



USMA Class of 1965

Strength and Drive

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July 12, 2022

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 2021-22 report. The Leadership Team met every 2 months via Zoom. Minutes are available for each meeting. In addition, there were countless emails and phone calls.

Class Financial Status. The Administrative Fund is the only fund that is currently active and from which we pay bills accumulated by the Class; the status of that fund is \$29,255. The Admin Fund covers the cost of providing class support for funerals of deceased classmates (flowers, the shipping the class flag, and charitable donations in honor of the deceased), initial costs incurred for reunions and other incidental expenses. We need to raise approximately \$100,000 to satisfy class needs between now and when the lights are turned off for the Class of 1965. Should note that funds remaining when the lights go off will revert to the AOG; we can, and should, designate the AOG account(s) to which the remaining corpus should be distributed. We seek your assistance in building the fund to its needed level. There are 2 ways to make a contribution: (1) Check to West Point Association of Graduates, 698 Mills Rd, West Point NY 10996, ATTN: Lisa Taylor-Ilardi, in memo line write "admin Fund Class of 1965," or (2) send via Zelle to Mitch at mebonnett@icloud.com.

We have four class endowments, as of 31 Dec 2021:

- Class of 1965 Maintenance Endowment covers maintenance projects, for the Arvin Alcove, Thayer Walk Memorial, and the Class Forum at the Jefferson Library. Balance: \$137,304, available for disbursement \$4,453.
- The Harry Dermody '65 Summer Leaders Experience Scholar Endowment covers personal expenses for one summer experience scholar each year. Balance: \$50196, available for disbursement \$2,334.

- The Harry Dermody '65 Cadet Public Relations Council Endowment covers funding one Cadet annually to travel to Massachusetts to speak to potential WP candidates. Balance: \$77,203, available for disbursement \$2,387.
- The Bob Jones '65 Fallen Graduates Memorial Scholarship Endowment, part of a combined Classes fund provides scholarship assistance to a child of KIA or POW graduate. Balance: \$600,093, available for disbursement \$19,362

60th Reunion. Our 60th reunion is scheduled to take place at West Point in the spring of 2025, which is consistent with the time of the year for the 60th reunions of other classes. Preliminary planning is underway; Joe and Diane Barkley are leading the planning effort, but they need additional help, so please seriously consider adding your name to the planning committee. If willing to help, contact Joe directly at joebrkly@aol.com or (215) 622-8398. We have a terrific after-action report from the Class of 1962 that provides excellent suggestions for making the reunion a most pleasant event.

Other Events and Activities

- a. Eighteen Classmates attended the recent Golf Outing in Myrtle Beach, SC. The outing was less structured than previous outings in recognition of our advancing years, but it remained an opportunity to mingle with classmates. A huge thanks to Bob Radcliffe for once again organizing an annual spring event that has been going on since 2001.
- b. Bob Radcliffe is a member of the Executive Committee of graduate lacrosse players involved in creating an endowment for the Men's Lacrosse Team. The goal for the endowment is 500 donors and \$1.5 Million. Bob is responsible for working with the Classes of the 60's. As part of efforts to generate funds, lockers at the Foley, Emmers, Nathe Lacrosse Center were available for dedication. Members of the Class funded a locker in honor our classmates who participated in Army Lacrosse. A second locker was funded by players and supporters from the 60's honoring Coach Jim (Ace) Adams. These lockers will be dedicated on 10 September, the weekend of the first home football game against University of Texas San Antonio. Members of the Class are encouraged to attend these dedications. If interested contact Bob Radcliffe at bobradcliffe@mindspring.com.

- c. Army–Navy Game is on December 10, 2022, in Philadelphia. As usual Fred Smith is organizing class activities. Let Fred know if you plan to attend at fjs8108@aol.com. Make reservations for a discounted rate of \$209/night plus taxes at Doubletree by Hilton Philadelphia Airport, “West Point Class of 1965” Call 215-365-4150 ext. 33.
- d. In addition to class wide events as mentioned above there are frequent gatherings of classmates throughout the land. When you attend such gatherings, no matter how large or how small, please take pictures and send them to, Gerry Buckosky at gerrybuckosky@gmail.com so he can share those pics with the class.

