



USMA Class of 1965
Strength and Drive

Russell Campbell, President, (917) 763-5434, rcampbell@camdar.com
Robert Radcliffe, Senior Vice President, (910) 579-5105, bobradcliffe@mindspring.com
Robert Axley, Vice President, (972) 991-6634, rjaxley@aol.com
Mitchell Bonnett, Treasurer, (248) 766-6654, mitchell.bonnett@lpl.com
Step Tynner, Secretary & Scribe, (916) 391-1443, stynner@stslc.com
Robert Frank, Historian, (410) 745-3387, bobfrank@atlanticbb.net
Charles Nichols, Chairman, Technology Committee, (703) 644-6132, cnichols6@verizon.net

July 2019

To: All members (Classmates, Family, and Friends) of the Class of 1965

This letter covers the main Class activities, news, and events from June 2018 through the present, (per By Laws Article VI, Sec. 3), and Leadership Team Meetings, (per By Laws, Article VI, Sec. 4). Meetings/conference calls were held as follows, with hundreds of telephone and e-mail communications in between (all times Eastern):

- Tuesday, 2 Oct. 2018, 1600hrs, audio & video conference call
- Friday, 25 Jan. 2019, 1600hrs, audio & video conference call

1. Class Financial Status, (per By Laws Article IX, Sec.4):

Mitch Bonnett reports that there is \$20,165.14 in the Class admin fund. Most expenditures are for funeral expenses (flowers or charitable donations in the \$200 range) plus costs to ship the Class flag to and from funerals/memorial services. As we approach the planning for the 55th Reunion, the admin fund will provide seed money to get things under way.

2. USMA Cemetery:

- The moratorium on burials was lifted in August 2017 upon completion of the Phase 2 cemetery expansion. This added 311 grave sites in the area of the Molly Corbin memorial to the left front of the Old Cadet Chapel. To date 31 burial sites have been used, 280 are available. Phase 1, the columbarium, has adequate space for future cremated remains. Phase 3 of the cemetery expansion (old PX parking lot and gas station) has been included in the USMA FY 2019 capital funding budget, \$20m was approved. This is a very complex project and may take years to fund and complete, although, USMA is trying to “fast track” the project.
- On June 9th 1965 we graduated 596 Classmates:
 - Deceased as of this date--- 144
 - Buried at West Point--- 44
 - Buried at Arlington National Cemetery--- 14
 - Inurned at West Point--- 10
 - Buried at other National, State, private, or VA cemeteries--- 76
(includes not buried or inurned -- ashes scattered by family, body donated , lost at sea -- or disposition not determined).

The Leadership Team will continue to stay on top of this sensitive issue on behalf of the Class. In that regard, in a letter to the Superintendent we expressed our support to his initiatives to expand the cemetery.

Association of Graduates (AOG) Activities:

- The 2018 AOG Annual Leaders Conference was held on August 15-18, 2018. Dave Hurley and Bob Frank represented the Class. The next conference will be held this August, 14-17, and Tom Barron and I will attend on behalf of the Class. Of course Joe DeFrancisco will be there in his role as Chairman, AOG Board of Directors.
- Our principal POC for AOG is our Class Historian, Bob Frank. He is our “go to guy” not only for AOG contacts but also for almost anything WP related.

3. 55th Reunion, April 23-26, 2020:

Planning for the next reunion continues. The “H and H” team of Bill and Nancy Hecker plus Jim and June Harvey has nailed down the draft agenda and location (Park Ridge Marriott, Mahwah, NJ), and recruited over 30 volunteers (classmates and wives) to assist in the planning and execution.. During this summer, the planning pace will pick up as the AOG recovers from Graduation Week and summer vacations. Bob Axley continues to serve as liaison officer among the LT, AOG, the H&H team, and the Class (per ByLaws Article VI, Sec. 5). The H&H Team is working with AOG (Lexie Davis) and Park Ridge Marriott Hotel management .The hotel contract has been finalized, and reservation information has been sent out to you. Hotel reservations were open as of June 1. Bob also serves as our legal counsel and advisor on matters governed by the Class By Laws.

