



USMA Class of 1965

Strength and Drive

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Annual Class Letter

17 October 2013

To All Members of the Class of 1965

1. 50th Reunion

Sir! There are 576 days until our 50th Reunion! The dates for the Reunion have been confirmed - Sunday, 17 May 2015 to Wednesday, 20 May 2015. This is NOT a change from the earlier announcement of dates. Reunion headquarters and lodging will be located at the Westchester Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown, NY. We will have two days of activities at West Point: Monday (Memorial Service, Cemetery Visit, Lunch, Academy/WPAOG Briefing, and Class Meeting) and Tuesday (Alumni Exercises, Cadet Review, Alumni Lunch, and optional Free Time or USMA Preparatory School Tour). Reunion registration, breakfasts, and dinners will be held at the Westchester Marriott. A capability for online hotel room reservations will be available commencing in the June 2014 timeframe; online Reunion sign-up capability will be available commencing in the January 2015 timeframe. Mark your calendars for this once-in-a-lifetime event and begin making your plans to attend.

Bob Doughty's book on the Sons of the Greatest Generation appears to be coming along well. As he nears the end of the writing phase, he may ask for your input; if he does, please provide it to him in a timely manner. This is going to be a "class" product.

2. Taps

Sadly, we lost seven Classmates and one ex-classmate the past year. May they rest in peace. We now have 501 of 596 left standing. Those we lost include:

Doug Kline, 20 November 2012	Randy Guenther, 7 May 2013
Harry Dermody, 24 November 2012	Gene O'Neill, 11 August 2013
Anton Ringl (x-'65), 3 December 2012	Ed Knauf, 16 September 2013
Gene Farmelo, 27 December 2012	Dave Gabel, 14 October 2013

3. Class Events

Past Year

San Diego Mini with Kuhn, Seymour, Bradley hosting, 6 – 9 September 2012; Arizona Gathering at Hank Mickell's home in Tucson, 13 April 2013; Golf Outing at Myrtle Beach with Bob Radcliffe leading, 29 April – 1 May 2013; Pacific NW Golf Outing led by Bill Sherrell and Jim Wood, 24 July 2013

Upcoming Near Term

Ft Benning Golf with Pat Kenny leading, 15 – 18 October; Army vs. Hawaii, November 30 (Ono leading with Larson, Hurley, Kovach, Frank planning to attend)

4. Affiliation

Affirmation Ceremony(ies)

The past year's major Affiliation Program event with the Class of 2015 was the Affirmation Ceremony that took place at West Point on 18 August 2013. It occurred the night before the new Second Class committed themselves to the profession of arms. For most cadets, military service is a foregone conclusion as they came to West Point to serve in the armed forces. However, that moment of affirmation is an important milestone. The Class of 1965 played a significant role in the event. We provided each cadet a commemorative coin, and perhaps most importantly, provided a distinguished speaker to address the meaning of that commitment. Our own Ric Shinseki, currently the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, delivered thoughtful and moving comments that were very well received by the Class of 2015 and the 19 Classmates in attendance.

In addition to the Affirmation Ceremony at West Point, similar events were held at the other service academies for those members of the Class of 2015 who are exchange students during the first semester of their Second Class year. The Affirmation Ceremony at the USAFA was organized by Bill Hecker and held on 15 August; six members of the "Strength and Drive" Class were in attendance. Bob Selkis organized the ceremony at the USCGA held on 20 August with four members of the Class in attendance. Bob Frank organized the ceremony at USNA conducted on 3 September. Eight members of the Class, most accompanied by their wives, brought the total number of attendees at Annapolis to 15. The cadets there were inspired by Joe DeFrancisco's remarks, and reinforced by the personal delivery of commemorative coins, one graduate to one cadet.

Class Synopses

The Class of 1963 Lounge in Eisenhower Hall is used as the Second Class Club. The Class of '63 had put on display "synopses" of their 50-year classes going back to 1813. An invitation from the Class of '63 (sent by Art Meier, brother of our classmate, Frank Meier) was received on June 24th for us to provide similar synopses. Tim Thames immediately volunteered to do the research and did a tremendous job in putting together a short synopsis of each of "our" 50-year classes that are now on display in the Second Class Club.

Ring Hop

The next major Affiliation Program event is the Ring Hop in September. We will also provide a member of the reviewing party for the Acceptance Parade for the Class of 2018 in August.

