



5 February 2020

**DEAR CLASSMATES, WIVES, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,**

As our Fifty-Fifth Reunion draws ever closer, your HH Team is committed to keeping you up to date and informed on all the exciting and pertinent details to come. The two most important updates in this letter are in regard to Reunion Registration, along with information on ordering Reunion Memorabilia items that are now available on our website. We include a few other tidbits and reminders, as well. At this point in our planning, thanks to all involved, everything seems to be falling into place nicely. We are eagerly looking forward to celebrating a great Fifty-Fifth Reunion together in April!

**REUNION REGISTRATION DATE:** We are pleased to tell you that we finally have a definite (or almost definite) date to begin registration! We are told by AOG that registration for our reunion should begin on **Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**. The caveat is that AOG is in the process of testing a new on-line registration program. Assuming that all goes well with their testing, you can go ahead and mark your calendars for February 21<sup>st</sup>. To get started on registering for the reunion and the various activities such as meals, transportation, etc, you just need to click on the link to our reunion website shown below:

<https://www.westpointaog.org/1965reunion>

While we haven't quite yet finalized the budget, you can expect the registration fee for classmates to be in the range of \$175. For spouses, widows and guests, the range will be around \$85.

If you have questions or need any kind of help with registration, feel free to contact Lexie Davis or any of her colleagues on the AOG Event Planning Staff at [alumni-events@wpaog.org](mailto:alumni-events@wpaog.org) or 845.446.1649 and specify that you are inquiring about the Class of '65 Fifty-Fifth Reunion event.

**MEMORABILIA ITEMS:** The AOG Gift Shop has just posted the list of all our reunion memorabilia items available for purchase. Ray and Grace Anne Woodruff, along with Johnny Wells, have selected a nice variety of items from which to choose. You can find these by clicking on the AOG Gift Shop website:

<https://www.wpaoggiftshop.com/reunions-1965>

These items are pre-order only.

They will not be available to ship or for pick up until the reunion in April.

The Gift Shop sent the message below, and asks you to note the following:

- Pre-orders close March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Anyone who is planning to attend the reunion should choose "In Store Pick Up" as the shipping option at checkout (3<sup>rd</sup> choice on the dropdown menu).
- Pick-up will be available at your registration/check-in on the first night of the reunion (Thursday).
- There will be additional opportunities to pick up merchandise when checking in, as scheduling permits (please refer to the reunion schedule and agenda for memorabilia pick up times).
- Any merchandise not picked up at the registration events will come back to the WPAOG Gift Shop. If you do not attend the reunion, and/or do not pick up your items at the reunion, they will ship the week FOLLOWING the reunion.
- If you mistakenly choose to ship your items, but pick them up at the reunion, your shipping costs will be refunded to you the week following the reunion.
- All reunion sales are final.
- If there are sizing questions, please contact the Gift Shop staff at 1.800.426.4725, and we will be happy to assist.

**Memorabilia can be purchased three different ways:**

1. Using the sheet provided on the website, via mail with a check.
2. Over the telephone with one of our associates.
3. On our website at: <https://www.wpaoggiftshop.com/reunions-1965>

**HANDICAP ASSISTANCE:** Just a reminder, if you use a wheelchair or walker, we are told that most people who have such a need bring their own equipment. Should you wish to rent a wheelchair or walker to use once you arrive at the reunion, the AOG Event Planning Staff has a list of providers you can contact. The staff can also answer any questions you might have regarding your individual needs or concerns, so please don't hesitate to contact them. It is helpful for them to know in advance what kind of assistance you might need throughout the Reunion.

**VIETNAM COMMEMORATIVE PINS:** After our last letter went out, a significant number of classmates have emailed to say that they had never heard of the Vietnam Commemorative Commission or the presentation of the Commemorative Pins. They indicated that they would very much like to receive one of the pins. If you have not yet received a pin, and would like to receive one at the reunion, please send an email to Nancy Hecker at [nancyhecker@mindspring.com](mailto:nancyhecker@mindspring.com) so we can get a count of the number of lapel pins needed. These pins will be quietly and respectfully presented to you as you exit the Chapel up either of the side aisles following the Memorial Service on the Friday of the Reunion. This "lasting memento of the Nation's thanks" is now proudly worn by more than 2 million previously

unheralded patriots! Many thanks go to Chuck Nichols, Terry Ryan and the West Point Alumnae Glee Club for procuring the pins for our classmates who wish to receive one during the reunion.

