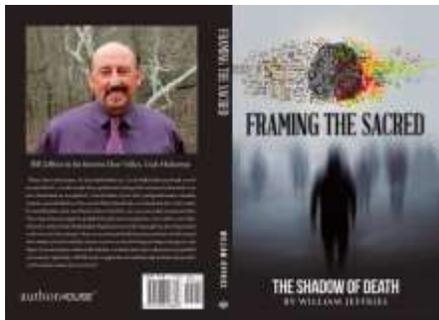




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Bill Jeffries Gets More Notoriety

Bill Jeffries just checked in with the delightful news that one of his adventure novels, *Framing the Sacred: The Shadow of Death*, is being used in an undergraduate course at Duke University, ONE of his graduate school alma maters. Like most of us, he figured that an alma mater forgets about us – until donation time. You can get your copy at Amazon Books or at the Bookstore at www.execustrat.com.



[Photo #1 – “Bill Jeffries’ latest big hit”]

Rick Rhoads is also a “Trail Angel”

As previously reported, Gary & Patti Halstead’s son, (COL Ret) Scott, got (way) out of town right after sharing his knowledge and feelings about revisions to our Honor Code. But even the Appalachian Trail couldn’t get him away from our class. When he hit the vicinity of Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia, he was met by Trail Angel Rick Rhoades who gave Scott reason to slow down and take a break. Thanks to his Dad, Scott seems to have memorized at least the Infantry ’68 drill roll and was genuinely happy to visit with Rick.



[Photo #2 – “Appalachian Trail Wanderer Scott Halstead (’91) with Rick Rhoades somewhere between the Trail and Harper’s Ferry”]



[Photo #3 – “Rick Rhoades, Gordon Tillery, Tom McNaugher, Mike Mears, and Lee Outlaw -- the DC area Class of ‘68 Wheezers) climb Old Rag Mountain – and confirm this is the last time!”

Don Roberts Emerges

On our way home from visiting our oldest grandson on his 21st birthday (I’m sure what every grandson wants), we took a detour to the town listed by the AOG as **Don Roberts’** residence. I have not seen a workable phone or email address for him in decades. Our GPS got us to a gated residence, which I opened, walked to the door and rang the bell – twice. When the door opened, I had to ask, “Donny? I’m Dave.” It was him – you can see it in the eyes! He did not have the body that I tried to get my arms around after the 1966 Army-Navy Game – clean living with a proper diet will do that – but he can slap and hug like he could 55 years ago and fit it all into a 34” waist. He and his bride of almost 53 are still love birds – she is a Duke Divinity grad and knows more about atomic particles and sub-particles than we ever got out of West Point and he has turned from a life of medical care to raising vegetables, relearning calculus (not just “specking it” this time, and enjoying precious time as a father and grandfather. The last time he had any contact with classmates was when he attended **Dave & Jeanie Clemm’s** funeral for their son. He asked about classmates and I felt like a Plebe reciting poop – only with lots of laughs. He told some good stories about the Zoo and the Army Team of our day – almost ready for our 55th reunion.



[Photo #4 – “With Doctor Colonel Retired Retired Don Roberts”]

Andy Silverthorn is Slowly Transitioning

We got a note from **Andy Silverthorn**, another Zoo physician, and Don Roberts room mate who attested to the hours spent in the sinks after Taps (that netted him hours in confinement thanks to a conscious OC) talking to his future bride. He’s still in practice but has cut it down a lot. He closed the office last summer and has been focusing on "telemedicine" for the past year.

Andy plans on continuing this practice as it gradually dwindles as patients move away, get all their care from specialists, or enter into assisted living.

Orahoods Break Out for Some Mini- Reunion Activity

Jim Orahood sent some photos (one usable, one questionable, and others looked like the camera had been used as a COVID or Ancestry.com testing vessel) of their mini-reunion break out from Indiana where they have been cautiously spending time with family. First, a USMAPS mini-reunion when **Bill & Cindy McCauley** drove from their home in Miami and Jim & **Rene** drove from our second home in Osprey (Sarasota), Florida to meet halfway on Chokoloskee Island in the Everglades. Bill & Cindy have been cautious and filled their time with online activities like sharpening foreign language and dancing skills. A little later, they met up with **Maurice Adams** and his bride, **Elizabeth** along with **Marty & Barbara Bowling** at their home in Osprey, Florida for a mini B-3 reunion. After that, Jim & Rene had lunch with **Mike Noonan** in Venice, Florida.



