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Class Archives Website Open for Your Interest and Input

A while back, **Dutch Hostler** reported that Class Standing Committee members **Skip Greeby**, **Tony Ambrose** and Class IO **Andy Shaffer** have collaborated to create an online archive of our class-specific memorabilia. Already available at the legacy website are instructions for Cadet Drill (great fun at parties - - especially after a few cocktails), *Pointer* magazines from '1964-1968, vintage photos, football ticket stubs, cadet year insignia, Hop schedule at Camp Buckner (the most wonderful summer of our lives), a Hop dance card, '67 Army-Navy football game program, 1964 Bugle Notes, and more. This is the kind of stuff that we're looking for to be saved and shared – for us, our families, and generations to come. As you (or your bride) sort through your private treasure troves of years gone by, should you stumble across a classic Class nugget, consider photographing it in .jpeg format and sending it to Andy at oldgrad68@swbell.net for addition to our Class Archives site <http://www.westpointclassof1968.com/class-legacy-site.html>. If you have any questions, email Skip at skip@greeby.com. Further, we have received an email from **Mike Patrow** and **Eric Thomas** along with the text of a talk Mike delivered to his community in Scottsdale, Arizona last Veterans Day that dealt primarily with our much-loved classmate, **Rick Hawley**. The document rekindled the question of how to preserve such talks as Mike's and one **Tony Dodson** created for **Don Workman**. With all of our resources, such testimonials don't quite fit anywhere – until Andy Shaffer came to the rescue – go to www.westpointclassof1968.com -- look for "Tributes" under the "More" tab.

Bill McCauley and Wally Magathan Work to Remain Literate

Bill McCauley forwarded a photo of Bill and **Wally Magathan** with Andrew Bacevitch ('69), the author of his latest book, *The Age of Illusions: How America Squandered Its Cold War Victory*. The photo was taken in late January at a Prologue Society meeting at the Coral Gables campus of the University of Miami. We've all heard the maxim: "What is Past is Prologue." The Prologue Society's purpose is to encourage and foster interest in and understanding of the history and culture of all peoples and nations – a history book club for Hives. Andrew, a Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History at Boston was invited to Miami by the Prologue Society to discuss his new book. Bill and Wally are both retired lawyers and continue to hold down the fort at the home of Super Bowl LIV and *The Bird Cage*.



[Photo #1 – “Barristers Bill McCauley and Wally Magathan flank Professor Emeritus and author Andrew Bacevitch (’69) in Miami”]

Joe Guignon Weds

Joe Guignon reported that he and **Pat Dolan** were married on 3 January in Houston Texas. Joe’s kids -- Aimee, Blythe and Shannon – came from England, Turkey, and DC to support and participate in the ceremony. Joe’s Company E3 classmates who attended are true comrades after 56 years. They came from Buffalo, Atlanta, Denver, DC, Dallas, and Virginia. Actually, he maintains that the huge turnout and support was mainly because these folks knew that Joe & Pat were providing a few free meals with drinks which enticed them to spend thousands of dollars on airfare, hotels and car rental just to have them pay for a few free meals. No one ever called the Company E3ers smart!!! The partying started on Thursday night at a Tex-Mex joint followed by the noon reception on Friday with a party later in the evening – and then a large Bar-B-Que on Saturday afternoon.



[Photo #2 – “Marilyn & Ross Irvin, Joe & Judy Creeden, Chuck & Gayle Jones, Tom & Sheryl Vollrath, Jess & Ann Gatlin, the couple of the hour, Earl & Gail Newsome, Eva & Marshall (’67) Bolyard, and Sylvia & Mark Spelman at Pat’s and Joe’s nuptials”]

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary Jonases and Jameses

Holiday letters and social media brought news of recent Golden Wedding Anniversaries from **Chick & Carole James** and **Pat & Rebecca Jonas**. If the old adage of a picture is worth a thousand words is correct, Chick’s holiday letter contained tens of thousands of words but not too much regarding who, what, when, where, why, how... Pat’s social media report identified some of the important participants of their special day just after Christmas 1969 – Pat, Rebecca, and the reverend who performed the ceremony – but no mention of who the ushers and brides maids were – although **Jim Craig** stands out. In both photos, cake was involved and both grooms practice medicine.



