



16 April 2021

Dear Classmates, Wives, Family Members and Friends,

If you were driving along I-95 recently, you might have been surprised to have seen the very cool and distinctive West Point Association of Graduates van maneuvering it's way from New York down to Arlington, Virginia. That would have been our energetic AOG event planning team en route to perform a site inspection of all the venues we will be using for our upcoming Reunion. First stop was the Renaissance Hotel Capital View where they were met by the Jim and June Harvey and a number of your dedicated classmates who are involved with the planning and logistics for the Memorial Service and Alumni Glee Club performance. Thanks Terry, Chuck, and Dave (and Darlene, too!) Heckers, out in Colorado, were included via Face-time calls throughout. No problem, as they had actually stayed at the hotel when attending Jack Keith's funeral, and upon inspection at that time had thought it perfect for our relocated reunion. The consensus was unanimous that it is a great choice! We know you will be pleased!

With additional visits to Arlington Cemetery and the National Museum of the United States Army, a lot was accomplished on their whirlwind site inspection! Having the opportunity to place a wreath honoring the Class of '65 at the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown will be a touching and memorable experience for us all. During their visit to Arlington Cemetery, the AOG team was met by the folks from the Protocol office, and are well versed now in the timing and sequence of events that comprise the Ceremony. Four people are allowed to participate in the actual wreath laying, while the remainder of our group stands behind on the steps of the Memorial Amphitheater. While there were many ways to choose, the Class Leadership decided the fairest way was to draw names out of a hat to pick the four participants for the Wreath Laying. We are pleased to have Dave Gnau, Tom Henneberry, Hank Sterbenz, and Bernie Ziegler doing the honors. They will be great representatives for our class.

Next, the team traveled to Fort Belvoir where they were warmly welcomed at the brand new Army museum, and offered a VIP tour. Their reaction was "*Wow and More Wow!!!*" They were blown away! Celebrating over 245 years of Army history, it honors our soldiers, past, present and future, with amazing displays and interactive opportunities. What a privilege for us to have the opportunity to experience this incredible museum together as a class. We are especially proud that our own Ric Shinseki has been at the helm making this happen! We know that all of you have been looking forward to seeing it, with many of us being donors to the museum since

it's inception. No doubt it will be one of the top highlights of our Reunion weekend. Go Army!

### **REUNION REGISTRATION:**

So, almost all of the myriad of details involved with our reunion are now finalized. You will soon be receiving an email from AOG announcing the long awaited **opening of our Reunion Registration!** Be on the lookout for it **early next week.**

Based on hotel registrations thus far, it looks like we are having a great response! 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 [jimjuneh@cox.net](mailto:jimjuneh@cox.net) or 757-288-6684).

It will be a very special reunion, and so uplifting to be able to be together again to "Connect, Commemorate and Celebrate!" This is one you won't want to miss. We hope to see you there!

### **MEMORABILIA ITEMS:**

One last reminder before we close this letter. Our very short time frame for ordering memorabilia items from the gift shop is coming to a close in a little over a week. There is a minimum number of each item required. If you would like a fresh new polo shirt or windbreaker, a new canvas tote or the fun "Beat Navy '65" socks in black, gray and gold, please place your orders now!!!! Below is the link to the Gift Shop to place your orders. Please know that these are one of a kind items. The dead line for ordering is April 23rd. After that these items will no longer be available.

URL: <https://www.wpaoggiftshop.com/classgear-1965>

Looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion!

*Strength and Drive,*

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