[Photo # 5 – Bill McCauley, Jim & Rene Orahood, and Cindy McCauley at Havana Cave on Chokoloskee Island (Everglades)]”



[Photo #6 – “Elizabeth & Maurice Adams in Osprey, Florida”]

Cliffs Head West in Search of New Vistas and Rejuvenation

Rich & Julie Cliff ventured out of their Low Country digs during mid-April to take in scenery at a higher altitude in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They attended and participate in a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Seminar honoring their son’s (Richie) life and ultimate sacrifice. TAPS Seminars bring together adult survivors for a weekend of hope and healing with peer professionals to meet survivors where they are in their grief journey. Appropriately, Rich & Julie found some time after the seminar to visit the beautiful nearby rock formation called Garden of the Gods.



[Photo #7 – “Rich & Julie Cliff in the Garden of the Gods, Colorado”]

Mike & Anne Sheaffer Celebrate Retirement -- Again

Mike Sheaffer dropped a line to share that he has retired – for the fourth and final time. All four retirements were associated, in some manner, with his 38 years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore CA, where he was initially assigned as a LTC in 1983 for what was supposed to be a three-year tour. After a little conversation, Mike mentioned that he was on one of the first – if not THE first trip the Labs took to Kazakhstan after the USSR fell apart. He said that the trip was interesting but very unpleasant -- Froze a part of his body off – minus 30 (doesn't matter if it was Fahrenheit or Celsius – COLD). The warmest location in his hotel room was inside the refrigerator. The meals were all the same except that at breakfast they usually didn't have vodka. He could eat most everything but horse... I tried to assure him that things hadn't changed much by 2005 when horse was still the specialty, the only way to heat was to keep the laptop on the lap or as a foot warmer. Could go on for pages but am glad I didn't have to go back.



[Photo #8 – ‘You can tell Anne & Mike Sheaffer are celebrating St Patrick’s Day in California by noting how close Mike is keeping his face mask to his face during the meal”]

John & Meg Miller Celebrate St Patrick’s Day in Isolation (again)

Jack Miller recalled that it was just before St. Patrick’s Day in 2020 when most everyone went into a stay-at-home/isolation mode due to the pandemic. The idea at the time was to wait for 15 or so days until the COVID curve flattened. Well, a little over a year later, Jack reported that they were still in quasi-isolation with another promise that the end is in sight. But, Jack said that with a "little luck o' the Irish" he and **Meg** have remained healthy through it all. On the special day, Meg serves traditional corned beef and cabbage. Jack indicated that she makes enough for a reinforced rifle squad to insure that there are sufficient leftovers for another dinner meal and Reuben sandwiches for several lunches. Jack’s only responsibilities are to provide the beer and decorate the tree (?). He said they hope that someday on the 17th of March they will be in Ireland to see how the real pros celebrate the occasion... Jack had planned another picture instead of them in front of their local Huntsville, Alabama river area which simulates the Chicago River, but couldn't find anyone to take it with he & Meg in it. They were planning to enjoy an upcoming cruise in June (1st since Feb '20), but it was canceled (again). Their backup is always a trip to their favorite Florida beach, so we can anticipate what their next input will be....



[Photo #9 – “Meg & Jack Miller – together still – in front of their St. Patrick’s Tree”]

Pres & Clemm Miller Continue to Set the Pace

In mid-March, after appropriate inoculations, **Pres & Clem Miller** once again broke out of COVID jail for a family trip. This time they visited all eight grandkids in three locations – Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Texas – in a meticulously planned tour. During their final stop in Austin, they broke protocol to meet up with **John & Frances Dallen** for lunch and some wonderful stories about the Dallens’ extensive and exotic travels – much the same as the Millers’. Although they had all had their shots some precautions were still maintained. This was only the second time the Dallens had ventured more than a few miles from their home for a meal in the last twelve months. Precisely one year earlier, the Dallens had boarded one of the last Virgin Australia flights out of Sydney to return to the US after a scuttled Southeast Asia Odyssey. For the Dallens, this is not their only contact with classmates. A major subset of company C-1 (plus the C-1 renegades exiled to D-1 our firstie year) have meet twice via Zoom, thanks to the initiative of **Don Hall**. More rendezvous are planned. Everyone is looking forward to getting out and being somewhat normal. Expanding beyond First Regt, **Andy Shaffer** (2nd Regt) and John hooked up to discuss model building of old sailing ships. It turned out that they have much more common. They were both at the National Rifle and Pistol Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, at the same time during high school – and were probably in the same shooting school classes there – back in the days when it was OK to issue 14 year-old boys M-1s rifles for a week. Andy sent John some ship kits he had in reserve to keep John busy, off the streets – and out of the bars. Pres reported that the Dallens look terrific and they can’t wait to get back on those planes, trains, and automobiles, plus a few cruises.