[Photo #3 – “Pat & Rebecca Jonas begin with a big cake”]



[Photo #4 – “50 years later, Carole & Chick James pose over how much cake they’re allowed to eat these days”]

Ralph & Sandy Tuccillo Stretch Their Golden Wedding Anniversary World-Wide

Ralph & Sandy Tuccillo began their 50th Wedding Anniversary in December 2018 with a Disney Cruise to the Bahamas with all of their kids and grandkids. As an anniversary present, their kids gave them a trip to Chicago to see *Hamilton* – a special treat since they had never been to the Windy City together. Ralph visited as part of the Army-Air Force trip section when we were Yearlings. Then, it was off to the Baltic last fall with other members of the class. Sandy’s most memorable event was when their two oldest grandkids, on separate occasions, came to visit them in Northern Virginia – each for a week.

A Lifetime of Service

Holiday letters were a good source to remind us of the great work classmates are still doing for our class, the Academy, and communities. When not on fox-watch on the porch, **Jon Dodson** still goes to Walter Reed and the Ft Belvoir Community Hospital to visit act as an advocate for wounded and ill service members. When not traveling with **Sharon** and their family doing eco-adventures, **John Cruden** enjoys being with his colleagues at Beveridge and Diamond Environmental Law Firm and works as President of the Foundation of American College of Environmental Lawyers. While **Mary** is busy with the Texas Master Naturalist Program, **Steve Frushour** stays busy around their Texas ranch and works with the International (Cessna 0-1) Birddog Assn keeping the memory, pride, and contributions alive of this combat workhorse. Prior to becoming an orthopaedic surgeon and transferring to the Air Force, Steve was an AO in Vietnam with the 1st ID. Church work takes up a lot of **Jim & Lucille Swinney’s** time, but they found time to cruise around the tip of South America from Santiago, Chile to Buenos Aires, cruise the Danube from Prague to Budapest, rail around the Canadian Rockies, participate in a

Vietnam ¾ Cav Reunion in Phoenix, and family activities in and around Pittsburgh. **Bill & Cheryl Jeffries** are always having conversations about topics like neuroplasticity (Cheryl's Expertise), cyber technology, innovation, business High Performance, Emotional Intelligence, innovation, and sports. As a result, Bill wrote two books (15 to date) – one novel (fourth in his “Christian Madison” adventure series) and one addressing polarity thinking which has been picked up by numerous companies and a couple of Business Schools. **Andy & Betty Shaffer** have added multiple Meals on Wheels routes to their numerous volunteer and civic activities in Midland, Texas. Now that **Mike & Samar Fay** have moved back to Colorado, Mike has become the rector of the local Episcopal Church in Salida and serves on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry along with two subcommittees while Samar was elected as secretary of the board of the National Episcopal Church Women. Because of some major health set-backs for Tricia, **Bob & Tricia Alexander** have had to forego travel last year. But, despite these issues, they continue to enjoy rescuing dogs, as they have for many years. Bob is still active in the Knights of Columbus Catholic charities and the West Point Society of Hampton Roads where his board supports Academy activities, Army-Navy parties, and screens candidates for West Point. Further, Bob enjoyed organizing charity golf tournaments for Special Ops survivors and the Habitat for Heroes program sponsored by the Military and Naval Academies. As mentioned when **Bob & Carol Shimp** passed through on one of their serving missions for old friends, when not with their own family or warranting their Argentine winey awards, they are contributing to local and international support activities like Mass Casualty training for over 700 people in Houston and participating in the Barbara Bush Celebration of Reading. They also do African Renewal Ministries and mission service. Currently, **Jim & Lisa Greenberg** are in rural, hot, humid, and rainy Florencia, Colombia teaching English. **Pete Swan** is so sure that the moon can be mined by satellites that he has created a start-up company (employing him and Cathy) to design a process using a rotating tether that scoops up soil and then analyzes it. He is also leading a group on space elevators (a 100,000 km long tether from the equator to way up - \$50/kg to geosynchronous orbit and beyond). Check out at www.isec.org. The transition into senility may be pretty smooth for Pete.

