

GO ARMY, BEAT NAVY!

# WPSMI Newsletter

April 2018

## Message from the President

by Tom Lynch '82

Happy spring to all! We had another great Founders Day last month with 190 in attendance. Check out the details and photos!

Our Board of Governors is set for this year. Thanks to Jeff Kopp for serving over 15 years as he departs the BOG. Our new addition is Chris Haag, '07, who also serves on the Michigan AUSA board. Make sure to welcome Chris when you see him.

Many exciting events are happening this year! Be sure and check out our updated website, <http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-michigan/index.htm>. Make sure you refresh your browser or you will see old information.

Hope to see you at our next luncheon on 17 May. Thanks for being part of a great organization!

Sing second again!!!! Tom

## Spring Luncheon

Come join the fun at the spring luncheon on **Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 2018, 11:45-1:15 pm**

**Birmingham Athletic Club  
4033 West Maple Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301**

**Featured Speaker:  
BG Pablo Estrada, Jr. '88**

Maintenance Area Manager for Fiat Chrysler Automobile  
Land Component Commander – Michigan Army National Guard

Cost of luncheon is \$25 to be paid at door (cash or check to WPSMI)

Meal Choices: Chicken Piccata, Veggie Pasta, or Chopped Salad w/ Blue Cheese.

RSVP with meal choice by May 11<sup>th</sup> to:  
Temple Cumiskey  
[wtcumiskey@yahoo.com](mailto:wtcumiskey@yahoo.com)



**LEADS Conference 2018**  
tentatively scheduled for 26 October at Mary Grove College in Detroit!

# Founder's Day

## 17 March 2018

West Point Society of Michigan's annual Founder's Day celebrated the 216<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of West Point. The event was held at the Auburn Hills Marriott Pontiac. 191 attendees including 21 admitted new cadet candidates for the class of 2022 and 3 aspiring candidates for the class of 2023.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was our own Tom Lynch, President of the WPSMI, who entertained the group with Irish humor in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

The event included traditional toasts, a video message from the Supe, as well as remarks from the oldest grad, MG Jim Pocock '57 (actually the 4<sup>th</sup> oldest grad who was delegated this honor) and the youngest grad, Caleb McCulum '09.

The guest speaker was Detroit native, Ms. Pat Locke, the first African-American woman graduate from the academy, class of 1980. Since retiring from the Army, she has dedicated her energy to coaching under-privileged youth to achieve academic and professional excellence.

Pat gave an inspiring speech, detailing the efforts of West Point Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity in STEM program and the valuable contribution it plays to junior high and high school youths across America. Pat was instrumental in starting WPSMI's successful Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity in STEM Program in 2011 and has attended every annual workshop since then.

Mr. Jim Suhay and Ms. Locke presented a \$500 award to H.S. Junior Charles Phipps in recognition of his winning 2017 Honorable Life

LEADS essay he wrote about an ethical dilemma he encountered.

Finally, Mr. Len Dixon was awarded the WPSMI Distinguished Member of the Year award for his outstanding contribution to the West Point field force and other society events.



Oldest grad speech, MG Jim Pocock '57.



Youngest Grad speech, Mr. Caleb McCulum '09.



Admitted Candidates WP class of 2022.



Ms. Pat Locke '80



Pat Locke '80 and Jim Suhay '66 presenting check to Charles Phipps.



The Select Few, '82. Mike White, Harlene Nelson Coutteau, and Tom Lynch.



# Member Spotlight: Len Dixon



Len was born and raised in North Carolina. His father, a Baptist minister, passed away when Len was nine years old. Len's mother, an elementary teacher, did an admirable job raising three children on her own, setting an outstanding example of what a strong woman can accomplish.

Len graduated from West Point in 1973, branching Infantry. Having earned his Airborne Wings as a cadet, Len moved on to Ranger School following IOBC. Interestingly, he was part of an all-Infantry, all-Airborne, all-WP Class of '73 Ranger class. After earning the Ranger tab, Len was assigned to 1/23<sup>rd</sup> Inf, 2<sup>nd</sup> ID in Korea as a Rifle Platoon Leader. Upon completion of that assignment, he joined 1/61 Inf (Mech) at Ft. Polk, LA with a detour to Ft. Knox for Motor Officer Course. During Motor Officer Course, he married (on a 3-day pass) his wife, Mary, who he met at a WP mixer in East Gym on Veteran's Day 1972. Newlywed status made Ft. Polk an acceptable assignment. While the 5<sup>th</sup> ID was reactivating, Len served in all officer positions in a rifle company, most notable as Company Commander in his last year. Mary, having just left a

corporate job in Westchester County, NY, quickly adjusted to being an Army wife and worked as a DA civilian during this assignment.

In August 1978, Len joined Ford Motor Company as a Product Design Engineer in Light Truck Engineering, where 20% of his department was comprised of service academy graduates. After earning an MBA from University of Michigan, Len moved into Heavy Truck Sales & Marketing. He was assigned to Ford's Washington DC office, Boston office, and back to Detroit in 1992 to work in Product Planning and Marketing Plans. Following the Heavy Truck assignments, he moved to Fleet Sales and Commercial Truck Operations in both dealer/customer-facing and sales-support positions. Len spent 35 years as part of the Ford "family" – retiring twice.

