

LATEST REUNION UPDATE FROM THE HH TEAM..... ALONG WITH MANY THANKS!

Dear Classmates, Wives, Family Members and Friends,

We are extremely pleased with the overwhelming response to our last letter regarding the hotel registration for our Fifty Fifth Reunion, April 23-26, 2020. The response has been so good that we had to increase our original room block several times. The Park Ridge Marriott is now sold-out! We will have info on the "overflow hotel" shortly. In order to maintain a wait list for the Park Ridge, we are asking that *all future registrations or cancellations* (so we don't lose any rooms) *go through Jim Harvey* (Reunion co-chair). Jim's email is jimjune@cox.net or cell phone is 757-288-6684. Thanks so much.

And MANY THANKS also go to the members of the various committees who are working together to make this yet another great reunion for the Class of '65. Our theme of "*Connect, Commemorate and Celebrate*" provides a wide variety of opportunities for fun and fellowship, as well as some very special time to remember our classmates who are no longer with us. Here's the latest on what our committee members are up to:

Howie and Betsy Reed and **Joe and Diane Barkley**, along with their Hospitality Committee, will start off the "*Connect*" part of our theme with much conviviality and camaraderie as they greet and welcome you upon your arrival at the hotel!

Bruce Clarke and **Ray Hawkins**, along with the '65 Golfers, will actually get a head start on *connecting*, with Bruce and Ray having organized the traditional pre-reunion Golf Tournament for the class golfers to enjoy. If you are a golfer, but haven't yet signed up, you will want to contact Bruce now, and join in the fun!

The Memorabilia Committee of **Grace Anne and Ray Woodruff** and **Johnny Wells** has been busy searching for special memorabilia items for the 55th reunion, along with some table favors to surprise you with each evening.

Dave Hopkins and his team of **John Pickler** and **Chuck Mosely** have been planning a deeply meaningful Memorial Service honoring and remembering our fallen classmates which is always an important part of our reunions.

More than just a committee, it has been a labor of love since the 35th reunion. The **Salomones, Tomaswicks** and **Sheridans** have anonymously and lovingly decorated the graves of classmates who are interred in the West Point Cemetery.....making them easy to find during our visits to the cemetery. They will do so once again for the 55th, but now that they have been outed, we can recognize their efforts and let them know how much they are appreciated. **Mary Frank** continues to offer another nice touch, with a basket of stones to give you to put upon the headstones. This started as a Jewish tradition, but has grown from there. It is a simple way to let people know that someone has been there to visit the grave, and that their loved one is fondly remembered. **Chuck Nichols** adds to that remembrance with a "bar code" to click on to tell their story.

We are especially privileged to have **Terry Ryan** and the "**Strength and Drive Singers**" to perform both at the Memorial Service and at the "*Commemorate*" Dinner on Friday night! Much work has been put into making these two events exceptional for us all, with special thanks going to **Nancy Ryan** for her talent and creativity as the lyricist for the group!

We are grateful to have **Bob Radcliffe** to start off our Friday night "*Commemorate*" dinner by officiating the "*Presentation of the Colors*" followed by **Walt Oehrlein** offering the invocation. **Preston Hughes** will lead off the traditional toasts!

And we are proud, indeed, to have our classmate, **Joe DeFrancisco**, the *President of the West Point Association of Graduates*, as the featured speaker at the Friday night "*Commemorate*" dinner. We look forward to Joe sharing his thoughts and perspective about what is going on at West Point, and concluding the evening as we both "*Commemorate*" and "*Celebrate*" our Alma Mater, and how much it has meant to us over the past fifty five years!

Bill Birdseye and **Pat Kenny** will be on hand to oversee the photographer and make sure that lots of pictures are taken to memorialize our fifty fifth. **Bob Frank**, with the help of **Tim Thames**, is putting together some of the history of past reunions and events to be put on display in the Hospitality Suite, and **Chuck Nichols** is updating the slide show from the 50th to be shown at our Thursday night "*Connect*" dinner. Most important, **John Madia** will make sure that we all get to where we need to be, as he works logistics and timing with the bus company that will be providing our transportation!

Last but not least, **Steve Sperry** will introduce Country Western Star, **Rockie Lynne**, as he and his trio perform for us at the Saturday night "*Celebrate*" Dinner.....*celebrating* America, our soldiers and all those who have served, especially those members of the Class of '65 who fifty five years ago graduated together on the field at Michie Stadium! We look forward to the fun of reuniting all these years later! Strength and Drive! Hope to see you there!