Ring Memorial Program

Although not an official part of the Academy's Affiliation program, there is a closely linked "Ring Memorial Program," commonly referred to as the "Ring Melt," that may be worthy of our participation. Ring Melt is the event at which donated rings are melted and become part of the molten gold for the 2015 rings. To date, just one ring from our Class of 1965 has been donated--but not yet melted--that from Ladd Metzner (provided by his daughter Laura Dalrymple). Also, there was at least one ring donated from a member of the Class of 1915 that is now a part of the gold ingot. Last year, the

family members from the Class of '64 contributed five rings (Chilcoat, Covington, Kleb, Perryman, and Yourtee) that are now included in the gold that will become part of their Affiliation Class of 2014 rings. The program is described on the WPAOG web site under Services/Class Rings/Ring Memorial Program and provides a lot of history and participation in this effort. Family members of our Classmates might want to consider contributing their loved one's rings to this effort.

5. Distinguished Graduate

Joe DeFrancisco became our third USMA Distinguished Graduate (Ric Shinseki and Dan Christman having been previously selected) during an honors parade on a very hot and humid 21st day of May 2013. This was in recognition of Joe's distinguished military career and his abundant contributions since to our Alma Mater, having served as an advisor to numerous recent Superintendents, as well as a society president and as a member of numerous boards that support the Academy and the WPAOG. The event was very well attended by Classmates. Following the ceremony and a mess hall luncheon, Joe and Lynn hosted all at a very nice reception in the Alexander Haig Room of the new Jefferson Library. Well done, Joe.

6. Army Sports Hall of Fame

On 13 September 2013, our three-time All American soccer star, Jose Gonzalez, was inducted into the Army Sports Hall of Fame, joining Walt Oehrlein (tennis) and Rollie Stichweh (football) from previous ASHOF "classes." While Jose earned the honors (that he accepted humbly), his old roommate, Tom Fergusson, almost single-handedly did the research and writing to get him selected—an amazing feat. The Class is extremely proud of Jose and his family and looks forward to seeing him and Ana at the 50th Reunion (Jose holds dual citizenship in Canada and Costa Rica).

7. Professional Military Ethics Education (PMEE)

Paul Schultz and his band of 23 committed supporters continue to do an outstanding job of buttressing this key Academy program. As reported in the past, this is a wonderful way to give back and get a first-hand feeling for the quality of our Class of 2015, as well as modern day cadets in general. Paul continues to search for new volunteers in his quest to have 20 attend each session. We have reported on this fairly extensively in our Class Notes that I would encourage you to review. Here is the link to them - <http://www.westpointaog.org/Page.aspx?pid=4414>

8. Giving Back

One of the best things we can do as a Class for our Alma Mater is to help their leaders to raise the bar on the margin of excellence by financially supporting the Academy in areas that are important but not funded by Uncle Sam. This is our opportunity to appreciate the many lifelong lessons we were taught on leadership, fitness, discipline, intellectual thought, decision processes and on and on. After a very comprehensive process led by Fred Laughlin, the Class collectively agreed on raising \$2.6 million to support endowments for the Center for Oral History, for scholarships for the families of fallen graduates, and for the Long Gray Line. We also set as one of our goals to have 50 percent of the Class make contributions.

I am happy to report that we are well along our way (but not there) in achieving the financial goal (we were at \$2.21 million as of end September 2013). However, we are only at 43 percent of the Class contributing, and I would ask that those who have not yet (or ever) made a commitment, to consider returning something back to the cradle of your development. If you need help figuring out how or to whom to make your contribution, please contact me, Bob Harter, or one of our six diligent regional reps (Fred Smith, Larry Neal, Steve Harman, Dennis Hawker, Steve Ellenbogen and Bill Hecker). Thank you – in advance.

9. Army vs. Navy 14 December 2013 Philadelphia

John Howell is shepherding this event as he has done superbly for the past several years, and recently sent you information (also found on our web page) regarding signing up for the festivities this year. I am painfully aware of the record of Army losses over the past 11 years, but there is always hope that it will be turned around—like this year! Despite the record, I can attest that those participating greatly enjoy the experience and camaraderie. Come join us and make it a family event. There are three things you must do now:

- Sign up with John Howell (\$70/person)
- Reserve room(s) at our highly discounted rate, and
- Purchase your tickets

10. Communications

My personal view is that we communicate pretty well as a Class, largely due to your willingness to “go electronic,” and Rick Bunn’s efforts to encapsulate articles and publish them with great sensitivity (NOT always an easy challenge). Of course, Chuck Nichols’ technology skills and extraordinary efforts to archive our materials and maintain the one true Contacts Database are equally indispensable.