Moving into the personal side of life, Len and Mary have two grown children, two grandsons, and a granddaughter expected in July. Their son, Robert (Rob) served in the Army on active duty for six years (5 Infantry & 1 Military Police), deploying four times – twice in Iraq and twice in Afghanistan. (Len was able to pin Airborne Wings on Rob prior to Rob's initial assignment to Schofield Barracks – 25<sup>th</sup> ID.) He is currently employed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, assigned to Milan Correctional Facility, is married and expecting a daughter in July. Len and Mary's daughter, Emily, is a kindergarten teacher in Jackson County and Mom of Darius and Reese, the two amazing grandsons.

For over 10 years, Len has been actively involved with the WP Field Force. His interest in assisting candidates through the admissions process harkens back to his own experience as a high school student

interested in West Point. The wife of the town doctor in Buie's Creek, NC guided and encouraged Len through the steps of the admissions process, not just once, but twice, as he was not offered an appointment on his first try. Working in the Field Force can be both very rewarding and frustrating, but you NEVER GIVE UP.

Sharing his time, talents, and interests in other volunteer venues is an important part of life for Len. He is an active member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. It's about education and conservation, not just fishing. Outreach and local mission opportunities through church are other ways Len volunteers in the community and beyond. The Novi/Northville CROP Hunger Walk has had Len's active involvement for over 10 years.

Keeping a connection with many close friendships from cadet days at West Point is important to Len. He has organized several company ("The I-2 Crew") mini reunions for classmates in recent years, to include VA wine country, the National Whitewater Training Center in NC, and a recent visit to Gettysburg National Military Park.

When he is not engaged in these many volunteer activities, Len enjoys traveling, woodworking, fishing, fly tying, spending time with his family – most especially his two grandsons (ages 3 and 6).



Len receiving the WPSMI Distinguished member of the Year award from Tom Lynch.

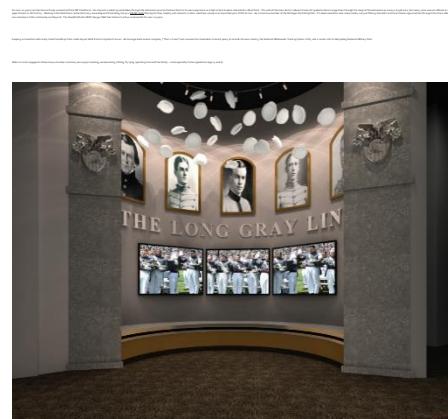
## New Frederic V. Malek Visitor Center



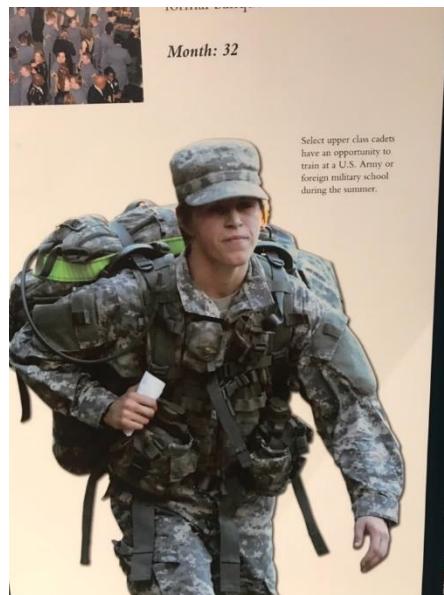
The next time you are at West Point, you will have to check out the awesome new visitor center!

The new Frederic V. Malek visitor center opened on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The center is named after Frederic V. Malek, class of 1959 and includes 15,000 sq ft. of exhibit space. It features high tech interactive displays (including a rifle range simulator), a theater, a gift shop, and the West Point visitor control center. It is located on the site of the old visitor center in Highland Falls and includes a dramatic 1300ft. glass wall in the main atrium overlooking the Hudson River.

The center does an outstanding job explaining cadet life from R day to graduation as well as honoring West Point leaders of the past. It imparts the values of duty, honor, country and the academy's mission to develop leaders of character – ready to serve.



**Warning,** the cadet room display may give some of you “flash backs”!



Look for one of Michigan's own, Charlene Coutreau, '16, as you wander through the displays!

## Attention Golfers!

The West Point Parents Club of Michigan together with the USAFA Parents Club of Easter Michigan is sponsoring a golf tournament!

**When:** Sunday, 29 July

**Where:** Royal Scot Golf Course  
Lansing, MI

**Featuring:** 11am shotgun start, hot dog lunch at turn, dinner (approx. 1600), and raffle prizes

**Cost:** \$100/person or \$380/foursome

**Additional Info:** WPPC-MI is a 501C(3) nonprofit. All donations are tax deductible. Proceed support West Point and Air Force cadets and activities of both parents clubs.

**To Sign up:** contact Andrea McQueen, 734-751-5915 or email

[rmcqueen0372@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmcqueen0372@sbcglobal.net) The flyer for the event is also on the WPPC-MI website.

**Sign up as a single or bring a team! Sure to be a fun event!**



**Save the Date! West Point football plays at Eastern Michigan University on 27 Oct!**