blue.*



Juan Villanes, Dave Livingston, Brenda Larger, Dick Graves, Honey Hoke, Jude Theibert, JoAnne Hipp, Arlene Halsey, Jack Halsey, Joan Kelly, Bruce Mignano, Ken Lager, Dick Kittleson. Trophy Point, June 4, 1958



Years of Active Military Service

Author: Michael D. Mahler

When our Class reported for our initial active duty assignments after graduation leave in the summer of 1958, we entered a military that was the smallest in size since World War II. It was a placid time in the lull after the Korean War, and it appeared very likely that the words in *Benny Havens, Oh!* regarding promotion being "very slow" would be prophetic for our class.

Plymouths and Dodges had huge fins; Army Green was still new as the service uniform for the Army files, though summer tans would stay with us for another ten years; and the Air Force Academy had not yet graduated its first class, which meant a full quarter of our Class would don the Air Force Blue. The Cold War simmered at a low level, and President Eisenhower seemed intent on reducing our military assets even further, while drawing down our presence in Europe.

We could not know it as we embarked on our initial training after graduation leave that quiet summer, but the global environment that would shape our years of service was about to change dramatically. That change would

begin in only three years when the wall would go up on the interzonal border between East and West Germany. In the end, our years of service would encompass the heating up of the Cold War and our participation in tense situations and intense combat in places whose names we barely knew in those first months after graduation.

Before any of these events could take place, the Class was

gifted with its godson, courtesy of Karl and Sue Oelke. Karl E. Oelke III, joined the Class on 24 December 1958 at Fort Bliss, Texas. He weighed in at three pounds! The Cup, however, did not reach the



Oelkes until sometime later. Our Class President, Jack Bradshaw, finally got to make the presentation at Fort Bliss on 6 May 1965.

Even before our Class could truly begin its active military service and join our first units, we suffered our first loss.



Above: Ranger School, December 1958: End of a frigid three-day patrol in the mountains of north Georgia. Kneeling (left to right): R. Moore, Montgomery, Lyon, Spurlock, L. Jones, Lynch, D. Martin, unk, Zwick, Theibert, Moscatelli. Standing: Harry, P Schonberger, Michael, Stanton, Jack Eliot, R.L Smith, Bob Hayden, Kramp, Mignano, Hruby, Jackson, Kittelson, Nelson, Herren, Dick Simmers, Nadal, Tony Evans, D. Thomas, Pat Donovan, Fred Hall, Carl Stiner (Tennessee Polytechnic Institute '58).

Ironically, the first man in our class would be the first to lose his life. George Walker, Tom Carpenter, and Cary Martin set out for Dale Hruby's wedding in a light plane in late January of 1959. The flight ended in a crash on 31 January 1959 in South Carolina. George did not survive the crash. *Be thou at peace!*

Somehow Ernest Hemingway's words in *A Farewell to Arms* have always seemed appropriate for this sad event—and the 25 other losses to our Class that would follow during our years of active duty:

If people bring so much courage to this world, the world has to kill them to break them, so of course it kills them. The world breaks every one . . . but those that will not break it kills. It kills the very good and the very gentle and the very brave impartially. If you are none of these you can be sure it will kill you too but there will be no special hurry.

relative peace because the machines of war are inherently dangerous. The next classmate to pay the price was Jerry Burton. He was killed in a helicopter crash on 22 January 1960 while flying a cross-country solo flight as part of primary helicopter training at Camp Wolters. *Be thou at peace!*



A few months later we lost our first two Air Force files. Will Marshall had graduated near the top of his flight class and had opted to become an instructor pilot in the hope of accumulating hours and experience more quickly so that he would enhance his chances of being selected for the astronaut program. He was killed in a T-33 accident near Laredo, Texas, on 24 April 1960. *Be thou at peace!*

Fred Schluter was killed while flying an F-100C on a training mission out of Nellis Air Force Base on 12 July 1960. John Schroeder was in another aircraft on that same mission.



Some familiar faces in this flight training photo: Rear rank, l to r: Ken Clark, Unk, Unk, Mike Dugan, Mike Burke (not 58), Unk, Unk, Hank Gardner, Frank Crowley, Unk, Ron Gilbert, John Sovers (not 58), Unk, Bob Tierney; middle rank, l to r: Datalico (sp? not 58), Unk, Hal Dorte, John Abernathy, Unk, Unk, Bo Grove, Tex Lenart, Unk, Ted Timberlake; Front rank, l to r: Tom Cartwright, Unk, Unk, Brad Eliot, Pete Young?, Ron Charner (USNA), Unk, Unk.

By early 1959, most of our Class had completed the initial phases of their branch or flight training and were embarked on advanced skill training. Ranger badges, airborne wings, and flight wings had been earned and were proudly worn as we went to join our first units. These months were also filled with the excitement of marrying the ladies who had come up in June, and others whom we had met in our early active duty service. We were starting our families, and before long we and our families were spread to posts and bases all over the continental United States and from Germany to Hawaii to the Philippines to Okinawa to Japan to Korea. One of our number, Gar O'Quinn, was off to enter the Olympic Gymnastic competition in Rome, and on 4 December 1959, our gold bars turned to silver. We had passed through the neophyte stage of our military careers!

Unfortunately, we were to learn all too quickly that our chosen profession could be dangerous even in a time of



The Class of '58 joins the 25th Division Divarty: L to R: MAJ Robert L. Rooker, USMA June '43, battalion XO of the 1st Bn, 8th Arty greets 2nd Lts Carson, Reynard, Zimmer, and Van Fleet



John later wrote that they had just completed a mid-air refueling near Frazier Wells, Arizona, and were continuing on a low-level navigation mission, when he looked back and saw Fred's aircraft crash into the ground. *Be thou at peace!*



Bill Serchak, Safety Officer, Grafenwohr, 1959-60 — an environment we all knew well.

Marriages continued to occur and children continued to arrive, and John and Karee Roe presented the Class with its first set of twins. By now, most of us were company officers in the Army or an integral part of various Air Force units, and we found ourselves assigned with classmates to air bases and army posts around the world. Some of us were beginning to go to advanced professional schooling or to graduate school. We met at major training areas, like Grafenwoehr, Germany, and we flew missions together from air bases in a dozen different countries. On 22 February 1961, Sammy Cardwell departed Kadena Air Force Base on Okinawa on a routine training mission. He was number three in a flight of three aircraft. The first indication of trouble was when the number two man saw a splash out of the corner of his eye as they were returning to Kadena. It was Sammy's aircraft striking the water of the East China Sea. *Be thou at peace!*

On 4 June 1961, most of us earned our "regular" rank of first lieutenant. We were now permanent members of our profession with the achievement of our first permanent promotion. Frank Waskowicz summed up our status the summer of that year with the following figures:

Air Force	139
Armor	40
Artillery	127
Chemical Corps	4
Engineer Corps	53
Infantry	102
Medical Service Corps	1
Ordnance Corps	15
Military Police Corps	1
Quartermaster Corps	6
Signal Corps	38
Transportation Corps	2
Deceased	5
Resigned	36

Those figures were calculated as of 31 August 1961, but earlier that month an event took place that would heat up the Cold War and influence much of the rest of our

professional lives. The Berlin Wall went up! The 8th Infantry Division's 1st Battle Group, 18th Infantry, commanded by Colonel Glover Johns, was immediately dispatched down the Autobahn to Berlin while the rest of the Army in Europe moved to its alert positions and held its breath. Dale Hruby was by then the junior aide to our old Superintendent, General Gar Davidson. Davidson commanded Seventh Army, to which the 8th Infantry Division and its 1st Battle Group, 18th Infantry belonged, but Dale tells the story that Davidson found out on the Armed Forces Radio morning newscast that one of his units had been committed. It seems that General Bruce Clarke, the Commander in Chief, U.S. Army Europe (and a prolific writer on proper leadership techniques), had reached down without a by-your-leave and dispatched the 18th Infantry to Berlin with a direct telephone call to the Battle Group commander. Fortunately, it turned out to be an unopposed road march.



Fred Easley had front row seats when the border was closed on August 13, 1961. His tank platoon stood face to face with 10 T-55 tanks, shown here at Checkpoint Charlie. Most of us in Germany had orders home canceled. Field exercises were accelerated. It was a tense moment for all.

By the spring of 1962, some of our number were beginning to be assigned to a place that would loom very large in our careers: Vietnam. The first assignments were typically on temporary duty, and the first to go were typically in Special Forces. The dubious honor of being the first of our Class to come under hostile fire probably goes to George Lawton, whose job that year was to teach and accompany company-size units on raids, ambushes, and patrols.

Many of the rest of the Class were about as far away from hostile fire as you can get. A host of our number was enrolled in various universities around the country earning Masters degrees in various disciplines in preparation for teaching at the Military Academy or the Air Force Academy or for research and development assignments in our

Frank Brown's promotion to Captain, USAREUR, 1962



respective branches or services. Some few were immersed in language study at Monterey in preparation for studying at universities in France or Germany or Brussels under the Olmsted Scholar Program before coming back to teach at the Academy or do research and development. And many of the Class were finding themselves stationed together to attend school once more: the advanced/career courses for the Army files and the squadron officer course for the Air Force files.

In the fall of 1962, we were promoted to captain. The Army files were horrified – or overjoyed, depending on class standing – to find that the promotion list was alphabetical instead of by class standing. Not to worry, though. It turned out that the mistake had been discovered before the list was printed, but that publishing revised sequence numbers was rejected because it would have exposed the error to everyone. The solution was to promote the entire Class on the same day. And so all Army files became captains on 26 October 1962, while maintaining the honor of The Adjutant General! Shortly thereafter, on 4 December, the Air Force files were promoted to captain. Both services had changes in promotion policy that benefited our Class by bringing promotions a bit early. Meanwhile, the temporary duty tours in Vietnam started to evolve into full permanent change of station advisor and support tours, along with the Special Forces assignments. MAAG (Military Assistance Advisory Group) Vietnam had joined the mainstream of our conversations.

While Vietnam was changing from a place where you went if you had special skills to a place where all of our Army files and many of our Air Force files were going, a number of us had been participating in the semi-hostile,

field environment that was Korea. Many of our Class had rotated through duty assignments in the shadow of the unquiet Demilitarized Zone. On 4 August 1963, Korea claimed Joe Davis. He was killed in an aircraft accident in an Army L-20 on a “flight proficiency training mission” that originated at a small airstrip near Kansong, northeast of Seoul. The flight was headed for Pyong-taek, 40 miles south of Seoul, when the plane went down. *Be thou at peace!*



That fall we lost the second ranked man in our class, Dan Brookhart. Dan was assigned to a Fort Knox school troops unit while he waited to report to Harvard to study economics when he was killed in a tragic training accident on 12 November 1963. He had been taking part in a night training exercise when his 1/4-ton was hit broadside by a car as he crossed a hardtop road in the training area at Fort Knox. He never regained consciousness, and died of head injuries sustained in the accident. *Be thou at peace!*

By this time, many of our Air Force classmates were



A pair of Sikorsky H-34 Choctaw helicopters hovers above a landing zone during an air assault operation at Fort Benning during the testing of the 11th Air Assault Division.

finding themselves in Vietnam as instructor pilots or as advisors to the Vietnamese Air Force. Most of the Class, however, remained in peacetime assignments, moving from one operational unit to another, attending service schools and starting to take staff positions at higher headquarters, and, in large numbers, joining the staff and faculty of both the Military Academy and the Air Force Academy after stints

at graduate school in the disciplines that they would teach. Others were involved in reserve officer training assignments at civilian institutions around the country. And more and more Army files were beginning to be assigned to a test unit at Fort Benning called the 11th Air Assault Division (Test), which was designed around the helicopter.

