



21 March 2021

Dear Classmates, Wives, Family Members and Friends,

This is a “heads up” to let you know that **REUNION REGISTRATION** will be *delayed slightly* until mid-April, as we await the Army's announcement of new, less restrictive COVID rules at the National Museum of the United States Army. This new guidance is due out the second week in April, and we are anticipating that it will allow for an increase in the number of attendees that are allowed at our special dinner that is planned at the museum on Saturday night. We know you are all looking forward to it, and it will be one of the highlights of the reunion! At the moment, the number of registrations at the hotel indicate that we will likely have more than allowed at the museum dinner based on current Army regulations. We believe, however, that the new rules coming out in mid-April will resolve that problem, with no Plan B necessary. We know you are all looking forward to it, and it will be one of the highlights of the reunion! Because of this, we felt it best to hold off opening registration until this is confirmed.

In the meantime, we have been testing the newly designed Registration link that you will be using in April, and we are impressed with its look and the ease of maneuvering through it. However, should you have any issues in regard to registering, the AOG event team will be at the ready, eager and happy to assist you with whatever you may need in the way of help.

We are truly excited about the opening of registration and the very special events we have planned for you. But mostly we are eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to actually be together in person.....to *Connect, Commemorate and Celebrate* at our Fifty-Fifth Plus One Reunion! A Zoom reunion just would not have been the same, so we are pleased to have been able to offer you this one-time off site opportunity! Thank you for your support, your patience and your enthusiasm as we work to make it happen!

HOTEL REGISTRATION:

We hope you all have had a chance by now to make your hotel reservations. The room allotment is filling up fast and we have already had to make requests for additional rooms in the blocks, so if you have not yet done so, we suggest you reserve your rooms soon! Below are the links to reservations for both hotels, along with the reminder that they share the same building and are connected by a hallway on the event level. Jim Harvey asks that you call him if you have any trouble with getting the

dates that you want. He can intervene directly with the hotel, and hopefully have them increase the number of rooms in our block, but of course that is totally based on availability and their willingness to continue to offer the incredible rate that we received. Jim Harvey at jimjune@cox.net or 757-288-6684)

Renaissance Hotel Capital View

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1611608311884&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Residence Inn Capital View

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1611609085431&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

MEMORABILIA ITEMS:

We are pleased to be able to offer additional memorabilia items for our Fifty-Fifth Plus One Reunion. You would order these items directly through the AOG Gift Shop through a link that will be included on the AOG Class Website. While we are looking at the different items that are still available to us, at this time we are looking at fresh, new polo shirts with Class crest, "Beat Navy" socks with '65 on them, canvas bags with Class crest, and crisp, new windbreaker/jackets with Class crest. As soon as these items are confirmed, we will send you the link to the AOG Gift Shop so you can order in time to be able to pick them up at the reunion!

Grace Anne Woodruff will be manning the table in the large hallway outside the ballroom on Thursday afternoon with extra reunion hats and table favors for purchase, so be sure to bring some cash or a check, as we will be unable to take credit cards for these.

CLASS ROSTER DISTRIBUTION AND OPTION FOR PRINTED COPY:

Should you wish to receive a printed copy of the roster, there will be an option to sign up for one on the Reunion Registration form. Cost will be \$10 to cover the cost of printing and mailing. For a free version, Chuck Nichols sends the following instructions. To download the most up-to-date version of the Class Roster go to <https://www.west-point.org/class/usma1965/roster/>. You will be prompted for credentials. The username is **usma1965** and the password is the **class motto**, all one word, all lower case. There are six PDF files that make up the class roster, the one most useful to all is "Roster of all Cadets and Former Cadets of the Class of 1965 listed alphabetically." This can be saved locally and searched for individuals by pressing Ctrl+F and enter the search criteria in the window. It can also be printed out (110 pages) if that is your preference.

VIETNAM PINS REMINDER:

As mentioned in our previous update, we are compiling an updated list of those who wish to receive one of the Vietnam Commemorative Pins at the reunion. These will be presented at the Memorial Service on Friday afternoon, and represent "A Lasting Momento of the Nations Thanks" to all who served, whether in country or not. See the

link that follows to learn more about the Commemorative program.
https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/about/vietnam_veteran_lapel_pin/

In addition to Commemorative pins for classmates, there are also pins to be presented to widows, as well as special Gold Star pins for widows of spouses who were killed in action in the Vietnam War. Please contact Nancy Hecker at nancyhecker@mindspring.com should you wish to be added to the list of recipients.

NOTE FROM JIM FERGUSON ON THE VIETNAM MEMORY PROGRAM:

In addition to the Vietnam pin, spouse pin, Gold Star pin, etc., mentioned in our last reunion update, we plan to provide information about the *In Memory Program* for Vietnam veterans who died due to service in Vietnam. Sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), the same organization responsible for The Wall, the In Memory Program staff hosts an annual ceremony on the Mall in DC near The Wall, usually the Saturday before Father's Day in June. Those veterans to be added to the Honor Roll are recognized by family, friends and other veterans in a crowd that usually numbers 1500 to 2000 attendees. Our West Point Alumni Glee Club is proud to participate.

To be so honored a deceased Veteran's family or friends must submit an application usually due in early March before the June ceremony. Details as to what is required for acceptance are in the attached brochure and application. Currently, we have only four classmates on this Honor Roll: Phil Cooper, Gene Farmelo, Jack Terry, and Leo (Rose) Allen.

We believe we have more members of the Class of '65 who are qualified, but are not on the Honor Roll because family and friends don't know about this Program. Accordingly, we will have a staff member from the VVMF available on Friday afternoon outside of the Class Business Meeting and Widows' Meeting to answer questions and distribute applications and brochures. Our own Jim Ferguson, who coordinates the Glee Club's participation in the In Memory Program, can also answer your questions.

CLASS CHALLENGE COIN:



You should have received an earlier email from our wonderful new Class Scribe

informing you about Bob Radcliffe's efforts to have a Class Challenge coin designed, produced and made available for purchase at the Fifty-Fifth Plus One Reunion. You could also contact Bob directly via email to order from him and have them mailed. The coins will be \$5.00 each. Bob initially ordered one thousand of them, and most have already been reserved for either mailing or pick up at the reunion. He is about to place a second order so he will have some available for purchase at the reunion. Bob and Faye will have a table in the large hallway outside the ballroom on the Thursday afternoon of the reunion where you can pick these up or purchase additional ones based on availability. They make a great gift for family (especially grandchildren) and/or special friends. Many thanks to Bob for all his efforts. The coins truly look beautiful!

REUNION GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Just a quick reminder for those classmates and their ladies who wish to participate in the Reunion Golf Tournament scheduled for Thursday morning, July 1st, at the Springfield Country Club. Please contact Bruce Clarke at bbgclarke@aol.com to sign up for this always fun event.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

Just FYI, there will be much more information forthcoming and soon to be added to our AOG Class of '65 Reunion website. This will address questions you might have about dress for the various events, hotel shuttle from National airport, directions and parking information, dietary choices, etc. You will want to refer to the website often. <https://www.westpointaog.org/1965reunion>

Looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion!

Strength and Drive,

Bill and Nancy Hecker Jim and June Harvey
Co-Chairs Fifty Plus One Reunion