Don & Stephanie Jones Continue to Serve through Education and Inspiration

Don Jones wrote in to let us know that he and **Stephanie** are continuing to do well in Mobile, Alabama. They are both still teaching. Don covers AP Physics, AP Calculus, Pre-Calculus, and Discrete Math classes plus coaches the high school tennis team. Stephanie teaches AP 11th grade English and 9th grade English. Their son is an accounts manager with Cumulus Media, working with radio advertising. Don's knees don't allow him to run any more, but (as other classmates do) he did ride his bicycle for over 2,000 miles this past year. They reiterate that they have plenty of room in their home in Mobile in case any classmates and brides ever happen through that area.



[Photo #5 – “Steven, Don, & Stephanie Jones still loving Sweet Home Alabama”]

Charlie & Janet Lieb Ensure World Economic Balance

It’s always fun to receive **Charlie & Janet Lieb’s** holiday letter because it reads like a more fun **National Geographic**. Last year, they sailed in the British Virgin Islands, enjoyed a Panama Canal cruise, traveled to Kosovo, Macedonia, and Albania, fished in Lake of the Woods, Canada, and visited kids and grandkids, golfed, and walked beaches in California. And, of course, you remember a Ft Carson reunion at Reynolds Plantation, Georgia, and wintering in Naples, Florida. Oh, yeah – they also managed to travel to Minneapolis for another Family Christmas and Charlie’s 55th HS reunion, and back home to Wisconsin for a football game and a change of clothes.



[Photo #6 – “Charlie Lieb flanked by his sons at the annual San Diego Lieb Open”]

When Not Serving Family and Classmates, Traveling Plays an Important Role

Gary & Patti Halstead reported that their daughter and **Jim & Rene Orahood’s** son are settled nearby in Colorado Springs while their son and his family returned to Ft. Benning for his final assignment. Some travel was required to help; however, some was also necessary to gather at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware in September for a B2 reunion with 20 classmates and brides – an event that is both exhilarating (due to stories of cadet days) and draining (because we don’t do as much of that stuff anymore). **Jack & Bobbi Munson** venture to the Tacoma, Washington area to visit their daughter at Joint Base Lewis McChord whenever they can and venture off on other adventures. This year, they brought their passports so they could visit Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Canada. **Fred & Nancy Hoblit** are dividing their time between a cottage in the land

of 10,000 lakes and golf courses near the Potomac River. While Fred underwent successful hip replacement surgery, it didn't help his memory or hearing loss or do much for his golf handicap.

Bachman, Greeby, and Merriam – A Rendezvous in Nürnberg

Bill Bachman reported that he & **Jane** met up with **Skip & Joan Greeby** last October in Berlin for some touring and reminiscing. They rented a car, doubled down on health care, personal property, and auto insurance and off they drove for a 10 day adventure through German cities – Cologne, -Dresden, Nuremberg, etc. – and ended up in Strassbourg (across the river from where Skip had his first assignment in Karlsruhe). The highlight was linking up with **Jocko & Malena Merriam** for dinner in Nuremberg. Jock & Malena were in Germany visiting their son, JJ, who is the JAG at Grafenwhor.



[Photo #7 – “Skip Greeby, Bill Bachman, and Jock Mariam in Nuremberg last October”]