Ring Melt. Omar Rood and Jack Thomasson’s rings were included in the Ring Melt for the Class of 2023 at West Point on February 12, 2022. The cut-off date for donating rings for the Ring Melt for Class of 2024 is October 1, 2023.

Classmate Deaths. We lost fifteen classmates in the last 12 months; they are missed and not forgotten.

Name	Company	DOD
Ronald B. Bailey	M-1	17-Jul-21
William G. Brush	D-1	31-Jul-21
Jesse M. Whitten	C-2	26-Aug-21
Rick Sullivan	B-2	14-Sep-21
Louis W. “Duke” Wheeler	E-2	28-Sep-21
Michael J. O’Grady	E-2	14-Oct-21
Saint Elmo Palette “Step” Tyner	B-1	28-Oct-21
Frank M. Arnall III	M-1	6-Nov-21
Douglas L. Gibson	L-2	11-Nov-21
Stephen J. Kempf	C-2	19-Dec-21
Steve C Harman	M-1	16-Jan-22
Wayne Marsh	K-2	30-Jan-22
Arthur Cleveland Hester	K-2	17-Feb-22
John Richard Smoak, Jr	K-1	2-May-22
Lowry Arthur West	C-2	28-May-22

Memorial Articles. Our class goal remains 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 MAs for 25 deceased classmates, a truly magnificent accomplishment. Chuck McCloskey does a wonderful job with this program but to be successful he needs the continued support of the entire class. Our thanks to all who volunteered and authored Memorial Articles. In many cases it is not easy task due to lack of information on the deceased. Here are two ways all of us can ease the task, both for our own MA and those of other classmates.

- Autobiographical Sketch. We continue to push for each of us to complete our own Autobiographical Data Sheet and file it with AOG. We are making some progress as AOG now has 12 on file from our class. These forms are a valuable tool, as they allow you to share with the MA writer and your posterity those facets of your life that you deem important and interesting. The AOG's Autobiographical Data Sheet is a wonderful tool, a copy of which is attached. Of course, if you wish to submit your self-written MA, so much the better.
- Eulogies. Jim Murphy shared the value of classmate commentaries on the eulogy page that Chuck Nichols establishes shortly after the report of a classmate death. Mike Shulick died in 2008. In 2014, Jim volunteered to write Mike's Memorial Article. He reached out to classmates who were in Mike's companies, cadet activities, or were commissioned in the Air Force. A dozen classmates responded with wonderful anecdotes about Mike's years at West Point. But Jim could find no living Air Force classmates who served with Mike on active duty. Mike's sole survivor, his brother, had none of his active-duty records. Fortunately, in early February 2011—three years after Mike's death—T.J. Kelly, Preston Hughes and Ed Knauf wrote eulogies for Mike. Dave Vann wrote one in 2014. As we know, only T.J. is still standing with us. Late in 2021, Jim finally found his way to Mike's eulogy page. The four eulogies were heaven sent. Ed's highly descriptive and poignant eulogy provided the only information Jim had on Mike's actual service in the Air Force. Our plea is: if you knew a deceased classmate in any capacity, please take time to say something on his eulogy page. Your thoughtful eulogy will be invaluable to his MA writer.

- You can enter a deceased classmate's eulogy page from the class website by going to <https://www.west-point.org/class/usma1965/> and selecting Taps > Deceased Classmates from the menu on the home page. This will open the eulogy page listing all deceased classmates starting with the most recently passes. Clicking on the number in the Eulogies column will take you to that classmate's eulogy page where you can enter your remembrance.

It has been another year in our life's journey. It was a year in which we thankfully said farewell to the scourge of Covid-19 and the limitations it placed upon our enjoyment of life. The seven members of the Leadership Team wish you and your families well and hope that we will see you soon.

Strength and Drive!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rat' or similar, written in a cursive style.