



USMA Class of 1965

Strength and Drive

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26 July 2021

To: Members, Family and Friends of the Class of 1965

Subject: Annual Letter

Article VI, Section 3, Class Leadership Team Responsibilities and Authorities, calls for providing an annual report on class activities, this is the 2020-21 report. The Leadership Team met 7 times since the installation of new officers in April 2020; all meetings were held via ZOOM. In addition, there were countless emails and phone calls. The meetings were held on the following dates:

- 27 May 2020
- 15 July 2020
- 16 September 2020
- 18 November 2020
- 27 January 2021
- 23 March 2021
- 26 May 2021

Reunion. The 55+1 Reunion held in Northern Virginia was a marvelous success. Attendance was approximately 120 classmates as well as 14 widows, spouses and other family members. The Northern Virginia location, within minutes of Reagan DCA airport, made for convenience for out-of-town attendees. Witnessing the placement of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by Dave Gnau, Tom Henneberry, Hank Sterbenz, and Bernie Ziegler, followed by a visit to the Vietnam Memorial were moving experiences. Dave Hopkins noted that for the 40th reunion he asked missionary friends to pray for mild weather for the Memorial Service at West Point, and it happened. For this reunion Dave once again asked missionary friends to pray for mild weather, and we enjoyed amazingly comfortable weather for the visits to Arlington and the Vietnam Memorial. All other events were held within the hotel to include the extremely well-run and emotional Memorial Service commemorating our deceased classmates. The reunion more than fulfilled its objectives of Connecting with classmates, Commemorating our deceased classmates and Celebrating that we are the Class of 1965. The pandemic very much complicated organizing the reunion. We owe immense gratitude to the reunion lead organizers, the H & H team of Bill and Nancy Hecker and Jim and June Harvey, for a successful reunion. They were supported by a number of subcommittees manned by classmates and a great AOG team headed by Dawn Congiusti. Our sincere thanks to all who made the reunion such a success. In recognition of Dawn's superb support, she was made an Honorary

Member of the class and was presented her Certificate of Membership at Saturday night's closing dinner.

Class Financial Status. The financial update will be sent later. No need to fret, we are financially sound.

Bylaw Modifications. As mentioned in our 17 June memo the previous Leadership Team (LT) as well as the current Team concluded that some changes were needed to the Class Bylaws to allow the Leadership Team to efficiently manage class affairs. The Bylaw modifications as stated in the 17 June memo were voted upon and approved at Reunion business meeting.

Association of Graduates Activities

- a. The 2020 Annual Leaders Conference was cancelled due to the pandemic although I participated in a class leaders Zoom conference in August 2020. My mention of our funeral SOP generated much interest from other classes. The 2021 Leaders Conference will be a virtual event on 12 August; Bob Frank and I will represent the class.
- b. Joe DeFrancisco will complete his second term as Chairman of the AOG Board on 31 December. We are immensely proud of Joe and congratulate him on a fabulous job of representing so well the thousands of USMA graduates.

Ring Melt – At the most recent ring melt, that for the Class of 2022, the rings presented included those of classmates Omar Rood, Jr. and John T. “Jack” Thomasson.

Center for Oral History. Two members of the Center for Oral History, USMA Department of History, led by LTC Dave Siry, attended the reunion and interviewed several classmates as well as some spouses.

Other Events and Activities

- a. Twenty-Four Classmates attended the twice delayed Golf Outing at Ocean City, Maryland. The base of operations was along the Ocean City Boardwalk. The outing included three rounds of golf at superb venues, a dinner at the site of the first round, Lighthouse Sound and a catered dinner on the second night at Fred Smith's beach home in Bethany Beach, DE. A grand time was had by all. A huge thank you to Bob Radcliffe for once again organizing a wonderful event.
- b. Plans are currently being developed to have an outing in the Phoenix area in November if there is adequate interest. Bob Radcliffe and Fred Laughlin have graciously volunteered to organize that event.
- c. Army–Navy Game is on December 11, 2021, in New Jersey, MetLife Stadium. There will be USMA 1965 activities. Let Fred Smith know if you plan to attend at fjs8108@aol.com. Make reservations for a

discounted rate of \$199/night plus taxes. Hilton Meadowlands “West Point Class of 1965” Call 1-800-445-8667

- d. The Leadership Team commissioned the striking of one thousand Class Challenge Coins. The coin has the Class Crest on one side and the Academy Crest on the reverse. Each Classmate or Widow attending the reunion received a coin. Another 500 plus coins were sold to the Class to generate revenue for the Class Admin Fund. Additionally, a number of coins were presented as a "thank you" to people who supported our reunion. The coin was very well received.