Skip Greeby – Continuing to Serve and Getting Others on Board as Well

Skip Greeby has finally shared some of the personal stuff that he does besides keeping Joan busy and keeping Chardonnay producers functioning. His uncle was in the 17th Airborne Division. They fought as infantry in the Battle of the Bulge, and were refitted and jumped into Wesel, Germany (Operation Varsity) in March 1945 — still today the largest American airborne assault in our military history. Their mission was to secure a Rhine crossing, but Patton beat them to it a few days earlier at Remagen. Skip's uncle passed away 4 years ago at age 94, but not before founding the “Scions of the 17th Airborne Division” which now consists of 300 still living veterans, descendants, and friends. The organization's mission is to preserve the Division member memory and perpetuate the unit history. For you math hives, you've already figured out that this year, the Division and Association will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Bulge and Operation Varsity. Some 60 Scions, which includes three veterans (now in their mid-90s), will be visiting Bastogne and Wesel, visiting the towns in which they fought – a real treat for strap hangers as they'll hear first-hand of their battle experiences throughout the tour. The Scions and other contributors will buy Economy tickets, then upgrade them and their escorts to Business Class, thanks to a classmate who donated some United Global Upgrades. Again, the math hives have already figured out that more help is needed. Skip went out on thin ice to tell his original E-

2 classmates about the venture and those classmates have ponied up. But more help is needed. The Scions will use contributions to fund travel expenses for the veterans. They have a fundraiser set up through "Go Fund Me" at <https://facebook.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8aebe18feaaa6c3ecda6a17b4&id=9c9bae37f8&e=ec660a7464>.

And Further Further More – Tony Dodson from 12/20/2019

Elwood Cobey wrote in to express his appreciation of the photo of **Tony Dodson** and **Bob Hensler** in kilts. Elwood has the full regalia in homage to his mother's clans – Munroes and highland Frasers – and sent a photo of a recent family wedding. He used his note to sneak in a photo of his and Mary-Lou's most recent grand kids -- .



[Photo #8 – “Elwood Cobey with his brothers and three nephews at a family wedding”]

And Further More – Steve & Sherry Harper From 11/22/2019

Bob Lorbeer wrote in to offer a “great BIG congratulations” to **Steve & Sherry Harper** for sharing the news that their granddaughter was named to the 2020 Tournament of Roses Royal Court in Pasadena, California. Bob had planned to ride in the 2020 Rose Parade, but equestrian units are "by invitation only" and his group, Long Beach Mounted Police, did not make the cut. Perhaps next year. Bob has ridden in 20 Rose Parades and enjoyed all of them. His most favorite one was in 2012 as he was chosen as the lead rider for the 100 palomino horses that rode in front of the Roy Rogers float celebrating Roy's 100th birthday. That was very special, and even more special because members of the Roy Rogers/Dale Evans family played match maker to put **Belinda Gail** and Bob together. Given what 100 of any kind of horses could do to a parade route – not to mention the following float, it's surprising that the families would even talk to Bob & Belinda. Belinda is still performing all over the US and Canada. They are both members of the International Western Music Association, sit on the Board of Directors, and Bob has been elected President of IWMA for 2020. Bob is rightfully proud to report that he has sat on and chaired a lot of Boards, but this is the first time he has been elected President of an international organization.



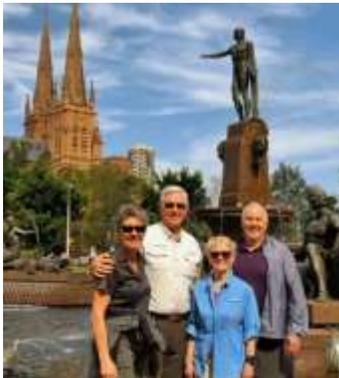
[Photo #9 “Bob Lorbeer and his bride, Belinda Gail, about to head off to a Rose Parade”]



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Everybody Planning on a Cruise Through Asia, Not So Fast

