

To All Members of the Class of 1965

This letter covers Class activities and events from May 2015 through the present.

Post 50th Reunion

The greatest reunion ever is now history, but its spirit and influence marches on in renewed Classmate contacts, various gatherings, golf outings and mini reunions. These activities have been well documented and communicated to the Class by our stellar Secretary/Scribe, Rick Bunn. Please keep those messages and photos flowing to Rick!

Once again, we thank Marilyn and Tom Kovach for the wonderful job they did co-hosting the 50th. We received their final report, May 20, 2016, acknowledging the honor that it was for them to serve our great Class.

Your new Leadership Team, as noted in the above letter head, moved quickly to support you. We have held three "all present" video conference calls, exchanged hundreds of e-mails, and dealt with many issues by phone. The transition from Clair Gill's Leadership team has been smooth and transparent thanks to the extraordinary talent and willingness of Classmates to contribute their time and wisdom to the Class. In this letter, I will highlight the main topics that we have been involved with and summarize others that have been covered in detail during the year.

1. Taps

Please take a moment to remember and honor the following Classmates who have passed away since the Reunion:

Ron Walter, June 2, 2015

Henry Klingler, Nov. 24, 2015

Jim Hume, July 7, 2015

Ed Abesamis, March 17, 2016

Jerry Kelly, Sep. 19, 2015

Bob Selkis, April 3, 2016

David Vann, Oct. 2, 2015

Jerry Ledzinski, May 19, 2016

As we carry on, our losses are more frequent and coverage has become more difficult. We always need a POC for each loss as quickly as possible, when we are notified of a death. So far, someone has always stepped up. As a reminder, there is a funeral/memorial SOP that was prepared by Skip O'Donnell and Rick Bunn on the Class web site, which is an excellent starting point for the POC. We also have two Class Flags with one located at AOG and a second with Terry Ryan for expeditious shipment to locations where funerals and/memorials are conducted. We also have a backup plan in case a flag is not available. Thanks to Terry, we can prepare a

keepsake shadow box with a condolence letter from the Class President and a picture of the Class flag, which is how we handled the Ed Abesamis memorial in the Philippines.

2. Memorial Articles Taps 2016 edition:

Tom Borkowski
Ron Walter
Jack Concannon, III
Joe Weatherall

Jim Hume
Malcolm "Gil" Gilchrist
Francis "Guy" Riley
Jack Terry

Memorial for Our Fallen Spouses:

Chuck Nichols has been responsible for posting Memorial Articles for our fallen Classmates on the Class website. After losing Elaine, his wife of 45 years, this past year, he felt there should be a way to remember the one person in our life who has done the most to help us succeed. He posted a memorial to Elaine on his personal webpage on the Class Website (<http://www.west-point.org/users/usma1965/25602/>) and has offered to do the same for other Classmates, (you each have a personal web page there). Please contact Chuck at cnichols6@verizon.net, if you are interested in memorializing your fallen spouse

3. Affiliation with 2015, "For Those We Lead"

We wrapped up our affiliation activities with three late graduations at which members of the Class attended and presented the 2nd Lt. bars to each graduate at ceremonies conducted in Eisenhower Hall. We also purchased a two page ad in the 2015 Howitzer congratulating the 2015 Class depicting many highlights from the four year affiliation program. Chuck Nichols and Tim Thames did a great job insuring the accuracy and quality of the ad. This past month, Joe Sanchez learned from Will Goodwin, 2015 Class President, that their Class made a donation to the Gary Sinise Foundation on behalf of the 26 members of the Class of '65 who lost their lives in Vietnam. Our formal 2015 affiliation may have wound down but the connection continues thanks to Classmates like Joe, Paul Schultz, Gene Manghi, Emory Pylant, Ross Wollen, Rollie Stichweh, Jim Tomaswick, Mark Sheridan, and several others plus the affiliation program POC Pat Kenny, who maintain contact with 2015 graduates.

4. Class Financials

Mitch Bonnett, Class Treasurer, has done a great job staying on top of our Admin Account to include authorizing/ processing expenses, collecting payments/contributions, and reconciling accounts with AOG. Following is Mitch's financial report:

The Class Admin Account currently has sufficient funds to cover anticipated operating expenses for the next few years, not including pre funding the next reunion. Recent expenses have included supporting the passing of a number of Classmates with flower arrangements, transportation of our Class Flag and charitable donations when requested. Special events to

include the recognition of Joe Anderson as a Distinguished Graduate, display additions to the Arvin Alcove and support for the Ring Recovery Program were all funded from the Class Admin Account. A complete list of account expenditures is available upon request.