4. Center for Oral History:

As we close out the VIP’65 program this year, we thank Fred Laughlin for arranging over 40 interviews from the Class. Check them out!

Of course, you can still schedule an interview by contacting the COH directly or LTC, David Siry, its Director.

5. Army/Navy Game:

- After the wins Dec. 2017 and Dec. 2018, we can look forward to another exciting game this year, set for Saturday, 14 Dec. 2019, in Philadelphia.
- Our POC team of Fred Smith and Chuck Boohar is already planning the weekend. You should have received their messages and sign-up instructions for the game by now. Contact either Fred or Chuck, if you’re planning to go.

6. Golf Outings and Min-Reunions:

- Once again Bob Radcliffe and his “special committee” put together two great golf outings; the Fall event was held at Williamsburg, Va., Oct. 29-Nov.2, 2018 and the Spring outing was at Jacksonville, Fl. May 6-9 2019.
- At the May event, Diana and Guenter Hennig hosted dinner at their favorite restaurant, Enza’s. It was a wonderful evening of reminiscing and reconnecting with our Classmates. I was pleased to have been there with everyone.
- The Ireland trip and mini reunion took place Sept. 23-30, 2018. There were at least 34 classmates, spouses, friends, and relatives. It was a great trip and everyone had fun. Chuck and Rosemary McCloskey served as POCs.
- Oct. 10-11, 2018 the first West Coast mini reunion and golf outing was held in San Jose, Ca. The POC was John Swenson, assisted by Dave Kuhn and Ralph Adams. They did a great job. We had 36 classmates and friends in attendance. Hotel arrangements were unique to include a hospitality suite and special support from Tina Tham (a South Vietnamese refugee), proprietor of the Hotel Clariana. There was a tailgate for the football game against San Jose State, and a formal dinner at the Silicon Valley Capital Club where the Honorable Fran Harvey, former Sec. of the Army, was recognized. There were also tours of the area, two golf outings, and a great Army victory – really a lot of fun!
- Throughout the year there are many gatherings of Classmates, spouses, and friends. What is special with these get-togethers is the stories and pictures that you share with the Class. According to your feedback, these reports are among the most read and popular news items and updates for the Class. We encourage you to keep those messages, photos, and reports coming in to Step Tyner for editing and further distribution. Who knows, he may even include it in one of his eloquent “Despatches”. We are most grateful and fortunate to have him in the roles of Class Secretary and Class Scribe.

7. Endowments

We have four Class endowments as of Dec. 30, 2018:

- Class of 1965 Maintenance Endowment
 - Covers brick and mortar projects, *e.g.* Arvin alcove, Thayer Walk Memorial, and Class Forum next to Jefferson Library.
 - Balance \$103,736, available this past year \$3,633.
- The Harry Dermody '65 Summer Leaders Experience Scholar Endowment
 - Covers personal expenses for one summer experience scholar each year
 - Balance \$37,507, available approx, \$1,500.
- The Harry Dermody '65 Cadet Public Relations Council Endowment
 - Covers funding for one Cadet annually to travel to Massachusetts to speak to potential WP candidates
 - Balance \$61,204, available this past year \$2,143.
- The Bob Jones '65 Fallen Graduates Memorial Scholarship Endowment
 - Part of a combined Classes fund to provide scholarship assistance to a son or daughter of a KIA or POW graduate.
 - Balance \$415,845 (all classes combined), available this past year \$14,514.

As a Class, we are not actively fund-raising at this time. However, you can always make a contribution by sending a check payable to WP Association of graduates, specifying the endowment to which it is to be applied. Or, if you prefer to support the class directly, you might consider donating to the Class of '65 admin fund.