Not just the dozen classmates and their brides that were booked to go on the Princess cruise from Singapore to Hong Kong via Vietnam in March were looking forward to the trip but those of us who were not booked but wanted to travel vicariously through them were excited about the trip. Predictably, **John Hedley** put the word out last week that, due to coronavirus concerns, Princess had cancelled the cruise. Further, while they were enroute to begin their Asian cruise in Australia (and ending in Dubai, via Singapore, the Taj Mahal, and dozens of exotic locales in between), **John & Francis Dallen** and **Brian & Karen McKenna** found plans drastically altered. The cruise wasn't quite canceled – rather, they were offered the option to cancel with refund (some fine print here) or to accept a drastically altered cruise itinerary with a significant partial refund. A hasty call to Regent muddied the waters further. Their scheduled cruise was actually a back-to-back affair, two legs of a world cruise. (two years ago they traveled on what was the preceding leg of Regent's equivalent cruise—Los Angeles to Australia). Their special complication was that they had made their own overseas air travel arrangements plus a week's worth of lodging and travel in Australia preceding the cruise. The McKenna's were to cruise with the Dallens from Sydney to Singapore, then disembark and after a few days in Singapore, head home. The cruise ship was to travel up the east coast of Australia (think the Great Barrier Reef), west to Darwin, north through Indonesia, and finally Singapore. The revised itinerary would travel the southern coast of Australia and end in Perth – exactly the route of their previous Regent cruise followed near its end. The McKenna's flight home was out of Singapore, a month away. The Dallens' was out of Dubai, nearly eight weeks away. So... the McKenna's and the Dallens decided "see Australia" – at least many parts as they had not yet visited. Now, if all goes as hoped, at the end of the month the McKenna's will fly to Singapore to catch their flight home and the Dallens will get on the boat in Perth. All they have to do is make plans for the next four weeks in Australia. Stay tuned...



[Photo #1 – “Frances & John Dallen with Karen & Brian McKenna on an extended tour of Australia”]

February DC Area Classmate News

Once again, thanks to **Gordon Tillery** for his continuous service in coordinating DC area classmate events – the most recent being a luncheon on February 21st. His first observation was that a half dozen classmates who regularly attend found other stuff to do in warmer climes... A big loss for the DC area group is **Rick Wright**, who flew with **Anne** to San Antonio, Texas in late January to begin a new phase of their lives. They have moved into the Army Residence Community – a Continuing Care Retirement Community. In true Wright style, this move has been in the works for several months and it came to fruition in February. All residents are retired military officers and/or spouses. While they have met lots of wonderful people already and profess to have a great time, they'll miss the closeness of classmates. In further Wright style, Rick is still working remotely for IDA and will be back in the DC area periodically – hopefully planned in conjunction with future class luncheons. **Jim & Lisa Greenburg** are still in the jungles of Colombia. **Jack Munson** flew to Florida to cheer the Nats and boo the Astros with **Bub & Angie Younts**. **Larry & Nannette Jordan** went to New Orleans for Mardi Gras. Regarding classmates who actually attended, **Ed Thal** came the furthest, driving up from Smithfield, Virginia. That honor would have gone to **Hank Gregor** (coming from Boone, North Carolina); however, he had to cancel for medical reasons. **Fred Hoblit** made it in spite of a couple of shiners & stitches at the eyebrow (from a bad fall). Fred's MGB sports car tag says "AF TPS" relating to his background as a test pilot. The presentation of the day was by **Bill Nash** talked about his experiences commanding the Multi-National Division (North), Task Force Eagle, in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Task Force consisted of Bill's 1st Armored Div, a Russian, Turkish, and the Nordic-Polish Brigade with personnel from several nations. Bill talked about the multinational & political dimensions of enforcing the military portion of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords, the successful de-militarization (in 90 days) of the warring forces, and tactics to maintain the peace. **Ralph Tuccillo** (who is on the mend from joint replacement surgery) commented that he was commanding Army/AF Exchange Service Europe at the time, and had a story about hastily establishing PX service for Bill's troops. At one point, Bill was in a C&C chopper monitoring a convoy operation when a mobile PX truck opened road-side service. Troops being troops - were distracted by pogeey bait; and, resulting gaps in the convoy caught Bill's attention... Other news includes **Dave Ohle** being nominated for the prestigious "Castle Award," presented each year at the local Founder's Day celebration (March 28th) by the West Point Society of DC



[Photo #2 – “Jim Greenberg on his last night in a rainy Colombian jungle on his way to Cali”]

Orahoods Seek Warmth and Classmate Company

Jim Orahood dropped a note and small photo he took while he and **Rene** visited **Charlie & Deanne Beckwith** in their southern-style home in Pawleys Island, South Carolina during the

Valentine's Day weekend. Still into gardening, Charlie has taken to making whiskey sour from his own lemons. The two couples had Valentine's dinner with **Dwight & Donna Lee**, who live nearby.