There will be a need for additional funds to support preparations for our 55th Reunion.

Preliminary work is being done on estimating (pro forma budget) funding requirements for that event. In the mean time, contributions in **any** amount to the Class Admin Account are sincerely appreciated. Contributions are not tax deductible but play a key role in supporting our Class. Checks should be made out to "Class of 1965 Admin Account". Please mail contributions to Carol Duryea, Accounts Payable Manager, West Point Association of Graduates, 698 Mills Road, West Point, NY 10996.

5. Class Communications

Rick Bunn, what can I say?? Is there any doubt about the outstanding job that Rick does in keeping us all connected? He has been indefatigable in getting those "Bunno Grams" out covering everything related to '65 news and activities. He serves as the focal point for all messages going out to the Class, which insures that messages are appropriate, timely, consistent, and archived. Rick is always looking for feedback and items that he can send out to the Class, preferably with fully labeled photos. Currently, he seeks feedback on the interviews from the Center for Oral History.

6. Class Organization and Administration

Bob Axley has emerged as our legal conscience, counsel, and advisor. He has been especially valuable at interpreting the Class bylaws to insure that we are operating within them. He has also crafted key resolutions that crystallized the formation of the Technology Committee with Chuck Nichols as Chairman and the financial wrap up of the reunion surplus funds.

7. Golf Outings

Bob Radcliffe, in spite of knee impediments, continued to organize and lead the major East Coast Fall (Pinehurst, NC) and spring (Savannah, GA) golf outings. He was ably supported by the "committee" of Barrie Zais, John Malpass, Jack Thomasson, Sandy Hallenbeck, and Pat Kenny. John and Dede Malpass and Dean and Diana Loftin each hosted the whole group at their beautiful homes for a truly fun and enjoyable evening respectively at Pinehurst and Savannah. We had a great turnout, fall---36 guys and 16 ladies, spring---40 guys and 20 ladies!

The fall 2016 Outing will be at Pine Needles Resort in Southern Pines, NC during the time period 16-19 October. Check out Bob's Warning Order that was just sent out by Rick.

8. Technology Committee

Chuck Nichols supports the Class beyond being the Technology Committee Chairman. I learned early on, right after the reunion, how valuable Chuck would be. When it was brought to my attention that the date of death that we had listed for a Classmate was wrong by one day, and would we correct it. Not knowing where to start, I asked the previous Class officers how best to proceed. They said, "Ask Chuck." Chuck maintains the list server and Class data base, so correcting that was simple. But there are several other data bases that are maintained at USMA, the library, the Cullum Files, AOG, etc. that also have to be corrected. After several weeks, Chuck reported mission accomplished, all data bases were back in synch. Wow! He also provides the tech support to the West Point Alumni Glee Club in Washington DC and assists the Leadership Team in individual tech support plus audio and video conferencing, and much more.

Chuck is looking for individuals interested in assisting him on the Committee. Contact Chuck at cnichols6@verizon.net.

9. Center for Oral History (COH)

Fred Laughlin is the POC for this important Class program and he has brought a real focus and energy to the interview process. The Volunteer Interview Program '65 (VIP '65) was launched late in 2015. The purpose of the program is to supplement the content (interviews) on the COH web site by highlighting the careers and experiences of our Classmates. LTC Dave Siry, the Head of COH, has been working closely with Fred and has embraced the VIP'65 approach. After modifying the VIP'65 process, Fred is now moderating the interviews himself and is using professional videographers to meet the high standards of the COH. So far the COH has accepted all of the VIP '65 interviews to date. They are listed below in chronological order:

- Dave Mastran (original VIP'65 interview to provide proof of concept)
- John Pickler
- Joe DeFrancisco
- Lynne DeFrancisco
- Clair Gill
- Sherry Gill
- Rollie Stichweh
- Steve Bliss
- Steve Darrah
- Bob Frank
- Chris Needles

About 8 or so other Classmates have expressed an interest in being interviewed, and Fred plans to schedule a few of these at the Fall Golf outing. If you have a story to tell or know somebody that does, please contact Fred at flaughlinaz@mac.com to discuss arrangements. Just a reminder, the Class endowed the COH with a gift of \$2,000,000.

10. Distinguished Graduate Award (DGA), Joseph (Joe) B. Anderson, Jr.

Art Hester was the POC for the very successful nomination of Joe Anderson for the 2016 DGA. Many Classmates and business colleagues of Joe contributed to the rigorous nomination process. Bill Birdseye crafted the critical nomination letter and Clair Gill, Buddy Bucha, Walter Oehrlein, and Art Hester wrote outstanding endorsement letters. Nearly 80 friends, classmates and wives, and West Point staff and faculty turned out at the awards ceremony on May 17, 2016 and the reception that followed held in the Arvin Gym (alcove), our very own special '65 place at West Point. Joe was effusive in his thanks and appreciation as he spoke from his heart to his "fans" at the reception on this joyous occasion.