USMA Cemetery. The expansion of the West Point Cemetery continues, and when completed will provide space for both casketed burials, as well as cremated remains for several decades to come. All West Point Grads honorably discharged, and their (non-remarried) spouses are eligible for burial in the West Point Cemetery. Current space allows for casketed remains to be interred in the ground and cremated remains may be inurned either in the ground, in the Columbarium Wall, or in the Old Cadet Chapel Columbarium. The West Point Cemetery does not allow for the reserving of any space until the time of death. At the time of death, the decedent’s DD 214 is required before securing a date for a service. The West Point Cemetery will provide the Government issued headstone; private headstones are not allowed.

Deceased Classmates. We lost sixteen classmates since the last annual letter.

| Full Name | DOD |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| HENNESSEE James Franklin | 01-Jun-20 |
| HALVORSON Colin Oliver | 13-Jun-20 |
| TURNER Jack Cocke | 22-Jun-20 |
| DORNIER Russell Lionel | 22-Aug-20 |
| KEITH John Francis | 25-Sep-20 |
| JENKINS Harold A., Jr. | 26-Sep-20 |
| KING Jon Eliot | 21-Oct-20 |
| KOROPEY Oleh B. | 06-Nov-20 |
| OLSON John Vincent | 29-Nov-20 |
| MACE Robert William | 27-Dec-20 |
| PARRISH Donald James | 14-Jan-21 |
| CONNOLLY William J. | 04-Apr-21 |
| MCDONALD Paul T. | 21-Apr-21 |
| MARSHALL Bruce Roland | 27-Apr-21 |
| BROWN Robert Duncan, III | 17-Jun-21 |
| BAILEY Ronald Bruce | 17-Jul-21 |

In addition, three spouses died. They are;

| Spouse | DOD | Cadet |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Penny Lee Thompson | 25-Mar-21 | Thomas THOMPSON |
| Wanda Darrah | 15-Feb-21 | Stephen DARRAH |
| Maritta M Lipsit | 06-Oct-20 | Gerald LIPSIT |

Funeral SOP. The Funeral SOP existed in essentially a draft form for several years. The LT reviewed that important document and approved it in September 2020. For the benefit and use of Points of Contact (POC) for classmate funerals a Funeral Check Lists is an accompanying document to the SOP. The LT strives to ensure that a POC is selected for each deceased classmate with the principal responsibility of assisting the NOK and to keep the class advised of place and timing of funerals.

Memorial Articles. A class goal is that each deceased classmate is the subject of a Memorial Article (MA) published in AOG's annual "Taps" publication. The upcoming issue of "Taps" will contain MA's for 15 deceased classmates. Chuck McCloskey does a wonderful job with this program but to be successful he needs the support of the entire class. Recently there were 15 deceased classmates without designated MA writers. Chuck made an appeal and writers were found for 10 of those deceased classmates – a wonderful showing by the class. We are all encouraged to volunteer as MA writers.

Autobiographical Sketch. The pool of classmate MA writers will continue to shrink; those writers will need all the assistance that can be mustered, and each of us can help. AOG has a comprehensive outline for an Autobiographical Sketch. If each of us takes the time to prepare an autobiographical sketch it will make the job of writing your MA much easier; it's an enjoyable project and your progeny will appreciate your efforts. A copy of the AOG outline is attached.

It has been quite a year. The class remains active and involved as befits a wonderful group of talented and concerned graduates of USMA. In closing, let it be known that the 7 somewhat elderly members of the Leadership Team will always endeavor to act in the best interest of the entire Class, and to support each member in every possible manner.

Strength and Drive!



Autobiographical Data in Support of Future Memorial Articles

to be published in TAPS by the West Point Association of Graduates

THE MEMORIAL ARTICLE PROGRAM IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE LONG GRAY LINE ENDOWMENT

May I submit the basics of a draft memorial article for myself, prepared by me or others?

Yes; we encourage you to do so. Send it to the address below. Prior to publication, your next of kin will receive a copy for amending, as appropriate, and approval. See format immediately below.

— OR —

May I just provide supplementary biographical information?

Yes; you may send your biographical information along with some personal memories and reflections in a list format. See attached supplementary information sheets.

This format is provided as a guide for preparing memorials.

Preparing Memorial Articles can be a difficult task. Providing this information in advance will assist your loved ones, friends and classmates with writing your final tribute.