Dick (R.T.) Lynch and his new wife, Nancy, were among those who arrived at Fort Benning during the summer of 1963, for



Newly minted Captains celebrate at Fort Belvoir: L to R: Don Palladino, George Robertson, Don Forney, Sam Collins, Bob Julian, Jud Ellis (AF), Rock Hudson, Ray Miller, Jim Sigler, Alex Johnston, Pete Hidalgo



assignment to the Infantry School. They had been reassigned from Fort Leavenworth where R.T., the aide to then Major General Harold K. Johnson, had met and married Nancy Blakefield. During their year at school, R.T. let it be known that he believed that “where there

is combat, there should be Infantry officers,” so it was not surprising that he volunteered for Vietnam. In the spring of 1964, his wish came true. He left his wife, a daughter born on 21 November 1963, and an unborn son when he reported for duty as an advisor with a Vietnamese Ranger Battalion. On 10 September 1964, while accompanying the battalion in an offensive operation, R.T. was mortally wounded by enemy fire. He had already established an outstanding reputation as a combat leader. For his heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star. He never got to meet his son, Richard T. Lynch, II, born on 22 March 1965. At age 29, he became the first of our 13 classmates to be killed in action in Vietnam. *Be thou at peace!*

That fall of 1964, as MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) replaced MAAG Vietnam and other



Dick McManigell, Qui Nhon, Viet Nam 1965-66

Class members started to earn Combat Infantry Badges, Bronze Stars, Air Medals, and, unfortunately, Purple Hearts, Frank Waskowicz, who was then our Class Scribe, put together some statistics that profiled the class. By then, 74% of the class had married, there were 1.5 children per couple, on average, with the greatest number of children for any couple being six. All told, we had 430 Class children. Some 16 percent of our Class had resigned by then, with the largest number being in the Artillery and Signal Corps (both 26 percent), and the lowest in the Air Force (6 percent). Armor was the least prolific, with 1.0 children per couple on average, and Ordnance (1.9) and Artillery (1.7) the most prolific. The greatest percentage of bachelors was found in Armor (10 percent) and the least in Engineers (2 percent) and Ordnance (none) – and someone else is going to have to make the links and draw conclusions for the correlation of these percentages. This author won't touch it!

Our status in 1964 is summed up by the following figures:

Air Force	124
Armor	38
Artillery	100
Chemical Corps	4
Engineer Corps	45
Infantry	86
Medical Service Corps	1

Ordnance Corps	23
Military Police Corps	1
Quartermaster Corps	6
Signal Corps	31
Transportation Corps	2
Deceased	8
Resigned	90

As the fall of 1964 turned into the winter of 1965, the combat in Vietnam escalated, with the inevitable impact on our class. Dick Johnson, who had chosen the Air Force initially, transferred to the Infantry in February of 1962. By 1964, he had already commanded a company and been through the Infantry School when he was assigned to MACV. He was killed in action in Binh Tuy province in Vietnam on 17 January 1965 while serving as an advisor to a regional unit that was on a search-and-destroy mission. He was decorated posthumously, and the citation for the Bronze Star outlined his heroism: “Captain Johnson placed accurate and devastating fire into the insurgent positions. He continued firing in this manner until he fell mortally wounded.” *Be thou at peace!*

Unfortunately, that was not to be the end of our casualties for 1965. Three months later, on 1 April 1965, Gerry Capelle was killed in action while serving as the Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese 52d Ranger Battalion. The Superintendent presented the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart to his widow, Arlene, and his son, Jeffrey Scott, at West Point. The Silver Star was awarded for an action in January, but the Bronze Star for Valor was awarded for his final action. Again, the write-up outlined his



Honor Guard for Gerry Capelle at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, early in April 1965. Les Bennett '57 in front, John Issacson and Gene Wentworth on the left, John Buchanan at the rear, Ash Haynes on the right. Behind Ash is the CO of an M551 unit that attempted to assist Gerry's RVN battalion.



John Herren briefing General Knowlton, Pleiku, Republic of Vietnam, November 1965
L - R John Herren, LTC Hal Moore (Battalion Commander), BGen Richard Knowlton (1st Cavalry Division Deputy Commanding General)

company above the left breast pocket of our dress uniforms. And, the first of our classmates started to make major out of the secondary zone, with the rest to follow later in 1966.



In the midst of all this military activity, and the danger to life and limb inherent in it, we received a stark preview of what many of us would face in later life: cancer. Wayne Day had been attending the British Armor Officer Course in England when the symptoms showed themselves, and he was evacuated to Walter Reed. On 11 March 1966, Wayne succumbed to a malignant brain tumor at Walter Reed Army Hospital. *Be thou at peace!*

As part of the build-up for Vietnam, Ed Hale attended helicopter transition school in 1966. On 8 June of that year, Ed was killed in a UH-1 crash at Fort Benning, Georgia. *Be thou at peace!*

heroism: “[Gerry] was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor in action. Going to the assistance of a wounded U.S. advisor, he was unable to carry the advisor through heavy enemy fire to a medical evacuation helicopter. He chose to stay and protect his wounded comrade and was mortally wounded himself.” *Be thou at peace!*

During 1965, the 11th Air Assault (Test) became the 1st Cavalry Division and deployed to Vietnam. USARV (U.S. Army Vietnam) was added to MACV in our orders and conversation, and the Winter 1966 Class column bore the banner headline of “LARGE CLASS MOVEMENTS TO VIETNAM . . .” For those of us on active duty, be it in the Army or the Air Force, these were years of constant rotation between the States—staff or faculty assignments, as well as troop assignments—Europe, Korea, and Vietnam. To many, it seemed that they no sooner returned from one deployment than they were headed for another—sometimes accompanied, but more often unaccompanied.

It is little wonder that the families treasured the interludes at graduate school, the Military Academy, the Air Force Academy, Reserve Officer Training Corps, or in Stateside units. The outward manifestation of all this service was that the National Defense Service Ribbon (now our second award), wings of several kinds, and an occasional Army or Air Force Commendation Medal now started to have a lot of



1st Cav, Kim Son Valley, 1966

By that summer of 1966, a large number of our class had earned graduate degrees: 117 of 322 active Army files (36.4 percent) and 23 of 115 active Air Force files (20 percent). Resignations were also higher in the Army, with 101 of 431 (23.4 percent) having resigned versus 20 of 138 (14.5 percent) for the Air Force. Overall, 121 of 569 (21.3 percent) had resigned by the eighth anniversary of our graduation.



While graduate school sounds like a pretty safe assignment, the dangers are still there if you are trying to maintain your flying proficiency. Chuck

CPT John Shirmeda and MAJ Joan Shirmeda, Ft Rucker, AL, Fall 1966

Normington was attending the University of Michigan in the fall of 1966, but was flying a jet aircraft on a proficiency flight on the 18th of November 1966. He was on his final approach to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois when his plane suffered a flame out and crashed. *Be thou at peace!*

By the winter of 1967, the Class column had room for little else besides reporting the constant flow of classmates to and from Vietnam. We were either going to or coming from the combat zone, with very few exceptions. This increased involvement brought with it our share of higher decorations, and Distinguished Service Crosses, Silver Stars, and Distinguished Flying Crosses started to be earned along with the multitude of Bronze Stars and Air Medals. Unfortunately, the increased involvement brought increased exposure to danger, with the inevitable result.

Charley Moore was a Senior Army Aviator piloting a helicopter in Vietnam when he was killed by hostile fire on 25 April 1967. He was flying an OH-13 on a reconnaissance mission near Bong Son when a lift helicopter was shot down. Charley directed insertion of a relief force to secure the downed ship and was directing the organization of the perimeter when he spotted a heavy machine gun firing into the perimeter. He made a low pass firing the aircraft's machine gun to suppress the fire, but he took multiple



hits and crashed. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for conspicuous valor. *Be thou at peace!*

A few months later, on the other side of the world, we lost our 15th classmate to another one of those inherently dangerous machines of war. Rex Mason had branched Artillery at graduation and had served five years in airborne assignments before his eyesight enabled him to qualify for pilot training and he transferred to the Air Force. He had recently returned from completing a 129-mission tour in Southeast Asia and was ferrying an F-5 aircraft from Arizona to Iran. On 1 June 1967, he was lifting off from an intermediate stop at Ramstein, Germany, when his aircraft caught fire. He attempted to eject, but his chute burst into flames. He died at Landstuhl General Hospital in Germany. *Be thou at peace!*

On 21 August of that year, Mel Morrill was part of a flight of four F-105's of Thailand aimed at striking rail yards some six miles northeast of Hanoi. They encountered intense anti-aircraft fire during the bombing pass, and one aircraft was seen to disintegrate and another to explode. No parachutes were seen, though two electronic emergency signals were picked up initially. Mel and his wingman did not return. Mel was carried as missing and promoted with his classmates until he was declared dead in 1978. Some five years later, his remains were recovered. Lieutenant Colonel Mel Morrill was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the Air Medal with two clusters, and the Purple Heart. *Be thou at peace!*

Our Class's trek through the staff colleges began in the fall of 1967. But in Vietnam, the January 1968 toll would be the highest for any single month of our Class's involvement in that increasingly violent conflict. Larry Malone, on his second tour in Vietnam, was the operations officer for the 1-12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, when the battalion's command and control helicopter was shot down while directing operations in the Que Son valley on 7 January 1968. He was awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart with Cluster. *Be thou at peace!*

Floyd Spencer was a District Senior Advisor for Cu Chi District when the TET Offensive hit later that month. On 31 January 1968, he accompanied the District Chief and a Regional Forces unit to engage and destroy an enemy element. The force received withering automatic weapons fire as it made its attack. Floyd's radio operator was wounded and left helpless in the open. Floyd went to get him and was mortally wounded while trying to assist him. *Be thou at peace!*

Floyd's class ring and Bible were missing initially, but they were recovered when an enemy position was overrun the next day. Floyd's class ring now rests in the West Point collection representing our Class.

January 1968 saw our first classmates on the secondary promotion list to lieutenant colonel, just 10 years out from our graduation. Twenty-seven classmates were on that list, nine of whom eventually made general officer. That year also marked the beginning of our substantial presence in the Washington, D.C. area, a presence that would continue in significant numbers for the next 20

Air missions in the north faced the strongest air defense system ever deployed anywhere—consisting of missiles like the SA-2 SAM pictured here. Wild Weasel missions degraded the effects of this system on US air operations.



Ground forces invariably operated under an umbrella of fire provided by artillery, Army gunships, and air close support — such as this AF F-4.

years as classmates rotated in and out of staff and agency assignments.

By 1969, many of our classmates were graduates of the various staff colleges and a goodly number were being assigned repeat tours in Vietnam. Those who had not gone earlier were now there. Bob Olson had finished his graduate schooling when he volunteered for a combat flying assignment in 1968. By July he was a Weapons Systems Officer with an Electronic Warfare Squadron flying EC-47's out of Pleiku, Vietnam. On 5 February 1969, Bob's aircraft was reported missing while on a mission near Chavane, Laos. His remains were recovered the following October. Bob was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three clusters, and the Purple Heart. *Be thou at peace!*



Charlie Bond (2d from left) with Jolly Green crew which picked him up after shootdown in Laos. His own squadron rescued him. He was the 500th pilot rescued by the Jolly Greens. October 1969

Lon Spurlock went from his assignment at the Military Academy to the 2-18th Infantry in the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam. On the secondary list for lieutenant colonel and the staff college list for the next class, Lon had resisted

being moved from his battalion operations officer position to a staff position at division headquarters. He was in a command and control ship flying over an operation near Saigon on 28 March 1969 when he was killed by small arms fire from the ground. *Be thou at peace!*

By the summer of 1969, our presence at the service academies was decreasing and our presence at staff colleges and the Washington, D.C. area was increasing. The rough gauge of where we were, proportionally, was reflected in some figures for the Army files that appeared in our Class column that summer. There were 60 in the D.C. area, 40 at Leavenworth, and 30 at West Point (with the annual turnover there being a net loss). The flow was still heavily weighted toward Vietnam. The staff college and Vietnam got all the departures from West Point that year. And, an additional 44 of our number were on the list for lieutenant colonel, with 35 from the secondary zone.

The fall of 1969 and the winter of 1970 saw the continued rotations to Vietnam, along with an increasing number of assignments to the D.C. area. Some few were fortunate enough to be assigned to Europe, where troop shortages due to Vietnam requirements made their tours interesting. There was also a new restlessness in the service due to increasing drug abuse and racial strife. Unit leadership assignments in or out of Vietnam were increasingly challenging as a result of the combination of these issues.