We now have five DGs----Shinseki, Christman, Bucha, DeFrancisco, and Anderson!!!

11. Association of Graduates (AOG)

Bob Frank has been our lead contact and face off with AOG for many years. He has served on various AOG committees and attended the annual AOG sponsored West Point Leadership Conference. I cannot overstate how important our relationship to the AOG staff and participation in AOG activities has been because of Bob. This is another example of "who to go to", in the case of AOG and most matters West Point, it is Bob. He is also well positioned with his contacts to get things done on behalf of the Class and to facilitate his role as Class Historian. Some of the activities that Bob has been involved are AOG Advisor at Large, Panelist at the AOG Alumni Leadership Conference, and archivist for Class records.

If Bob does not have an answer, then we can go to Joe DeFrancisco or Tom Barron who have served on AOG boards or committees and continue to be valuable resources to the Class.

12. Various Activities, Events, and Items

Final distribution of the Bob Doughty book "Strength and Drive" was completed for the 28 widows who could not attend the Reunion, 5 books remain.

Denny Coll completed and distributed the terrific affiliation books which provide an excellent historical record of the four year program with 2015. Copies were also made available to AOG to assist AOG and other classes in planning affiliation programs.

Walter Oehrlein did a great job bringing together the original letter that Bob Arvin wrote to inspire his high school wrestling team, by preserving it in a beautiful shadow box for permanent display at the Arvin Alcove. He was also instrumental organizing the half time ceremony honoring Bob at the 2015 Army- Eastern Michigan football game.

Tom Abraham represented the Class at the annual awards luncheon and presented the Arvin Award at the Awards Convocation on Friday May 20th, 2016. Tom reported that it was a great

honor for him to represent the Class. I might add that Tom did this in spite of significant knee problems.

Bob Scully was at this year's ring melt ceremony, where he assisted Bob Keats' widow Susan, as she donated Bob's ring to the Long Gray Line.

The West Point Alumni Glee Club performed a special program for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (The Wall) at the retirement of Jan Scrugs the founder. '65 Glee Club Alumni are Terry Ryan (founder), Jim Ferguson (founder), Peter Linn, Terry Tutchings, Tom Ferguson, Pete Cahill, and Chuck Nichols (tech, audio, and acoustics support).

Ron Bailey is again a proud owner of his Class ring, which was rescued from an E-Bay auction. We reported on this extensively as the whole process unfolded.

Dave Hurley was nominated and elected President, South Florida WP Alumni Association. We provided an endorsement letter for Dave's nomination.

Joe DeFrancisco and Buddy Bucha each have a room at the Thayer Hotel dedicated in their honor by personal supporters. The program is ongoing. If anyone is interested in dedicating a room, please contact me.

We are looking for a POC to lead an effort to add the names of Classmates killed in the line of duty to the black granite wall of the Class Forum next to the Jefferson Library. Please let anyone on the Leadership Team know, if you are interested to be the POC.

13. Coming Events

AOG Annual Alumni Leadership Conference, Aug. 10-13, at West Point.

West Point Diversity Leadership Conference, Sep. 12-14, at West Point.

Fall Class Golf Outing for 2016, Oct. 16-19, at Pine Needles Resort in Southern Pines, NC.

Army-Navy Game, Dec. 10, at Baltimore, MD. Note: We need a Classmate to coordinate this.

55th Reunion First Call: We need a Classmate(s) for leading this important event.

14. Areas of Strategic Interest

VIP '65 (COH). Funerals, memorials, and family support. West Point Cemetery Expansion.

AOG Relationship. Remembrance, 26 Vietnam KIA 50 years ago.

15. Closing

It is always a risk that someone or something gets left out in putting together a report such as this. I apologize in advance for any errors or omissions.

It has been a busy year for the Class and the Leadership Team post the 50th Reunion. For us, it is an honor to serve and represent the Distinguished Class of 1965. Once again, I call your attention to the names on the letterhead. They have done a great job! I cannot thank them enough for their commitment, dedication, and counsel on behalf of the Class. They are a wonderful team always ready to serve. I thank them for what they do and I thank you for entrusting the Class guardianship with us.

Stay healthy, exercise, and eat responsibly. To paraphrase Fred Laughlin, Good Relationships (CLASSMATES) support one's Health and Happiness, re. Harvard Study by Robert Waldinger.

Best to all, **Strength and Drive**, Russ.