As a quick review of the current way the Listserv and Forum are used, the Listserv is currently set up to allow only Chuck Nichols and Rick Bunn to send information to the entire Class. Responding to it only sends a message to Chuck and Rick, and NOT TO THE ENTIRE CLASS. The Forum was established to provide a place for those interested in an ongoing dialog regarding almost any subject to conduct such discussions. Please use it whenever you feel the urge to vent or spar with Classmates over political issues, the state of the Academy, or anything else not completely appropriate for front channel distribution. You can subscribe to the Forum by sending an email to majordomo@west-point.org with the words, “subscribe usma1965-Forum” in the **body** of the message.

11. Caring for Others

The Class would like to remember each of our classmates who have gone before us with a Memorial Article (currently published by the WPAOG in Taps). We have established as our goal having as many of the Memorial Articles as possible complete by the 50th Reunion, including an objective to have ALL done for classmates who have passed away more than two years from the Reunion (i.e., prior to June of 2013). I am pleased to report that we are well on our way toward meeting our goal and I thank the many families and classmates who have authored the completed articles that are posted on the Class web site. There remain 25 that are in progress and we need a little more

effort to meet our objective before May 2015. Most urgently, we need coordinators/authors for Ed (Lewis) Maness (D-1) and for Bill Bradley (C-2). Please contact our most capable caring coordinator, Chuck McCloskey, if you can assist.

12. Financials

Admin Account

The Class Administrative Account is in good shape with an EOY 2012 balance of \$43,155.80. The biggest entry for CY 2012 was the 50th Reunion \$5,000 down payment to the Westchester Marriott. We also had a good investment year. The other entries for the class mailings, conferences and funerals were average for a non-reunion year and are looking to be about the same for 2013.

Gift Account

The report for the annual Class Gift Account has been changed this year to show only active entries such as the 50th Reunion Class gift, Arvin alcove and Affiliation. (The Class Treasurer will continue to keep an historical record of all the previous Class contributions such as Thayer Walk, USMA Prep School Endowment, 1965 Shell, and other items shown in last year's annual letter).

The Class Gift Account had the most individual entries so far in any one year with an EOY 2012 balance of \$1,430,289.81.

The USMA 1965 Class Admin and Gift Account reports for EOY 2012 are included at the end of this letter.

13. Closing

It has been my true pleasure to serve this past eventful year as your Class President. Many thanks to our Class Leader team, and all of you who have contributed to our Class endeavors and togetherness.

Strength and Drive,
Clair Gill

USMA 1965 Admin Account CY 2012

1/1/2012		12/31/2012
\$46,746.38		\$43,155.80

	Reimbursement	Expenses
Class Mailing	0	\$55.31
Reunion/1	0	\$5,000.00
Teleconferences	0	\$191.78
WPAOG Fund/2	\$3,356.16	\$401.25
Funerals/3	0	\$859.14
Leadership Conf	0	\$439.26

- /1 Initial down payment to Westchester Marriot for 50th reunion.
- /2 All West Point Class admin accounts under the WPAOG are part of a short term investment pool called PIMCO Low Duration Fund, which is very conservative. Reimbursements cover such things as dividends, interest, etc. Expenses cover fund management costs, losses, etc.
- /3 The WPAOG has done a great job in getting the checks out for the flowers and charities within a week of verification.

USMA 1965 Gift Account CY 2012

	1/1/12	12/31/12
	\$815,184.02	\$1,430,289.81
	Income	Expenses
Investments/1	87,962.71	(6,573.94)
Contributions/2	405,749.44	(48,689.93)
Projects-Arvin/Affil/3	164.02	(1,631.67)
Pledges/4	224,157.45	(46,032.29)

/1 The class of 1965 gift account is included in a large long term investment pool with 15 different funds as directed by the investment committee of the WPAOG board of directors with a small investment fee.

/2 These contributions consist of individual donations by cash, check or stocks. There is a WPAOG fundraiser fee for these cash contributions.

/3 The final Arvin alcove payment will be made in 2013. Our gift account will continue to cover the Arvin and Thayer walk maintenance costs for the long term as well as any other future projects. Our USMA 2015 affiliation program covered the 2015 class flag costs in 2012 and has been below its own budget in all those events so far. The positive \$164.02 amount is the residual from the proffer for Bob Arvin’s painting that now hangs in the Gym.

/4 In 2012 we had the largest pledges receivable in any given year. The WPAOG also includes an entry here for an unsettled pledge allowance based on historical pledge write-offs throughout the years.