Life before West Point:

- a. Date and place of birth.
- b. Family background—military connection and/or lifestyle that helped prepare you for West Point.
- c. High School—name, city and state.
- d. Prior College—name, city and state.
- e. Why did you want to attend West Point?

Cadet Life:

- a. Special achievements or incidents as a cadet that tell more about you as a person.
- b. What significant values, experiences or instruction were carried over to your life after graduation?

Active Duty Period:

- a. Branch.
- b. Assignments; if answer to c. below is yes, disregard.
- c. Is your Register information current and complete?
- d. Significant assignments and achievements.
- e. Date you left military service.
- f. Did you retire?
- g. Place of retirement.
- h. Rank at retirement; specify if active, guard or reserve.

Civilian Employment after Military Service:

- a. Career field.
- b. Post graduate schools attended, degrees attained.
- c. Position/s held—significant achievements/s.
- d. Date you left civilian employment.
- e. Did you retire?
- f. Current address—city and state.

Family Life:

- a. Date and place of marriage.
- b. Name of spouse.
- c. Name of children.

Life after Retirement:

- a. Interests, hobbies, membership in community and religious organizations, pursuits and accomplishments.
- b. Reflection on your life—you as a person as you want to be remembered.

Additional sources of information about you and your life.

- a. Family members.
- b. Classmates.
- c. Friends.

Additional Information:

Anything not covered above that you would like to share.

What about a photograph?

Each article is published with a photograph. Select one that represents how the graduate would have preferred to be remembered. The photo must be clear and in good condition and will be returned after publication. If the photo you wish to use is of great sentimental value, we suggest that you have it scanned at high resolution and send the disk to us instead of the actual photograph. Please do not send a photocopy or a word document with the photo embedded. These are not usable.

If a suitable photo cannot be found, the graduate's Howitzer (USMA yearbook) photograph may be used. Digital photos must be high resolution (300 dpi saved as a .jpg). If the Memorial Article submitted is short (500–750 words), additional candid or formal photos reflecting military or similar service or defining interests may be submitted.

To whom do I send the article or information?

Memorial Articles
West Point Association of Graduates
698 Mills Road
West Point, NY 10996

Questions? Call 845 446-1545
800 232-4723 ext. 1545

Email submission to: memorials@wpaog.org

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF FUTURE MEMORIAL ARTICLES

The information provided below will be very helpful in ensuring that an appropriate Memorial Article can be written for you. Please update information as significant changes occur—i.e.: military/civilian retirement, change in marital status.

| | | | |
|---|------------|----|---------------|
| Last Name | First Name | MI | Title or Rank |
| Residence Address (Street or P.O. Box, City, State, Zip Code) | | | Phone Number |
| Current Military Assignment or Place of Employment; Address | | | Phone Number |
| Permanent Address | | | Phone Number |
| High School | | | |
| Appointment Information | | | |

PARENT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|--|----|--|
| Father's Last Name | First Name | MI | <input type="checkbox"/> Father Deceased |
| Father's Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year) | Place of Birth (City/State or Country) | | |
| Mother's Last Name | First Name | MI | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother Deceased |
| Mother's Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year) | Place of Birth (City/State or Country) | | |

MARITAL STATUS

Married Single Widow Widower Divorced

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Wife's Maiden Name (or Husband's Name) West Point Class, if applicable | |
| Spouse's Date/Place of Birth | Date/Place of Marriage |
| If Spouse is Deceased, List Date and Place of Death | |
| Name(s) of Spouse(s) by Previous Marriage(s); if USMA, Graduate include Class; indicate how marriage terminated | |

INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF MEMORIAL ARTICLE—FAMILY MEMBERS, CLASSMATES OR FRIEND


| | | | |
|------|---------|-------|-------|
| Name | Address | Phone | Email |
| Name | Address | Phone | Email |



Artwork Filed As

Westpoint - Class of 1965 - USMA - Bob Radcliffe

Proof-3

-  Matte Gold Metal
-  BLACK
-  349
-  123
-  463
-  186
-  Reflex Blue
-  WHITE
-  421

1.75"

Print at 100% for accuracy.

3" 75" 5" 25" 2" 75" 5" 25" 1" 75" 5" 25" 3"

www.AllAboutChallengeCoins.com

ARTWORK NOT TO SCALE. To ensure proper color matching, please consult a PANTONE (PMS) Color Chart. Artist conception not for use without authorization.

Antiqued Finishes

\$0.30 - \$0.60 Each

Challenge Coin Edges

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