George Hussey went back to Vietnam in the summer of 1969 for his second tour as an advisor. His first tour in 1965 had been marked by decorations for valor, and he had come back to a faculty assignment at Norwich University. He was advising a unit in the 25th ARVN division during the Cambodian Incursion when he was killed during an early morning mortar attack on the unit on 4 May 1970. A year later, the Hussey Compound was dedicated at Cu Chi as "a fitting tribute to a member of the Long Gray Line who gave his life in our common cause." *Be thou at peace!*



1st Bde, 5th Div (Mech) TOC at Camp Red Devil south of the DMZ, Jan 1971, where Bob Degen was the Bde S-3.



By now, second, and even third tours, to Vietnam were becoming commonplace. Unfortunately, the risk did not decrease with the repetitive experience. That said, one of the saddest of the Class deaths occurred in January of 1971. Bob Degen was on his second tour, serving as the S3 of the 1st Brigade, 5th Division (Mechanized) up by the Demilitarized Zone, when the combination of drug abuse and racial unrest ensnared him. He had gone into a particularly noisy bunker on the night of 8 January to sort things out. A soldier visiting from another unit objected and shot Bob with a .25 caliber pistol as he was sky lighted in the entrance to the bunker. The soldier was subsequently brought to trial, but the original conviction and sentence of 30 years and a dishonorable discharge on an unpremeditated murder charge was set aside on review. There followed an unforgivable series of legal reviews that dragged on through 1974 and eventually resulted in the murderer serving a mere eight years before being released. Ironically, he was killed



Motor pool inspection prior to Reforger 74: L to R: Colonel Steve Stevenson (1st Brigade Commander), CSM Johnnie Johnson (1-70th Armor), MG Red Fuller (CG 1st Infantry Division), LTC Jim Jones (1-70 Armor)

in an inner city shooting shortly thereafter. While all deaths are senseless to those who care for the deceased, Bob's was particularly senseless. *Be thou at peace!*

But the Class was not done with senseless death for the month of January 1971. Hugh Bauer had survived a tour in Vietnam, to include a particularly harrowing experience in which an enemy machinegun tried to zero in on Hugh's 1/4 ton as he returned to his unit from a depot security meeting at the Long Binh Ammunition Depot, and was on an unaccompanied tour as the Supply, Transportation, and Communications advisor with the Military Mission to the Republic of Congo when he was attacked and killed by a crocodile in the Congo River near Kinshasa. We serve in strange circumstances in strange places in answering the call. *Be thou at peace!*

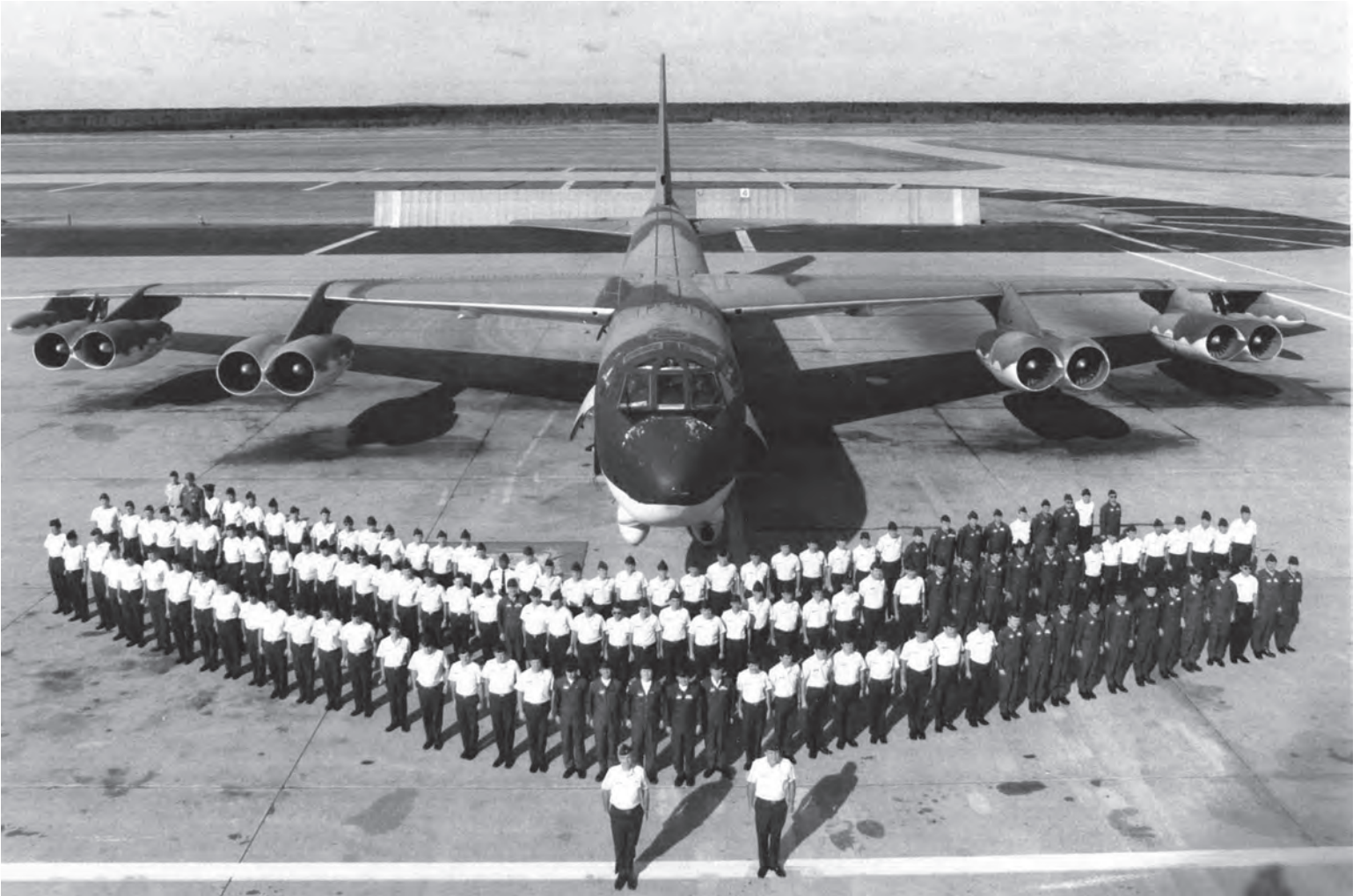
In March of 1971 the class suffered its last loss in Vietnam in circumstances that reflect so much about the spirit of our Class. Dave Nidever had been well decorated for a tour with the 8-34th Artillery and HQ, 25th Division in a 1967-1968 tour in Vietnam. Two years later he was back in the G3 Plans section of HQ, USARV. On 30 March 1971, Dave was riding



in a helicopter when it crashed into the side of a hill. Dave survived the crash and was trying to pull the pilot out when the helicopter tipped over and the still rotating blades struck and killed Dave. He was awarded the Soldier's Medal for his action. *Be thou at peace!*

As we started to stand down from combat in that disputed conflict with a questionable outcome, it should be remembered that it was not the first such conflict in which the Long Gray Line had made similar sacrifices — nor,

over 100 in the D.C. area by the spring of 1972, with many others going to various weapons development projects around the country. More were going to Korea and to Europe than had in the past several years, and the pace of rotations was slowing a bit. Many of our number were being promoted to lieutenant colonel, and with that came field grade command. The first of our Class to make lieutenant colonel had these commands in Vietnam, and many of the rest would have command in the Continental United States, Korea, and Europe over the next couple of years — years that would challenge the discipline of the service as we faced



The B-52 remained a weapon that could be applied tactically — as it was along the Ho Chi Minh Trail; or strategically as a delivery system for atomic weapons. This photo is of the 644th Bombardment Squadron, commanded by Chuck Profilet at Sawyer AFB 1974-75

apparently, will it be the last. General Charles King, an old 5th Cavalryman from the Class of 1866, wrote these words about service in the Frontier Army of the late 19th Century: "In the thankless duty to which so many of [our] comrades gave their last full measure of devotion, there was neither glory nor honor. It meant death, perhaps by torture, if the battle went against us, and unlimited abuse at the hands of the Eastern press and pacifists if victory were ours." Grip hands . . . !

It should also be remembered, however, that Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. once said: "I think that, as life is action and passion, it is required of a man that he should share the passion and action of his time at peril of being judged not to have lived." By that standard, it can truly be said that our Class had lived in full measure.

Though there would be two more years of assignments to Vietnam and the surrounding area for our Class, the numbers were starting steadily down. Meanwhile, we had

rampant drug abuse, difficult racial strife, and the emergence of an all-volunteer force for the first time since before World War II.

1973 was the 15th anniversary of our graduation. We had our first full colonel in the Air Force and our first selectees for senior service colleges. Of the 429 commissioned into the Army, 279 Class members were still on active duty, and an even 100 of the original 140 were still on active duty in the Air Force. Many of those who were not in field grade commands were on senior staffs in D.C. and Europe. Twenty-six of our number had passed on, with 24 of those deaths occurring on active duty. And, in early 1974 the Army caught up with the Air Force when its first colonel selectees were announced. In 1975, we also had our first retirement as a result of prior service added to commissioned service.

By 1976, the promotions to colonel had started to evolve into commands as the Class entered into its senior leadership years. Some Class members were in influential executive



The Service is a small world. Time and again we renewed acquaintances. Here, "Long Tom" Rienzi presents an award to Jim Frick.

officer and special assistant positions to senior leaders, while others were branch chiefs of important staff functions. In that summer of 1976, we had our first Class offspring enter USMA. Tom Kelly's son Kevin joined the Long Gray Line as a new member of the coed Class of 1980, thus making sure that none of us could escape the feeling that the years were flying by. Also that summer, the number of Army colonels from our Class reached 28, and we had some additional retirements based on prior service.

Our prior service classmates were the first group to retire, but a slowdown in promotions to colonel motivated others to make the leap in the years following the 20th anniversary of our graduation. For most of the rest of our Class, tours were longer and family separations were rarer, the kids were going off to college, many were being selected for senior service colleges, and our service lives were typically involved in various kinds of staff assignments, aside from the select few who had earned command as colonels. Then, in May of 1979, just shy of 21 years out from graduation, we had our first three Army brigadier generals.

On 4 June 1979, many of us were promoted to permanent lieutenant colonel. The promotion list left some out and resulted in still more retirements, and our Class Scribe, George Siebert, noted that the Class of 1959 got a pay raise on 4 June (20 years) without a promotion, while some of us got a promotion on that date (Regular Army Lieutenant Colonel) but no pay raise. It was ever so.

Then, on 23 June, we got a warning that promotion issues were really pretty inconsequential as we were all reminded of our own mortality. On that date, Tony Evans succumbed



At left, Paul Ciasullo roasts his roommate, Congressman Adam Benjamin who was being honored as "Man of the Year", Hammond, Indiana in May 1982 – just a few months before Adam's death. US Highway 30 and Indiana State Highway 51 honors Adam, who represented the area in Congress from 1976 until his death in September 1982.

to a heart attack in Frankfurt, Germany. That was our first active duty loss due to heart attack, and a stark reminder that good health and families were far more important than selection or non-selection for promotion. The primary zone for Army colonel came out in July of that year, however, and 136 of our class were on it. Another 18 were on the Air Force list, and they were promoted on 1 September. We also now had eight brigadiers in the Army and one in the Air Force.

In October of 1980, Roger Waddell retired, but what set his retirement apart from others taking place is that he wore his "ceremonial shoes" – that's right, the ones worn as a cadet for parades, graduation, and the like. He had worn them for all significant career/life events since graduation: wedding, promotion ceremonies, and awards ceremonies. And no cracks?

1981 saw our brigadier count go to 12 for the Army and three for the Air Force, while more of our colonels assumed commands and more of our staff position titles began with "Director" or "Chief." And in Thailand, we got our first major general when Pete Kullavanijaya assumed command of the First Army Division (King's Guard), Royal Thai Army. In 1982 we gained three additional Air Force brigadiers and our first U.S. Army major general. Scribe noted that year that four of our 12 Army generals were roommates, which led him to wonder if your roommate not making brigadier held you back or if your being omitted from such a list held back your roommates. No conclusion was offered, but shortly thereafter we gained an additional five Army brigadiers.