[Photo #10 – “Two roses between two thorns – John & Frances Dallen with Clem & Pres Miller together for lunch in Austin”]



[Photo #11 – “Betty Shaffer took a picture of Andy as he toasted 51 years of wedded bliss with his bride at Historic Fort Davis, Texas”]

March DC Area Zoom Meeting Always Produces Good Grist

As usual **Gordon Tillery** put together a fun and informative Zoom meeting for our DC area classmates – which is ever expanding beyond the Northern Virginia, DC, and Maryland region. This time, **Jim Stanley** from Raleigh, NC, **Paul DeCoursey** from Indianapolis IN, **Jerry Cobb** from Hainesport, NJ, and **Bill Easton** from Saint Petersburg, FL checked in. This time **John Cruden** couldn't make it because his law firm had called a conflicting meeting. John's law practice now is three parts: (1) providing strategic advice to corporations on environmental issues; (2) serving as expert witness in courts on environmental matters (including one in High Court of London); and (3) representing groups in litigation – now representing a school district in CA; Arlington County; the International Joint Commission (US-Canada body regulating boundary waters); and a solar company putting solar panels on closed landfills. John is also teaching a masters class at GWU (remotely for now). He has moved to a new office in DC and his first act was putting up our class print of USMA with superimposed names of our fallen Vietnam-era brothers. **Tom Vollrath** missed the meeting by breaking out of the Virginia bubble to spend a long weekend at Sebring International Raceway in FL where Corvette's run in the 12-hour race. One of the meeting's guest speakers was **Bub Younts** who recounted his career in uniform at the USMA Prep School at Ft Monmouth and followed by "West Point Desk" in ODCSPER.

Classmates Attend Thanksgiving for Lives of Dan Gooding and Pete Paulson

Pete & Kathy Paulson's sons orchestrated a Zoom celebration and remembrance of the life of Pete, who passed away on April 13th. **Dave & Susan Ohle, Gordon Tillery, Henry &**

Karen Riser, Bill & Patty Marriott, Bub & Angie Younts, Chuck & Phyllis Giasson, and Les & Kathy Wright tuned in. After the main portion where a couple of Pete’s friends, his sons, and Kathy related some highlights of Pete’s life while a ton of photos scrolled by, we had the option to click on “break out rooms” for more conversation.

Steve Harper, John & Margie Hedley, Dan Taylor, and Barbara and I attended **Dan Gooding’s** celebration at Christ Episcopal Church in Charlotte, North Carolina last March. Dan passed away on March 13th. Steve & **Sherry** are relative newcomers to the Charlotte area and didn’t have a chance to get to know Dan. Dan Taylor was Dan’s XO when they were Firsties in C-4 and always held Dan in awe because he was so sincere and dedicated. Dan Taylor said that when he was goofing off, Dan Gooding was usually doing pushups and sit-ups. Dan is still practicing law in the Winston Salem area – now with his son. Dan Gooding had been an anesthesiologist in a practice of military veterans and was instrumental in getting John Hedley fixed up with a Naval Academy grad when John had to undergo surgery about 13 years ago.



[Photo #12 – “John Hedley, Steve Harper, Dan Taylor, and the ever shrinking (in height) Orca”]

Only One Founders Day Reported this Year Catrons & Rogers

Jeff Rodgers was the only classmate to check in with a Founders Day photo. He further reported that, since Florida was pretty much ahead of the rest of the US regarding COVID restrictions, masks were an optional part of the uniform.



[Photo #13 – “Grace & Al Catron with Jeff & Carlie Rogers at this year’s Melbourne, Florida Founders Day dinner”]