**REUNION HATS AND TABLE FAVORS:** As per custom, each classmate will receive a new Class of '65 baseball type cap in their Registration Packet. Please wear these on the day of the Parade so you can be readily identified as a proud member of our class, and not be mistaken for one of the older guys from Class of '60 who are having their reunion the same weekend as ours! :-)

Also, just FYI, in lieu of finding Reunion favors inside your Registration Packet upon your arrival, we are doing things a little different for this Reunion. Instead, you will find special favors on the tables at dinner each evening, uniquely in keeping with our Reunion theme of "Connect, Commemorate, Celebrate!" On Thursday and Friday evenings the favors are "one per couple" or "one per every two family members or guests attending." On Saturday, the favors are one per person. Please remember to take these distinct gifts with you at the end of each evening.

**DRESS:** Many classmates have asked about the dress for the Reunion. For Thursday and Saturday evenings, the dress is casual. For Friday evening it is suggested that you may wish to upgrade to "business casual" and perhaps wear a sport coat. Same goes for the Memorial Service on Friday morning, as well as the Parade on Saturday. In fact, at the Parade, wearing khakis, a sport coat and your reunion hat would have our class looking particularly sharp and impressive.....even we can't fit in a cadet uniform anymore, unlike Alex Alexander who was seen mysteriously leading the Parade at our 50<sup>th</sup>.

**CALL FOR SINGERS FROM TERRY RYAN:** The Class of 1965 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee has requested that the "Strength and Drive Singers" be reconstituted for a return musical engagement for our reunion in April. We ask that you volunteer your voice and talent twice this time. We will participate in the "Commemoration" phase of the reunion, singing two songs at the Memorial Service on Friday morning. Then Friday evening, we will kick off the "Celebration" phase with a few more songs after dinner.

We invite you to raise your voice in song as the "Strength and Drive Singers." If you sang in the Glee Club or any of the Chapel Choirs or got past the first three notes in the plebe audition, you are welcome to join us. **THE COMMITMENT:** We will ask you to work on the music ahead of the reunion and then join us for three rehearsals.

Please contact Terry Ryan ([tcryan@i2xllc.com](mailto:tcryan@i2xllc.com) or (703) 973-8731 to let him know (**BY FEBRUARY 28**) that you are interested in singing. Terry will provide full details and access to the music by March 1, 2020 and ask you for your commitment by March 15, 2020.

**HOTEL CANCELLATIONS:** One more reminder, it is very important that you do all hotel cancellations through Jim Harvey (cell: 757-288-6684) or email [jimjune@cox.net](mailto:jimjune@cox.net). If you deal directly with the hotel or website, the class will likely lose the room, and another classmate won't get the benefit. When Jim cancels the room, he immediately replaces it with a classmate on the waiting list.

**CLASS ROSTERS:** Thanks to Chuck Nichols, our esteemed webmaster guru, Class Rosters are now available to you on-line.

Go to:

<https://www.west-point.org/class/usma1965/>

then: click "Contact information" & then click "Class Roster"

User ID: usma1965

Password: our Class Motto all lowercase, all spelled out, all one word

If you have an issue, you can email Chuck Nichols, { [cnichols6@verizon.net](mailto:cnichols6@verizon.net) } for assistance

You can download the PDF alphabetic roster dated 1-31-2020 to access on your personal computer, or if you want a hard copy, you can print the rosters yourselves for little or no cost. If you prefer to have a booklet printed and mailed to you, the cost is \$10.00. You can sign up and pay for this on our website when you register for the reunion.

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That's a lot of information for you to absorb for sure, but hopefully it answers a lot of your questions. You might want to keep it handy so you can refer to it again as reunion time gets even closer.

Looking forward to a great time together at our Fifty-Fifth. See you soon!

*Co-Chairs*

*Bill & Nancy Hecker*

*Jim & June Harvey*

*Strength & Drive - Reunion Fifty Five*

*23-26 April 2020*