By 1983, we had 25 general officers from our ranks: eight in the Air Force, of whom one was a major general, and



Pat Donovan, as an O-6 (later O-7), typified the great variety of contributions which the class made to build and maintain a strong Army. Pat was the PM for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle – centerpiece of the armor/infantry force that fought in both Iraq wars.



17 in the Army, of whom three were major generals. In June of that year, there were 34 classmates still on active duty in the Air Force (five of whom retired over that summer). Of the remaining 29, nine were generals, 18 were colonels, and two were lieutenant colonels. In

August of our 25th year, Mel Morrill finally came home. He was laid to rest at West Point almost exactly 16 years after being lost over Hanoi.



Butch Saint, CINC USAREUR, plays host to Soviet counterparts in 1988.

We had our first two Army division commanders in 1984, both in Europe. We also added two more Army major generals and two more Army brigadiers to our list of general officers. But on 5 January 1985 we lost Stan Maxson, the last of our classmates to die on active duty. Stan had survived a decorated tour in Vietnam and was assigned as the Army attaché to Norway when he suffered a fatal asthma attack as he and his wife and son were returning from a social function. *Be thou at peace!*

By June of 1985, the general officer tally was Air Force 10 (two major generals and eight brigadiers) and Army 25 (six major generals, 16 brigadiers, and three retired brigadiers). We also had a Thai major general and a lieutenant general. Scribe broke that down by regiment, company, and height, but that would only lead to arguments at this late date. There were 68 Army files still on active duty, with 20 generals, 42 colonels, and six lieutenant colonels. They were pretty evenly divided between overseas assignments and the D.C. area. And in 1987, we had our first four star: Pete Kullavanijaya in Thailand. Sammy Sookmark was close behind him in earning that rank in the Royal Thai Army

The number of active duty files in both the Army and the Air Force continued to dwindle as we approached the 30th anniversary of our graduation, but the importance of the positions for our remaining numbers increased significantly. Both of our Thai classmates were now four stars, and for a while three major commands in the USA and Europe were commanded by our other four-star classmates: Mike Dugan, U.S. Air Force Europe; Butch Saint, U.S. Army Europe, and Bill Tuttle, Army Materiel Command.

In 1990, our class provided the last Military Academy graduate who would ever become the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Mike Dugan. By then we had only 11 Army files still on active duty, all but one of whom was a general officer, and three Air Force files on active duty, all of whom were general officers.

The last member of our Class on active duty was Chaplain (Colonel) Ted Hepner, who retired in 1994 as a result of a five-year sabbatical to earn his divinity degree.

And so for a while, we were the “leaven” that General MacArthur said bound “together the entire fabric of our national system of defense.” We even contributed a few “great captains who [held] the nation’s destiny in their hands.” But for most of the Class, our “leavening” was reflected in the deaths of our 26 classmates who died in service doing what each of the rest of us had done, but had been lucky enough to survive. The years of our service could well be described by some words from *John Brown’s Body*, which we all studied so many years ago:

*The years ride out from the world like couriers gone to a throne
That is too far for treaty, or as it may be, too proud;
The years marked with a star, the years that are skin and bone.
The years ride into the night like envoys sent to a cloud.*

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our graduation, think of what the Class of 1908 looked like to us 50 years ago and then remember the words of Joe Galloway and General Hal Moore, written about the Ia Drang Valley where Tony Nadal and John Herren played such a large part:

“We were soldiers once . . . and young!”



Will Roosma retires Daly Hruby and George Sibert, April, 1984

Summary of Special Activities of the Class of 1958

Even before most of our classmates retired from active duty service, they and those who had already joined civilian ranks were engaged in a variety of special activities that have contributed significantly to the Academy, the Armed Forces and the Nation. The brief historical reports below present some of these actions. As you read these reports, you will see that our Class has undertaken projects that meet the needs of individuals and groups who are serving our nation in this new century. You will also see that many of our contributions to the nation will continue to have a strong, positive influence long after we have passed our last baton to succeeding generations of warriors and their families.

The 1958 Class Gift: The First Class Club

by Anthony A. "Tony" Smith

Early in 1986, Dale Hruby accepted the challenge of leading the efforts of the Class to identify a suitable gift to our Alma Mater and then to see it through to fruition (truth be known, he got classmated). Dale assembled such stalwarts as Butch Ordway, John Schroeder, Joe Luman, Dusty Rhodes, George Robertson, Paul Johnson and George Lawton to help him (it's a small miracle anything got done with this bunch!). As they began to think about an appropriate gift, they set their sights on finding a contribution that would directly benefit cadets, that cadets could use and enjoy, and that would enhance their experience at West Point.

This was no easy quest. The Association of Graduates gave the Class their book of recommended gifts, all of which were projects approved by the Superintendent, but none met the criteria of direct involvement and enjoyment by cadets that the Class desired. A number of ideas – such as a walkway between the old East and West Academic Buildings and renovating a building near the Cemetery for use by the bereaved – were proposed and discarded. Finally, it was the Cadet Hostess who brought to our attention the need for a place where the members of the graduating class could gather, relax and escape temporarily the pressures of their hectic lives. In other words, a club for the exclusive use of the First Class. After consultation with many Firsties who welcomed the idea enthusiastically, the Class resolved to offer West Point a First Class Club. The next question was: how to do it?

To begin with, we had to this point raised precious little money to support a significant gift. This problem began to find a solution with the "Nadal \$500 challenge" that was launched at the class meeting at the 30th Reunion, when Tony, with his typical Latin flair for drama, leaped to his feet and pledged \$500 on the spot, triggering a spontaneous (actually, pre-arranged) follow-on number of pledges from

other classmates. With funds coming in, Dale and his team turned to where and how to develop the First Class Club.



In 1958, just days prior to graduation, the Superintendent had provided the graduating class with the use of part of the Ordnance Compound below Trophy Point. The Compound had been a classroom and lab exploring the intricacies of engines, artillery and other weaponry. Who could forget trooping down to the Ordnance Compound to study Automotive Engineering? (This location replaced our former "First Class Club," a little-used room over a sally port in North Area, equipped with pool table, black-and-white TV and a few sofas and chairs.) The Club in the Ordnance Compound was abandoned in the 1980's, when all cadet recreational facilities were brought into the newly-built Eisenhower Hall.

Fortunately, a few classmates recalled that the Ordnance Compound had actually served, however briefly, as a First Class Club. It was vacant and unused, all the weaponry and equipment having been moved to classrooms closer to the barracks. This could provide a venue. Now the question was: how to make it a place that the First Class would enjoy and really use, unlike its predecessors?



The "very old" First Class Club was located above one of the sallyports. To judge from this staid picture it lacked both excitement and environment. In this picture a crowd from D-2 play pool; left to right: Larry Perreault, Dan Yarr, Paul Ruud, and Joe Keyes.



The Supe, Gar Davidson, turns over keys to the Ordnance Compound First Class Club during our First Class Year. L to R: Linda Robinson (Waskowicz), Tom Claffey, the Supe, and Bill Shepard. It was abandoned in the 80s.



After speaking with cadets, it was decided that the new First Class Club should be fitted out as a sports bar. Butch Ordway drew on years of experience in sports bars (no surprise there!) to put us in touch with a specialist in their design. The group decided to celebrate the theme, "Every cadet an athlete," to be portrayed through art work and photographs that depicted not only Army legends competing in the major sports, but also minor sports and even intramurals. To give this concrete expression, a few dedicated '58ers found that the National War College Library contained *Howitzers* going back to the early 20th Century, and many hours were spent at the Fort McNair Officers' Club going through *Howitzers* to select appropriate photos, posters and other art work.

Visitors who enter the Club today are invariably impressed with the breadth and variety of the several hundred framed pieces (Dale and Butch hauled them to West Point in a memorable rented van trip) that give life to the importance of athletics at West Point. Selfless to a man, our intrepid classmates also spent many hours researching sports bars in the Washington area to better understand the culture and gain insights into their decor. "All for the Corps!"

The newly fitted out First Class Club opened for use in the fall of 1993. It was an immediate hit with cadets. Now



The Ordnance Compound .

they had a location for their exclusive use, separate and apart from other cadet recreational facilities. Over the years, the Club's usage has grown. Firsties throng to the Club, especially on Thursday nights, when it is not uncommon to find cadets two and three deep at the bar waiting for a pitcher of beer. In addition, other groups at West Point use the Club for events at times when it is not needed by the First Class. In fact, the First Class Club has become so successful that its revenue exceeds operating costs, and the surplus helps fund many cadet activities that depend on non-appropriated funds for their existence.

One photo that decorates the First Class Club commemorates a little-known athletic contest involving the Class of '58. Perhaps carried away by the sports bar theme, '58 put together a baseball team to challenge the Army varsity during the 1993 Graduation Week. They started practice with 17 classmates months before the game, using a field at the CIA. (Apparently, they did not want to be scouted.) At game time, exactly nine classmates had survived the practices. Two of the self-proclaimed "Dream Team" were hurt during the pre-game warm-up, but were patched up enough to play.

The class of '58 retains a strong "parental" interest in



Dale Hruby makes opening remarks at our 35th Reunion in 1993, when the First Class Club was officially turned over to the first class. George Lawton and Tom Claffey look on.

Jack Bradshaw makes the formal presentation to First Captain Howard Hooge. Also shown are George Sibert, Garry Roosma, Bin Barta, Bill Tuttle, and Pete Kullavanijaya. The plaque reads:

First Class Club
Dedicated to the United
States Military Academy
By the Class of 1958

At Its 35th Reunion

October 1993

Duty Honor Country





Several photos of the annual "turnover" ceremony to the new First Class. Top, 1999, left t right: Bob Pointer, Bob Mellot, Chuck Hansult, Bill Shepard, Branch Worsham, and Garry Roosma. Below. re-enactment of Andy's speech about our great support of the FCC just as the brass railing he was leaning on came off. Others in the photo are Tony Smith, Will Roosma, Bob Pointer, and Chuck Hansult. °

the First Class Club. Over the years, Butch Ordway, Brad Johnson and Will Roosma have made regular visits to the Club to oversee its operation and stay in touch with management. (Some guys will go to extraordinary lengths for free beer!) Every August when the new First Class returns to the post for their final year, a small group of classmates gathers at West Point to participate in a handover ceremony, organized by Bob Pointer, at which they inform the new First Class of the Club's history and charge the new Firsties with responsibility for keeping it in good condition to pass on to their successors. In addition, our class has been generous over the years in paying for enhancements to the Club, such as the air conditioning that was added five years ago. As the class of '58 approaches our 50th Reunion, we are raising funds to pay for a major renovation so that when we gather to celebrate our cadet days a half-century later, we can take pride in having provided our Alma Mater with a First Class Club that is truly first-class.

The upgrades are almost complete now, and drawing rave notices, this letter to Tony Smith from the Director of Cadet Activities:

"Mon General,

"Well, I wish you would have been with me Sat night. The Comdt took all privileges from the Cows and Firsties for the



Major upgrades were accomplished in 2007. New (Black and gold) furniture, bathrooms, etc.

wkend. Therefore, the FCC was jammed packed like an all cheese diet (French Cheese of course). I walked in around 2100 hrs through the back entrance where the new furniture is located.

"This was the first time the Firsties had seen the new stuff! They all stood and cheered yelling "DCA Rocks!". Felt like a rock star walking in there - they all wanted to thank me - I told them the Class of 1958 was responsible!

"You would have been very proud. The back room was loaded with cadets and the room door was closed (making it very private and separate from the pool room) - the second shuffle board we bought in the back room was loaded, the



dart board was being used and there wasn't a new piece furniture available. We broke the previous record for sales in the FCC. What a night. It was the perfect storm! Pls pass on my sincere thanks to your class."

Class of 1958 Perpetual Endowment for USMA

by John G. Evans and Edward "Ed" Weckel

On or about 4 June 2058, the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy should receive a large check from the USMA Class of 1958 Perpetual Endowment Board. The amount of the check will be equal to 25 percent of the funds in the USMA Class of 1958 Perpetual Endowment—a fund established at our 40th anniversary to assist the Academy train young men and women to serve their country. Our gift will continue at ten-year intervals, as stipulated in our Bylaws.

