



Dear Classmates, Wives, Family Members and Friends,

21 April 2020

On the eve of the previously scheduled date for our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion, your HH team thought it an important time to reach out to “CONNECT” with you all regarding world events, and to share the plans that are in the works to reschedule what had been our much anticipated gathering.

Over the past month the world did indeed turn upside down with the advent of the coronavirus pandemic. Sadly, as more became known about what we were up against, it quickly became evident that we would have to postpone our long planned 55<sup>th</sup> reunion. It has been a tough time for many, and particularly those classmates and families living in the epicenter of the virus. We all kept our Class President, Russ Campbell, and his wife Maryann, in our thoughts and prayers when we learned that he had been hospitalized with the virus. We were grateful to get the news that Russ, after a very rough time, had been released from the hospital and is now recovering at home. And with heavy hearts, we learned last night that our beloved classmate, Jose Sanchez, had passed away after weeks on a ventilator. We know Jose's wife, Nancy, and family appreciate our prayers; and will be comforted by the fact that we, as a Class, symbolically “Grip Hands” and are there for them through the days ahead.

On the positive side, it does look as if the curve that all the experts talk about is flattening. That is good news, and with all the new knowledge and research on medications that work, as well as the surge of new protective equipment being produced, there is hope that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We are so proud of our military and the role they are playing to combat this new enemy, and of our fellow Americans who have risen to the challenge to help mitigate the damage the virus can do.

With that said, we hope that we can get back to normal sooner rather than later. While we had been looking at rescheduling the reunion for a fall date, the date we were given by West Point and the AOG was for early September. We thought that might be a bit too soon with all that is still unknown, so we have opted for the other suggestion made by West Point to reschedule our reunion for the same time next year instead. That would be April 22-25, 2021, and we would call it the **55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Plus One!**

At this time, the Park Ridge Marriott has availability and is holding the date for us. Rockie Lynne has cleared that weekend for us, as well. The favors, hats, table decorations and other reunion related items have been stored in our closets. The special wine that was ordered for our “COMMEMORATE” night is safely aging in Gene Manghi's wine cellar. We are confident that we and our dedicated committee members can put the reunion back together with out too much trouble. So save the date and stay tuned for further information about timing for booking hotel reservations and registering for the **55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Plus One!** Our Class Moto of “*Strength and Drive*” holds true more now than ever! We will have much to “CELEBRATE” together in April 2021! In the meantime, keep washing your hands and stay safe!

*Strength & Drive*

Jim & June Harvey    Bill & Nancy Hecker