8. Future events/activities:

- August 14-17, at WP, AOG Annual Leaders Conference.
- December 14, Philadelphia, PA, Army/Navy game, POCs Fred Smith and Chuck Boohar.
- Fall 2019 Golf outing, Charleston, SC from October 14-18.
- Spring 2020 Golf outing is not scheduled yet.
- 55th Reunion, April 23-26, 2020

9. For the Good of the Order:

- The Class SOP for funerals and memorial services is available as a guide for all POCs. It can be found on our Class website or by contacting Step. If you have any recommendations for future refinements please pass them on to Chuck Nichols.
- The LT has continued the initiative of sending a personal letter of encouragement to Classmates in poor health along with the gift of a DVD by the Alumni Glee Club. This was and continues to be a coordinated team effort by Terry Ryan, Step Tyner, and Chuck Nichols.
- The annual "All Academy Challenge 2019" fund raising competition was a success. WP came in a very close second, behind the Coast Guard Academy. The key measure is based upon participation and not the amount raised. The Class of '65 had 446 eligible to donate. We had 105 (23.54%) participation for a total contribution of \$19,970. Year before we had 89 donors for (20.32%) participation and \$17,919 donated. All in all, it was a significant increase by '65. '65 came in at 21st out of 45 WP classes vs 23rd the year before.
- Once again, Tom Abraham represented '65 at the West Point Annual Awards Convocation, Thursday, May 23rd. He presented the Arvin Award for outstanding leadership, scholarship, and wrestling to Graham Rutermaun, from Columbia, Missouri, a graduating member of the wrestling team. Tom states that it is always an honor for him to do this, and it is an honor for the Class that he does!
- The LT approved a contribution to the National League of POW/MIA families 50th Annual Meeting program book in honor of our classmate, Bob Jones.
- The LT celebrated our 54-year journey from graduation June 9, 1965 to today with a fine note crafted by Step Tyner and signed by the LT.
- Rings! As if lost rings and recovery efforts are not enough, this past year a counterfeit Class of '65 ring was offered on Ebay. We were also notified by AOG of an impostor claiming to be a member of the Class. He was soliciting a replacement diploma, but there was no record anywhere of this individual being in the Class or a graduate.
- Thayer award results. After conducting a nomination process, David McCullough was selected to be our candidate for the Thayer Award.

10. Now for the hard part, Taps.

Each year we pay tribute to and grip hands with those Classmates and spouses who have passed away. It is difficult to relinquish these relationships, but we take pleasure in recalling our times and friendships together. Our list of losses since the last report follows:

| Classmates: | Date of Death | Cadet Co. |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Dick Coleman | April 18, 2018 | G2 |
| Rich Boerckel | July 7, 2018 | K2 |
| Greg Letterman | September 11, 2018 | F2 |
| Mike Conner | September 15, 2018 | K1 |
| Dick Kramer | November 3, 2018 | I2 |
| Bart Barry | November 27, 2018 | H1 |
| Kim Olmstead | January 8, 2019 | F2 |
| Cam McConnell | March 23, 2019 | G2 |
| Pete Lounsbury | April 5, 2019 | D1 |
| Carl Gentine | June 29, 2019 | D2 |
| Jerry Stockton | June 29, 2019 | B1 |
| Dan Speilman | July 6, 2019 | E2 |
| Steve Philo | July 21, 2019 | H2 |

| | | |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Spouses: | Sharon Tutchings | July 22, 2018 |
| | Janice Walters | November 26, 2018 |
| | Eleanor Vann | July 18, 2018 |
| | Jean Williams | August 4, 2018 |

I particularly want to recognize all of you who have served in the role of POC for funerals, memorial services, unique activities, and mini reunions. It is extraordinary how so many have so often stepped up to assist the Class and its families in some form or another. If you would like to do so in the future, please let anyone on the LT know.

Speaking of the Leadership Team, as your president, I want to express my gratitude for the warm and efficient support I have received from the other members, who are united in their desire to serve the Class of 1965 to the utmost of their puissance. Our Class deserves the very best, and we strive to provide that. By all means, please share any concerns you may have with me or anyone else on the Leadership Team.

Respectfully,

Strength and Drive!



Russ, your '65 Class President