This is a story of a dream—a dream of the Class of 1958 to leave a perpetual gift to our Alma Mater, the United States Military Academy at West Point. It is the story of our desire to help prepare future generations of young men and women to serve their country, just as we were challenged many years ago when we first passed through the hallowed portals of West Point in July, 1954.

The story began at our 40th reunion, when the Class was briefed by Ed Weckel (D-1) on a proposal to leave a perpetual legacy in memory of our Class, a legacy which was designed to outlive all of us. Many members of the Class expressed their views. Church Hutton gave an impassioned argument as to why this proposal merited the full support of the class. He used the snowball analogy—that our fund would grow like a snowball rolling down a hill. Discussion was lively. Afterwards a brief lull ensued, until George Lawton, then Chairman of our Executive Committee, jumped to the podium and asked for a vote of approval. The members present gave their overwhelming support. Thus the USMA Class of 1958 Perpetual Endowment was born.

Four '58ers drafted the Bylaws for the perpetual endowment: Church Hutton, Lee Miller, Chuck Hansult and Ed Weckel. Afterwards the Bylaws were approved by the Class Executive Committee and by a Class vote.

Ed Weckel became the first Chairman of the Endowment Board, followed by Pete Brintnall and John Evans. Other class members of the Endowment Board were: Church Hutton, Lee Miller, Bob Rhodes and John Nun. They were joined by Meg Roosma and Dale Hruby Jr, graduating descendant members of our class, and Patrick Connelly, First Captain of the most recent graduating class ending in the number "8."

The initial funding campaign exceeded all expectations, due in part to \$5,000 donations by three classmates—two graduates and one non-graduate member of our class. But this story is more than just a few large donations; it's a story of love for the Academy and a respect for one another. It's the story of a classmate who wrote out nine separate

checks of \$19.58 to honor nine deceased classmates, with the comment that he could have saved time and effort by writing a single check, but preferred to write them individually and reflect for a few brief moments on his deceased classmates and what their lives meant to him. It's the story of two others, who each sent in checks to honor 32 deceased members of the Class, donating a sum of \$19.58 in memory of each. It's the story of the wife of a deceased classmate, who contributed \$1,000 annually as a gift in memory of her late husband; of a classmate who surprised us with a symbolic check for \$5,800, and another who contributed over \$100,000 to the Endowment.

It's the story of over one hundred '58ers who supported their Classmates with a per-mile pledge for participating in the first 15-mile Plebe/Alumni Marchback. It's the story of many notes received by the Endowment, indicating a desire to donate larger sums, but an inability to do so due to financial circumstances. It's the story of numerous contributions over the years made by both graduating and non-graduating members of the Class of 1958, each expressing their gratitude to USMA in his own way. It's the story of a bogus \$58,000 check, donated by Sigurski, which was raffled to the highest bidder, and won by a group of Classmates from the 2nd Regiment for \$2,900 over strong bidding from his own C-1 company mates. It's the story of Alan Salisbury, who matched the winning bid with a contribution of a like amount to the Endowment. And it's the story of George Sibert, who first suggested a goal of \$580,000 for our 50th Anniversary, which was then formally approved by our Class Executive Committee.

Not all members of the Class participated. Some wanted to see the results of their donations while they were still alive, and gave generously to other programs supporting the Academy. Still others believed it would be a mistake to use private funds to support the Academy. Those of us who contributed to the Class of 1958 Endowment respect the diverse views of our classmates.

The Endowment also had to compete with the Bicentennial Campaign for funds. However, in spite of the above, 497 members of our Class supported the Endowment, and donated \$396,000 to it. Will we reach our goal of \$580,000 by our 50th Anniversary? We don't know yet, but we are close.

This gift from USMA Class of 1958 is for the continuance of the Long Gray Line; for the precepts of duty, honor, country; and for the ideals we all cherished. It is for the benefit of those young men and women of our nation who support our set of values, who believe in the need to give something back to this great nation of ours in return for all the advantages they enjoy.



The George Walker Debate Award

Presented to the Outstanding Cadet Debater(s) each Year

by Thomas E. "Tom" Carpenter

The George W.P. Walker Award is presented annually at the Department of Social Sciences Graduation Week Awards Ceremony. The award honors the top graduating debater or debaters from the USMA Debate Team in recognition of their competitive success and contributions to the team.

George William Patrick Walker was the Glenn Davis and "Doc" Blanchard of Army debate. He won the National Debate Tournament as a Yearling with his partner, Jim Murphy '57, and lost by a 3-2 vote of the judges in the National Debate Tournament our First Class year. Along the

way, George won more regional debate tournaments across the country than any debater from any university in the USA. George graduated at the top of our Class academically, and a number of classmates affirm that they would have never graduated without his unselfish and patient coaching.

George's parents never finished high school. His father dropped out of the eighth grade and ran a small grocery on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn to support his family. These were remarkable people – proud of their children, strong in their Catholic faith, and proud to be Americans. Many in our class called them "Mom and Pop Walker," because of their closeness to the class.

George was killed in an aircraft accident on 31 January 1959. Two other classmates had their lives saved by a high school janitor who lived next to the crash site and pulled them to safety.

With a generous contribution from the Class Executive Committee, the strong support of Colonel Dan Kaufman, Professor and Head of the Social Sciences Department, and approval of the Superintendent, the George Walker Room was dedicated in Lincoln Hall. The dedication was attended by George's three sisters, Pat, Karen and Diane; by his debate coach, Lieutenant General Abbott C. Greenleaf, USAF, Retired; his debate partner [Tom Carpenter – ed.]; his family priest, Father Sams; Jim Murphy's widow; and more than 30 classmates.

In addition to the award given by the Social Sciences Department to outstanding cadet debaters each year, the Walker family established an award for excellence in debate at the national level of competition. The Walker Memorial Trophy is presented annually at the prestigious National Debate Tournament, consisting of the top 74 teams in the nation. After completion of the final round, this rotating trophy is presented to the team finishing in second place.



The National Debate Tournament, 1956. George Walker receives the National Debate Tournament Trophy as the outstanding debater in the nation. At far left: Jim Murphy '57, Major Hansen, George, Cpt. Abott Greenleaf, Ray Ketchum '57 and Colonel George A. Lincoln, Professor and Head of the Social Sciences Department.



Above, Tom Carpenter with George Walker's sisters at the dedication of the George Walker Room. L to R: Pat Walker Esposito, Diane Walker, and Karen Walker.

Below: Pete Penczer presents The Walker Award to one of the top two cadet debaters in 2005. The two recipients were Cadet Derek Reeves and Cadet Dongin Piul Soh.





The Gerry Capelle Award

Presented to the Cadet Candidate Company that Wins the Annual Military Academy Preparatory School Intramural Competition

by Hugh H. Trumbull and William E. "Bill" Serchak

Gerry C. Capelle is memorialized in the annual award of a trophy in his name at the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School. Here is a brief summary of the tribute to Gerry on the plaque that is presented to the winning company:

Following specialized training in Air-Ground Coordination procedures, Captain Gerry Capelle was assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Republic of Vietnam as an advisor to the Vietnamese Army. During a field operation on 1 April 1965, Captain Capelle was killed while fulfilling his advisory role. For his courageous actions in RVN, he was awarded the Silver Star for heroism, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. The USMA Superintendent, Major General Lampert, presented the awards to his widow, Arlene, and to his son, Jeff.

In early 1972 the Prep School, then at Fort Belvoir, was looking for ways to reward Cadet Candidates for outstanding performance including intramural athletics. Chuck Densford, then Assistant Commandant of USMAPS,



suggested that an award for the Candidate Company winning the yearlong intramural competition be named after Gerry Capelle (USMAPS 1953-54 at Stewart Field). The idea was adopted by the school staff, and Gerry's 1958 classmates in the area agreed to support the trophy's creation and annual engraving out of Class funds.

At the first presentation at the end of the 1971-72 USMAPS school year were Jack Bradshaw and Tony Smith, along with Gerry's K-1 company mates Tom Sands, Brad Johnson and two of his former roommates, Hugh Trumbull and Bill Serchak. The Capelle Trophy was then presented to the first winning company in the Commandant's office.

When the "Poop School" moved on to Fort Monmouth, the annual Awards Ceremony was incorporated into a parade as



Jerry with many future classmates at the USMAPS, 1954. First Row (L to R) — Wehr, Wright, Ruud, Bass, Ware, Wensinger, Harding, Roller. Second Row — Dimauro, Nowak, Capelle, McCue, Baugh, Crow, Early, Puff. Third Row — Pearsall, Hayward, Oson, Brzozowski, Walter, Luck, Hettinger, Kelly. Fourth Row — Fernandez, Sharpe, Brunner, Bailey, Raymond, Pantzer, Woodyard, Cook



Hugh Trumbull presents the Jerry Cappelle Award in 2007.

part of the school's graduation ceremonies. The Class of '58 has continued to support the award by usually providing a "presenter" as well as funding the engraving of the trophy with the name of the winning company each year. The Class also provides a Pizza Party for the winning company. "The Capelle" as the Cadet Candidates call it, is a coveted goal for the cadet candidate companies during the year, while the pizza party adds an extra fillip for the winning company that sets the "soon-to-be-cadets" a little apart as they enjoy their win!

Over the years, there have been a number of trophy presenters, including Jim Davis and Mel Drisko as Commandants of USMAPS, and Bill Giallourakis when the school moved to Fort Monmouth. More recently, Bill Serchak and Hugh Trumbull have presented the award on behalf of the Class.



Bill Serchak and Gerry's sister Joan Capelle Vandercastle present the Gerry Cappelle Award

As the years passed, engraving spaces on the original Capelle Trophy were used up. The '58 sponsors, working with the staff and Athletic Director at the Prep School

developed a new trophy to continue the award. The new trophy is designed more as a plaque than the classic trophy so that the winning company can hang it on their Company Game Room wall—showing not only the year's winner, but also the complete history of the trophy.



At the time of this writing, final plans are in place to move USMAPS back to West Point. In any case, at the 2005 presentation of the Capelle Memorial Award the USMAPS Commandant stated: "The Prep School hopes to have the continued interest and support of the Class of 1958."

The Brigadier General Jim Ramsden Award

Presented to the Cadet Demonstrating the Highest Academic Excellence in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering

by Edward J. "Jack" Downing

This annual award is given to the graduating cadet majoring in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering with the highest overall average and consists of a check or voucher for \$250 to buy books for future study. It was established in memory of James H. Ramsden (I-2), the only member of the USMA Class of 1958 to become a permanent professor at West Point. It was first presented to a cadet on 29 May in the auditorium of the Chemistry Department, where Jim first lectured as an instructor over 36 years before. In the words of the



present the Gerry Cappelle



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Department Head, Colonel David Allbee: "This has always been the keystone of our Departmental presentations during Graduation Week. The reception and presentation always are there to honor Brigadier General Ramsden and the very wonderful Class of 1958."

The award is perpetually endowed through the AOG. Members of the Class of 1958, Jim's friends and family, and the Chemical Corps Regimental Association (CCRA) contributed the funds for the endowment. In addition to the book award, each winner has his or her name engraved on a metal plate that is attached to a plaque honoring Jim Ramsden and the award winners. It is suitably displayed in the area of what is now the Department of Chemistry and Life Science. There are 48 metal plates on the plaque for the winners. In 2051, when the plaque is full, we hope that some other group, perhaps our descendants, the PEF, or the Class of 2008, will buy an extension.

Jim had an exciting and fruitful life. As an Army "brat," he lived in Mississippi, Maryland, Turkey and Fort Meade and met his future wife, Rae, in high school at St. Mary's in Annapolis, Maryland. Jim followed his brother John (1957, H-2) to West Point. He sang in the Glee Club, excelled in lacrosse and academics and stood 19th in the Class at graduation. He joined the Field Artillery and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. Following that he became aide de Camp to the Chief, Military Assistance Advisory Group in Cambodia, operations officer of the First Cavalry Division in Vietnam, executive officer of the 1/21 Arty and then attended Command & General Staff College. After transferring to the Chemical Corps, he became Director of Technical Support of the Chemical, Biological and Radiological Agency, Edgewood Arsenal. Between these assignments, Jim earned a Master's degree in Chemistry

from Johns Hopkins University, attended the Army War College, and, with Rae of course, had four children.

Jim was selected for a permanent position in the Department of Chemistry at West Point. He returned to John's Hopkins and completed a doctorate in two years. From 1980 to 1988, he served as Deputy Head of the Department. In 1988 Jim was selected as USMA professor and Head, Department of Chemistry. Jim's contribution touched every facet of cadet life – academic, military, athletic and moral development. Jim and Rae had a direct impact on hundreds of cadets. He was instrumental in initiating a Chemical Engineering curriculum in the department, and he mentored his former student, Dave Allbee, the deputy department head who would become the future department head.

In 1990, Jim was diagnosed with incurable bone cancer with five years to live. He was promoted to brigadier general and medically retired. Jim and Rae faced the challenge with determination and hope. Jim underwent experimental bone marrow transplant and developed a holistic approach based on his knowledge of chemistry, extensive research, and his strong faith. In his illness he continued to help other cancer victims by organizing support groups, counseling others and writing an article published in *Army* magazine. Jim lived for eight years after the diagnosis, dying 13 August 1998 at St. Augustine, Florida. He is interred at West Point.

The Lawrence M. Malone Award

Presented to the Outstanding Cadet in the Annual Ranger Challenge Competition of Georgetown University

by John D. Herren

This award was originated in the late 1960s by Brigadier General Royal Reynolds as a tribute to Larry Malone (M-2), his former aide-de-camp who was killed in combat in Vietnam in 1968. Larry had taught at Georgetown ROTC from 1964-67 and founded the Ranger Company at the



Jim Ramsden was highly successful in adapting his department to technological and pedagogical changes essential to maintaining West Point's high academic reputation. Pictured above in our lab days is Walt Hitchcock. .



John Herren presents the Malone Award in May 1998 to ROTC Cadet Mark Liu. Gen Reynolds is on Mark's left; Larry's widow Joyce (Malone) Del Re is on his right.

college. He was a respected teacher and dynamic leader who was determined to give his cadets some tough ranger-type training as they prepared for possible service in Vietnam. John Herren taught at Georgetown when Larry was there and told General Reynolds that our Class would like to sponsor the award when possible. This opportunity came about in 1997, when John learned that Georgetown had formed a ranger group to compete in an annual Ranger Challenge Team Competition between other ROTCs in the

The Annual Plebe/ Alumni Marchback



by Ed Weckel

The first joint Plebe/Alumni Marchback was held in August 2000. Wally Ward, Bill Votruba, Roland "Ace" Peck and Ed Weckel participated. Classmates and spouses questioned our sanity, as the four of us, all in our 60s, ventured into the unknown for reasons that we mostly kept to ourselves. We were inspired in part by Chuck Toftoy's heroics a few years back to participate in triathlons in memory of those killed in Vietnam.

The first 13 miles were conducted at night. During the first hour, the marchers were pelted with rain and flashes of lightening. The rain made the trails soggy and difficult to navigate; by the time we hit the ski slopes, the grass was wet and the mud slippery; we probably could have skied to the base lodge. At the lodge, we prepared for the final two-mile assault to the Supé's house. The 140 graduates formed into company mass formation, and to the accompaniment of the West Point band, proudly marched in step, chests popping out of our shirts, behind the plebe Class of 2004.

The most significant aspect of the first marchback was the support rendered to the marchers by our classmates. We asked for a "per mile" financial pledge, with the proceeds earmarked for the Class of 1958 Perpetual Endowment. One hundred eight (108) supported this effort, enriching the endowment fund by over \$12,500. These pledges of support to the marchers from our Class became an annual event, raising in excess of \$22,000 over the first seven years.



Bob Tallgren presents the Malone Award on behalf of the Class in 2007

Mid-Atlanta Region. Georgetown had long ago in the early 70s dissolved its Ranger Company, and General Reynolds no longer gave an award to the ROTC program. When informed of the Class of 1958's desire to resurrect an award in Larry's name, General Reynolds happily endorsed our proposal.

The Georgetown ROTC Commander welcomed our interest in recognizing an outstanding ranger cadet each year and honoring Larry's memory. The '58 Executive Committee agreed to raise funds to support an annual award to the cadet selected by the ROTC cadre, and members of Larry's M-2 Company agreed to present the award each year at Georgetown's Military Ball. John Herren offered to obtain the award each year and made the first presentation with General Reynolds and Larry's widow, Joyce, in attendance on 24 April 1998. Since then, Pete Brintnall, Dale Hruby, T. Van Fleet and Bob Tredway have alternated making the presentation. Bob Tallgren presented the award to the first female ranger in 2007 (Larry would roll over in his grave).

The Malone award is given to the most outstanding cadet in the Ranger Challenge Team Competition each year, as determined by the Georgetown U. ROTC staff. (The cadet must also demonstrate superb leadership qualities while participating in the ROTC program throughout the year). The cadets and cadre consider it to be a highly-prized award. A recent ROTC graduate indicated that the award, and the ranger competition he participated in, inspired him to take airborne and ranger training after graduation. He commanded an airborne platoon in Iraq in 2005-06. Larry would have been proud!



Marchback, 2004(Class of 2008). Full photo of Class contingent on page 5. Some participants on the stairs of the Ski House: Front, L to R: Dick Graves, Will Collette, Garry Roosma; back, L to R: Bob Shellenberger, Wally Ward, Paul Schoenberger; rear, Ed Weckel.



In 2001, the number of participating classmates increased to 12 (Bauer, Buchly, Collett, Kubiak, Lewis J., Mignano, Pensiero,

Roosma G., Salisbury, Sedgwick, Ward and Weckel). The day after the marchback, we were allowed to attend the morning session of the AOG leadership conference. Alan Salisbury was one of the featured speakers at that conference.



Marchback, August 2001, Class of 2005. L to R: Garry Roosma, Ed Weckel, Bill Buchly, Jerry Lewis, Will Collette, Alan Salisbury, Al Pensiero, Bruce Mignano, Doug Sedgwick, Wally Ward, Tony Bauer

The 2002 marchback was bittersweet, since we lost Dan Johnson to the "Ghostly Assemblage" shortly after he applied to participate. We were, however, able to field seven members: LeTowt, H. Morgan, Sibert, Bauer, Collett, Ward and Weckel. For Hugh Morgan, this was his first plebe march. Better late than never! Nine members joined the ranks in 2003: Hamilton and Lawton for the first time, and seven repeaters: Mignano, Ward, "Ace" Peck, Collett, Bauer,

Our 50th Anniversary Class (2008) looked sharp. We spoke with many of the plebes, upperclassmen and women and the cadre. Most were surprised that a bunch of old geezers were in good enough shape to keep up with them (which we did)—and that we would take the time and make the commitment to march with them. The Corps *hasn't*—it's tough and perhaps better than ever.



Marchback, August 2002 with the Class of 2006, L to R: Wally Ward, Ed Weckel, Jody LeTowt, Tony Bauer, George Sibert, Hugh Morgan, Will Collette

At our dinner after the marchback, Ron Hudson's son, who participated in his dad's 50th Anniversary marchback, and had just returned from a tour in Afghanistan, introduced his dad, so that Ron could tell his story as to why he was splattered with mud and dirt. The short version is that he fell in the mud by a water buffalo! Jim Ryan led us in a rendition of "Benny Havens O," and Sam Myers led us in singing the "The Corps" that evening. It doesn't get any better!

Attendance at the 2005 and 2006 marchbacks was sparse. In addition to the three usual participants—Collett, Ward and Weckel—we were joined by Mike Luck and Tom Leo in 2005. In 2006, we took our first steps around 0300 hours in the morning. Every year the challenge is a little different, but well worth the effort.

The 2007 marchback was very special, as we had two



L to Right: Brandon Bauchspies Lawrence '11, Dick and Barbara Bauchspies, Harvey Jahn in the rear before the Marchback

Buchly and Weckel.

The mother of all marchbacks, however, was our 50th Anniversary Marchback, conducted in 2004. Fifty-three members of the class suited up for this event. Was it a success? In most ways "yes," in a few aspects "no." Did we field more marchers than the Class of 1957? (Yes). Did we have a record turnout? (Yes). Did we have a representative from each cadet company? (No). Did we reach our goal of 58 participants? (No—Much to the relief of his wife and family, Wally Ward did not need to participate in the Marine Corps Marathon as he promised to do if 58 guys from the class participated.) Did the class, under the leadership of George Sibert, conduct a fitting memorial service for our deceased classmates and spouses who are no longer with us? (Yes). Did we march proudly in class mass formation from the ski slope to the Supes' house? (Hell Yes.) We probably never marched as well as we did during those final two miles, with our class banner in front and the class guidon leading the way, carried by Karl Oelke.

grandchildren of classmates in the Class of 2011, and their grandfathers were there to support them. Dick Graves marched the entire route with his grandson, Colin Graves. Dick Bauchspies was not able to participate in the marchback due to illness; however, he was able to watch from the Supé's porch as his grandson, Brandon Bauchspies Lawrence, passed by in review. Seven classmates participated in the marchback, while a contingent of classmates from F-1 assisted Dick Bauchspies witness this wonderful event.

We hope to have a least one classmate represent our Class in the marchback each year for the foreseeable future. After that? We will hope that our descendants will march in our stead!

Founding the USMA Class Ring Memorial Program

by Don Martin

In the latter 1990s Ron Turner (K-1) recognized that some graduates or their surviving family members might be willing to donate USMA class rings so that new graduates could wear a USMA ring that contained gold from members of previous classes. He understood that this would provide new graduates with both a material and a symbolic connection to the past, as well as making constructive use of



rings that might otherwise be simply put aside or even sold beyond the reach of the Long Gray Line.

Ron wrote an article communicating this idea that was published in a 1999 issue of ASSEMBLY. He suggested that AOG give relatives of deceased grads the opportunity to donate their rings for this purpose. Ron's idea gained support and led to the current AOG Class Ring Memorial Program.

Here is an excerpt taken from an article in the November/December 2006 issue of ASSEMBLY, by Joel E. Jebb, Class of 1982:



The Class of 2002 was the first Class to receive Class Rings containing gold from donor rings, and each Class since this Bicentennial Class has participated in this program....During the spring, the Director of Class Support, Office of Alumni Support; the Class President; the Chairman of the Ring and Crest Committee; the Class Advisor; members of the local West Point Society; and members from donors' families travel to the Pease & Curren Refinery in Warwick, Rhode Island to participate in the moving Ring-melt ceremony. In this ceremony, a graduate places each donor's Ring into a crucible as that donor's biography is read aloud.

Once all the Rings are in the crucible, they are melted, and the resulting gold, minus a small portion kept for the following year's ceremony, is added to the gold used to make that year's Class Rings. The remaining gold is retained and added to next year's gold so that each year's Rings contain not only the gold from the current donors but a portion of the gold from all previous donors.



Sixteen rings were included in the Ring Melt for the Class of 2008. Jack Peters was present at the March 2007 Ring Melt Ceremony for rings donated for inclusion in the rings of the Class of '08. He said it was an honor to represent the family of Colonel Clyde O. Brown Jr. '58, by placing Clyde's ring in the crucible during the ceremony. Jack stated: "I would be remiss if I didn't say anything about Clyde on his and his family's behalf, because the one thing Clyde liked to do was talk!"



Here is an excerpt from a later report, published in "Gray Matter," the newsletter of the AOG, dated 19 August 2007, that describes the Ring Ceremony for the Class of 2008, the class with which we have a special, 50-year Affiliation. After the class, with families and friends, assembled at Trophy Point Amphitheater,

Cadet Tatiana Blanc, Chair of the Ring & Crest Committee and Master of Ceremonies. . . . addressed her Class. She spoke to the significance of the moment, and she thanked the Ring Donors in attendance – [including] Jack & Margie Downing – as well as those who were unable to attend, for their invaluable contribution to the Rings of the Class of 2008. The Commandant followed Tatiana and gave a rousing speech about the significance of West Point Rings; he, too, thanked the Ring Donors, and he made special mention of Jack Downing '58, in attendance as not only the representative of a Ring Donor but as the representative of his Class, the Fifty Year Affiliation Class of 2008. Shortly after the



The Class of 2008 assembled at Trophy Point for their Ring Ceremony.

Commandant's remarks, the cadets of the Class of 2008 donned their Rings with great fanfare.

This final excerpt is taken from an article reporting on the August 2006 Ring Ceremony of the Class of 2007. It was published in the November/December 2006 issue of ASSEMBLY. It demonstrates clearly that Ron Turner's hopes are being realized. The article is entitled, "A Bold Mold of Rolled Gold," and the author was then-Cadet Bobby Ragsdale, Class Historian:

West Point is no stranger to traditions, and our class was fortunate enough to be part of a newer, but equally profound, tradition: The Association of Graduates Class Ring Memorial Program. By accepting the donation of more than 100 class rings from members of the Long Gray Line whose "course on Earth is run," and even some from those whose work is yet to be done, the AOG has ensured that a piece of them will go with us, wherever the Army and the nation sends us. . . . In each of our "crass masses of brass and glass," there exists a fragment,

ever small but ever present, of history – a time capsule, a relic, a connection to the past, to the best that came before us.

It is true that many graduates and family members will wish to keep USMA class rings in their families. Nevertheless, the brief history of the Class Ring Memorial Program demonstrates that others find great significance in the opportunity of passing down to succeeding generations of the Corps a tangible reminder of those who have served and fought for our nation in its past wars. We in '58 can be thankful that one of our own served as the proponent of this meaningful new West Point tradition!

Founding the Wounded Warrior Mentoring Program

Adapted from an article in the November/December issue of ASSEMBLY by Colonel Bruce P. Holmberg, Class of 1961

In November 2004, Lee Miller, Pete Brintnall, John Herren and Bob Tredway of the Class of '58 initiated an outreach to wounded members of the Armed Forces at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. They were responding to a need that could not be met by the medical system. That was the need for counseling, encouragement and practical assistance as wounded outpatients faced the often daunting prospect of making decisions about their lives after recovery from their injuries.

Initially, the focus was on education, but patients needed to make other decisions as well. One is whether to stay on active duty or return to civilian life. Since about 650 wounded outpatients receive care at Walter Reed at any point in time, Lee and the others needed reinforcements. They reached out to our Class, other USMA classes and to graduates of USAFA and USNA.

Hank Kenny and Dick Buckner '61 recruited classmates, and the program now has Classes of '56, '57, '59, '60, '61, '63, '64, '80, '84 and '95. The Air Force Academy Class of '64 has also become engaged. Classes from the Naval Academy are being recruited to mentor Marines, now approximately one-third of the program. Walter Reed is the Center of Excellence for treating and rehabilitating amputee and other orthopedic-related wounds for all services.

Bob Hampton '61 has developed a website for warriors, mentors and those interested in becoming mentors for Wounded Warriors at: www.wpwoundedwarriorsprogram.com. Bob Tredway and Bill Neelson '68 have established databases and historical files managing the approximately 200 Wounded Warriors currently under one-on-one mentorship.

Lee Miller and Bruce Holmberg are recruiting new Wounded Warriors. Hank Kenny is the coordinator for recruiting and training new mentors, working through leaders of other classes. Cy Shearer '61 sets up the bonding matches between mentors and their Warriors based on common interests.



Mentors with two of the Wounded Warriors in the program. Left to right: Lee Miller, Bruce Holmberg '61, Wounded Warriors, and John Herren.

Mentors have help available from Walter Reed's Wounded Warrior Transition Brigade, commanded by COL Terry McKenrick '85. Helpers include nurse case managers, a professional education counselor, an orthopedic surgeon consultant, a psychologist, a VA aptitude assessor and profession counselor, a combat surgeon and a Congressional Counselor representative.

The mission of the program is to assist in the achievement of a new, meaningful life and profession for Wounded Warriors and their families with the timeframe of three to five years in the future. It has the following specific goals:

1. Advance education and professional opportunities for Wounded Warriors through VA testing and counseling;
2. Locate job and career opportunities with interested companies, contractors, and federal and state governments;
3. Provide for mentoring support by establishing a supporting bonding relationship with Wounded Warriors and their families who ask for assistance;
4. Identify and train classmates and other qualified mentors who will mentor the wounded after they are discharged from Walter Reed and return to their homes through the Follow-on mentor program; and
5. Assist Wounded Warriors who wish to remain on active duty by providing full mentoring support for them during the Army Medical Evaluation Board process and follow-on Continuation On Active Duty (COAD) program.

A Follow-on Mentor Program is essential, since many leave the D.C. area once they are discharged. Bob Tredway, who leads the Follow-on mentor program, recruits volunteer mentors around the country for warriors who are coming to

their localities, many to isolated areas across the USA. West Point Societies are joining this effort to provide follow-on mentors nationwide.



Many government and private organizations have set up recruiting and internship programs leading to jobs for Wounded Warriors. Proctor and Gamble, led by Lee Anderson '61, has created a special Wounded Warrior recruiting team headed by Rich Register '55, Steve Korach '69, and including Ryan Hollin '02, who graduated from the program over two years ago and is now a material manager for Tide.

Dick Schonberger '58 has set the example of working with Army Division Liaison NCOs assigned to Walter Reed. He is the overall mentor for ten-to-fifteen 101st Airborne Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed, and he closely ties the mentoring to the local 101st Airborne Division chapters and the national 101st Airborne Division Association at Fort Campbell to obtain their help when Wounded Warriors come to their areas. Other unit connections are being made by Paul DeVries '61 (82nd Airborne), John Herren '58 (1st Cav), Bruce Holmberg '61 (1st Infantry), Dick Buckner '61 along with George Lawton '58 (173rd Airborne Brigade and 10th Mountain) and Hank Kenny '61 (Special Forces).

As this report was prepared, the program has 180 Warriors receiving one-on-one mentorship under 100 mentors at Walter Reed. The Follow-on mentor program has approximately 30 Wounded Warriors. Mentors report that the gratification of helping another human being from the military in establishing a new, productive life is overwhelming.

Anyone interested in becoming a Follow-on Mentor should contact Bob Tredway at bobtredway@aol.com. We can be thankful for the vision and leadership of our classmates who founded it and have helped it grow to become such a supportive program.

Fifty-Year Affiliation of the Classes of 1958 and 2008

by Palmer McGrew

Several years ahead of us, classes began establishing ties to their 50-year classes, e.g., 1955 affiliated with 2005. Early joint activities were few, but sufficient for the classes to become somewhat familiar with each other. One of the benefits of this turned out to be the possibility of passing on one classes' gift to its affiliate class, and several of them did that.



When the time approached for our affiliate class of 2008 to enter the Academy, the Executive Committee faced decisions as to what we would do and how we would pay for it. Alan Salisbury (L-1) and George Sibert (H-2), two already overworked class leaders,

volunteered to take on the project, and they planned it out for the four years the Class of 2008 would be at West Point. Whereas early goals tended to include notions of mentoring, it was clear that aside from some suggestions about post-graduate class activities, we were too far out of the loop to provide much in the way of that. Our goal was to have one major joint event per year and to be flexible for other opportunities.

The plan was as follows:

Each year: The Reviewing Party at the Acceptance Day Parade included a member of the Class of 1958. Palmer McGrew, Jack Bradshaw, Alan Salisbury and Tony Smith represented the class in different years.

Plebe year: Plebe Hike Marchback This was a very successful experience, with nearly 58 from '58 walking. Ed Weckel served as the coordinator.



Yearling Year: BG Scaparelli, Commandant, with Alan Salisbury and the Class of 2008 President Adrian Perkins at flag presentation ceremony.

Yearling year: Presentation of Class flag, paid for by our class. Alan Salisbury and Jack Downing attended; Alan spoke. The picture above shows Alan making that



Cow Year: Class coin for 2008 as designed by Alan Salisbury '58 to reflect the linkage between the two 50-year classes.

presentation at Camp Buckner.

Cow year: Presentation of Class coin and address to Class at Affirmation Ceremony. Alan and Palmer attended; Alan spoke. The coin is depicted below.

Firstie year: First Class Club turnover of refurbished club in great condition (Palmer spoke), and presentation of second lieutenant bars at graduation, classmates TBD.

We added some events Firstie year, including presentation of branch insignia, at which Tony Nadal spoke. At this writing we are investigating passing on our excess branch insignia to '08, and several other affiliation opportunities. Jack Downing is preparing a time capsule to be buried at West Point containing artifacts from both '58 and '08, which is to be opened in 2058. A K&E Log Log Decitrig slide rule will be included. No one will even know what it is in 2058!

Through this process we have gotten to know the Class officers of '08 well, and we're very impressed with them. Happily they have agreed to take on the care and feeding of the First Class Club in the future, beginning at about their ten-year point in 2018 and gradually transitioning the full responsibility to their class project. We expect them to leave our class crest in its prominent position!

The Groves Golf Center at USMA

News Item in Nov/Dec 2006 Assembly

On 7 April 2006, the United States Military Academy dedicated the Groves Golf Center in memory of Richard N. "Dick" Groves (K-1), the primary donor to the center. The Center was also made possible through the support of the estate of Charles '32 and Margaret D'Orsa. The golf facility – another of West Point's state-of-the-art athletic facilities – boasts an indoor chipping and putting surface, laundry room, and shower facilities. It is located on the east side of Highway 9W near the pedestrian overpass.

As Golf Coach Jim Clevenger pointed out, the Groves Golf Center will allow the team to practice during the off season and will help level the playing field as Army golfers compete with teams from year-round golfing climates.

The dedication ceremony honored the memory of Dick Groves, who died of cancer only weeks before. It was the culmination of many years of planning, cost estimating, and identifying a capable contractor, all of which Dick supervised attentively from afar. Dick, a former USMA golf and hockey letterman, taught in the Department of Mechanics and strongly believed in the role of athletics in preparing cadets for their future responsibilities.

In his comments, Lieutenant General William Lennox stated that Dick "lived Duty, Honor, Country...believed in this Academy and in its mission, and carried the values that he learned at West Point into the Army and later into the business world."

In attendance were Dick's wife of 48 years, Margaret; daughter Charlotte with husband Jim and their children: Lauren and Rebecca; daughter Kelly with her children:



Interior and exterior of the Groves Golf Center

Chris, Nick, Katie, and Megan; brother Bob with wife Barbara; and brother Bill with wife Ellen. Providing support were five classmates: Dick Graves, Tom Sands, Lynn Shrader, Ron Turner and Bill Parks.

Class Leadership in the Association of Graduates

by Jack Bradshaw, Class President

The Class of 1958 has contributed outstanding leadership, not only to the Army and the Nation, but throughout the Long Gray Line as well. In addition to leading within the Class, Classmates have played significant roles in West Point Societies and in the West Point Association of Graduates. Beginning in the 1960s, several members of USMA '58 have served on the leadership team of the Association of Graduates (AOG). They are Jack Bradshaw, Tom Carpenter, Jim Castle, Dick Gell, Bob Giuliano, Corky Henninger, Bob Moscatelli, Tony Nadal, Jim Ramsden, Garry Roosma, Butch Saint, Alan Salisbury, John Sewall, George Sibert, Tony Smith, and Stew Willis.

Jim Castle put in so many years on the AOG Board of Trustees that he enjoys emeritus status. Alan Salisbury has served a long time, too, and continues to be on the Board of Directors of the Association. Although not always in the capacity of a board member, George Sibert has been continually active on the Publications Committee and has aggressively promoted outreach of AOG communications.

Across the nation many of our classmates have also been leaders in West Point Societies. Dozens have served as So-

ciety officers and directors. Those who have served as President of Societies are listed in the accompanying chart.



Many of our Classmates have labored year-in and year-out as assistants to the Admissions Officer at West Point. The roll is far too long to name them all, except two. Buck Griffin received the Department of the Army Civilian Commendation Award from the Superintendent for his work over twenty years, and Tom Morgan personally recruited Cadet Jason Crabtree, First Captain in the Class of 2008.

Some classes have led through very large dollar donations. Our Class has not made such large gifts to the Association and through it to West Point, but we do stand out in the category of "Class Gifts Most Popular with Cadets.". This gift is, of course, the First Class Club, which brings us every year an outpouring of accolades from Cadets and Academy leaders. A very generous donation also came from Dick Groves to build a new Golf Center, and several others have contributed in the range of "six figures".

In several innovative endeavors our Class has been recognized for leadership in the Long Gray Line. Our championing the First Class Club is indisputably a novel way to reach out from the back of the Long Gray Line and connect with Cadets. Another program that reaches across classes from

USMA 58 Presidents of AOG Societies (1958-2008)



Rhode Island	Dick Bauchspies
Chicago	Jack Bradshaw
Oregon	Terry Connell
Richmond	Mel Drisko
Central New Jersey	Jim Frick
North Florida	John Galen
Cincinnati	Pete Groh
Charleston	Chuck Hansult
	Wally Ward
	Heyward Hutson
South Texas	Bob Hayden
New England	Cork Henninger
	Lenny McCormack
	Ed Ofgant
Portland	Orlie Hill
Tallahassee	Eddie Jasaitis
Alaska	Alex Johnston
	Kelly Robinson
Thailand	Pete Kullavanijaya
Albuquerque	Jay Levasseur
Philippines	Luis Mirasol
Inland Empire and Palm Springs	Norm Munson
Washington and Puget Sound	Tom Morgan
Phoenix	Alex Pensiero
New York City	Garry Roosma
Los Angeles	Harry Shedd
District of Columbia	Butch Saint
Greater Houston	Jim Sigler
Savannah	Rube Waddell
Heart of Texas	Gene Wentworth
Western Michigan	Jim Wildey



the past to the present and into the future is the Class Ring Memorial Program. Responding to a suggestion by our Ron Turner, the AOG arranges to melt rings donated by graduates or their families and to mix the gold from these with the gold in new Class rings.

The Perpetual Endowment Fund is an unprecedented financial bridge from a single Class, spanning 50 years to the future Corps of Cadets. We thank Ed Weckel for leading us in this case. The most recent example of creative leadership is the Wounded Warrior Program. Lee Miller and Bob Tredway are showing us how to care for soldiers. These initiatives are described in more detail elsewhere in this 50th Yearbook.

Palmer McGrew inspired and leads an annual assembly of leaders of many classes in the Washington DC area, gathering consensus on common issues and forming proposals for the Association and West Point.

We have been an unusually active Class in many respects, with a crowded annual schedule of lunches, meetings, reunions, tours and cruises, and memorials. '58 is envied by other Classes in the area of cohesion, a degree of bonding best illustrated by our yearly mini-reunions extending back over two decades. Our ability to maintain close and cordial class relations is well known at the Academy and admired by other Classes. We have at least a mailing address for every member of the Class, the result of extraordinary effort by George Lawton and the CCQs. With similar diligence in the last decade, we have increased from 20 to 50 the number of non-graduating classmates listed in the Register of Graduates about whom significant information is known.

A good leader can be a good follower, too, and the Great Fifty-Eight has been wise enough to follow. We emulated the Class of 1956 when we initiated our annual memorial service at the Vietnam Wall, to honor and commemorate the thirteen of our Classmates who died in Southeast Asia. We reached back to the Class of 1936 for our inspiration to begin annual mini-reunions, a tradition extending over two decades.

Finally, our approach to management of Class affairs can be described as innovative. This story begins at West Point with the election of Class officers.

Jack Bradshaw recalls that many have wondered aloud to him how he came to be Class President. The elections took place in Yearling Year, even though almost none of us except a few exceptional athletes were known outside his Company. There was no politicking, and the outcome was a surprise to the Class Officers, too. During the next two-and-a-half years these Officers, functioning within the Class Committee, made the few decisions required and performed a representational role. They had no manual of instructions and no guidance other than some lore passed along from previous Class leaders.

We graduated with no agreed practice for handling Class affairs. At this early and exciting stage in our careers, none of us thought much about Class events and activities and funds! Later, when it became necessary to do some things as a Class or on behalf of the Class, the President had help

and counsel from nearby Classmates. The Class was far-flung, with ever-changing addresses, so communicating and reaching consensus were not practical. Luckily for the Class, by the time anything of lasting importance needed to be decided, a large group of USMA 1958 had assembled on the Staff and Faculty at West Point. Together they made plans for the 10th Reunion in 1968.

Anticipating that this large Classmate group would eventually disperse around the world, Class leaders provided for future management of Class business. A Class constitution that provided for an eventual Executive Committee to act for the Class was approved by vote at the 10th Reunion.

In the seventies, Class business was handled informally by Classmates at West Point. Stew Willis and Jim Ramsden helped immensely during these years. We sent flowers on behalf of the Class; we recognized our sons and daughters who graduated from our Alma Mater; and we organized the reunions at five-year intervals. Indispensable to Class cohesion during this period was our Scribe, George Sibert. George gathered, organized, and published Class news and added wise counsel to all decisions for the Class.

The Executive Committee was formed in the late 1980s in Washington, D.C. The Constitution gives authority for a small group to act on behalf of the Class, and it rests on two principles – simplicity, and faith that any Classmate can act competently and with integrity for us all.

This model of Class governance has worked very well. Acting with confidence on behalf of the Class has been made much easier by the Internet. The Class President provides continuity in a representational role, while Class affairs are managed by the Executive Committee, the members of which change over time. George Lawton and Palmer McGrew have been exemplary Chairmen of this Committee. When needed, the Committee presents a matter to the entire Class for a vote.

In summary, '58 has initiated actions reflecting a wide and varied set of leadership skills and problem-solving approaches to opportunities and challenges both within our Class and throughout the Long Gray Line. We can be proud of our Classmates, and we can be thankful for the very meaningful results they have achieved.



A Closing Reflection

by Don Martin

People in the Western world remember the Cold War as the struggle between Communism and Democracy that entered public consciousness when President Truman announced the policy of "Containment" in 1947. From then, it took 42 years of intense political, economic and cultural competition – including many years of military conflict (particularly in Korea and Southeast Asia) – before the German people tore down the infamous Wall in November of 1989. And it took two years after that triumph before the Soviet Union crumbled.

Our Class was privileged to serve the American people for most of the years of that tense, troubled, and violent era. Most of our combat experiences occurred during the Vietnam War, which, like the fighting in Korea earlier, was a major part – but not the totality – of the Cold War itself. We, and our family members, served and sacrificed along with other U.S. and allied soldiers and their families in this arduous struggle. We suffered the losses common to those caught up in such a quest, but we held true to our convictions, to our duty, and to our commissioning oath to "...uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic...."

In 1954 our focus was on graduating from West Point. Those who met that challenge were commissioned as soldiers or

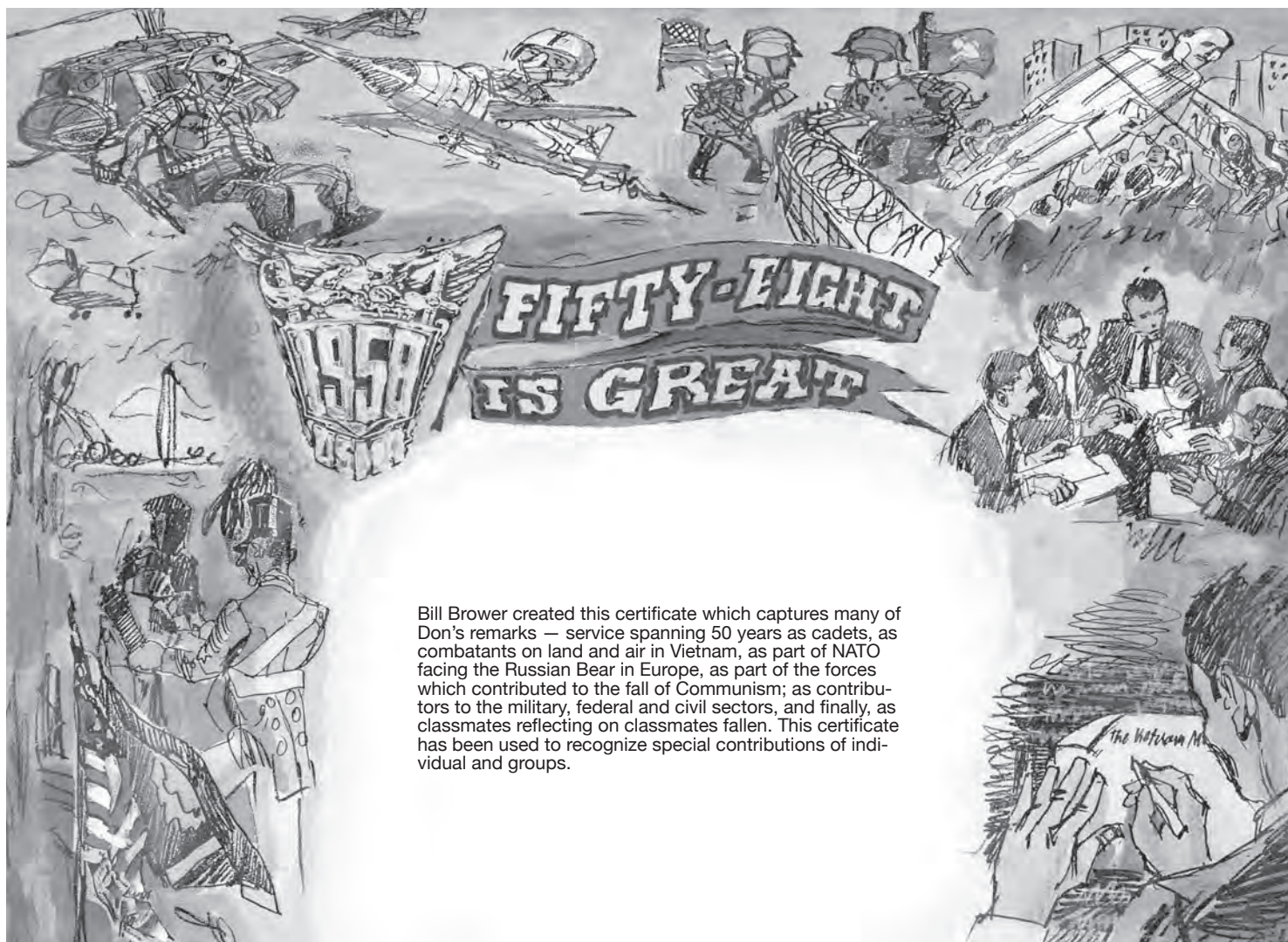
airmen. (Many of those who did not graduate with us also found numerous ways to serve the American people, including some in the armed forces.) We entered active duty, completed our initial training, and spread around the world to lead America's warriors.



Then, early in the 1960s, our Class began to engage in the conflict in Vietnam. America and its allies did not achieve their immediate goals to help those nations remain independent of Communist control, but we prevailed on the battlefield throughout the war. Even more significant is that our combat in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia – and many lesser contests worldwide – was a significant component of the complex set of global actions that enabled the democracies of the world to win the Cold War. The Wall was demolished, and the Soviet Union collapsed into the fading memories of history. Thus we succeeded in the most significant mission entrusted to us during our time of service.

This brief attempt to capture the essence of the history of the Class of 1958 is intended as a tribute to all the members of our Class and to their families. We have served with glad devotion the West Point Motto: "Duty, Honor, Country." It is a privilege to belong to this special cohort of the Long Gray Line. When our era ends, it will be said of the Class of 1958: "Well done. Be thou at peace."

"'58 – Truly – Is Great!"



Bill Brower created this certificate which captures many of Don's remarks — service spanning 50 years as cadets, as combatants on land and air in Vietnam, as part of NATO facing the Russian Bear in Europe, as part of the forces which contributed to the fall of Communism; as contributors to the military, federal and civil sectors, and finally, as classmates reflecting on classmates fallen. This certificate has been used to recognize special contributions of individual and groups.

Insert Memorial Page

Insert Gallantry Page



Class of 1958 — Pass in Review!

ORDER OF MARCH

Graduates of the Class of 1958	43
Former Class Members Who Graduated with Other Classes	327
Others who were in our ranks, who are in contact with the class, are Associate Members, or about whom significant information is known	332
Other Losses — No Contact or Information	345