[Photo #3 – “Bartender Charlie Beckwith at home in Pawleys Island”]

Special Thanks to Dick Steiner

Being a grad and a classmate has so many perks. All of our classmates have so many physical, mental, and personal gifts that they have a known record of sharing with other classmates. If any gathering gets dull, relating classmate antics and adventures have never failed in livening things up. When I introduce a classmate to any of our newer neighbors or friends, the neighbor or friend rarely goes without saying, “Are you really that guy who....” “I’ve heard of you.” We all realize and understand that ours is a special relationship with some exceptional people. As your Scribe, I am even more blessed because I get to come in contact with an above average number of fascinating classmates – and most some of them are quite generous. Because of the plethora of authors in the class, I rarely want for something to read. One of our latest authors is **Dick Steiner** whose new book, *Trifecta – Mentalism, Magic, and Marketing*, is already widely acclaimed in the magic/sleight-of-hand/mentalism performance community. Dick has generously given up-and-coming struggling performers instructions on how to perform sure-fire tricks and ensure a steady stream of bookings. Dick’s generosity spread to explaining how he became interested in the profession of performance magic – and naming names. He lifted part of his first chapter from a piece he posted in our first *Both Sides of the Wall* volume that describes how he and **Bob Clarke** found their way to Southern California during graduation leave. They heard about and tried to “sweet-talk” their way into the Magic Castle – a private key club owned and operated by professional magicians. Apparently, Dick made such a pest of himself trying to get into the place that he and Bob were physically expelled from the entry area. As fate would have it, after Dick and Bob were ejected Barbara and I were walking in. Even though I had a pass into the place (a family connections thing), the receptionist was reluctant to admit Dick and Bob – until we performed our own magic trick – presenting three nearly identical “crass pieces of brass and glass” on the ring fingers of our left hands. Let the magic continue. Thanks for a copy of the book, Dick.

Echols and Cobey's Meet Again

While looking for not political rants on Facebook, I came across a blurb by **Bob Echols** when he and **Jo** hosted **Elwood & Mary-Lou Cobey** at their home in Birmingham, Alabama. These two had been roommates and I can only have pity for their TAC who may still be locked

in a rubber room while these guys still enjoy each other's company and continue to plot overthrows.



[Photo #4 – “Elwood & Mary-Lou Cobey with Jo and Bob Echols in early February”]

Pres & Clem Miller Host Remembrance of Chuck Vehlow

In early February, **Gary & Patty Halstead** visited **Pres & Clem Miller** at their home in Scottsdale, Arizona for some always welcome fellowship. Early on, Pres and Gary joined **Pete Swan** on a local golf course to chase little nubby balls. Later, they were joined by **Chuck Vehlow's** bride, **Kate**, to toast, celebrate, laugh, and cry with so many memories and “war stories” of our heroic and amazing classmate.



[Photo #5 – “Pres Miller, Gary Halstead, and Pete Swan soaking up Arizona sunshine”]

Childers and Lees Meet in Palm Springs, California

Steve & Linda Childers got a chance to meet up with Steve's former roommate, **Gus Lee** and his bride, **Diane**, in Palm Springs, CA. As you know, Gus, who was a former JAGC officer and San Francisco area DA, is also the author of seven books and a guest lecturer. Gus is also recovering nicely from some health issues and is putting the final touches to the screen play version of *China Boy*, his first book. Steve is still loving retirement on a lake in his home state of California and hiking in its mountains.



[Photo #6 – Steve & Linda Childers with Diane & Gus Lee enjoying Palm Springs food and weather”]

Millers go in circles in the West Indies - again.

Jack & Meg Miller were fortunate to plan a vacation to the West Indies just as a series of storms brought 6 days of torrential rain to Alabama, exactly like last year. This trip's mission

was the same as those of the last two years – go where it is warm. And, like last year, they eventually ended up in St. Martin and went "around and around" on a vintage carousel – which might be one of the cheapest things you can do on the island other than hanging out at the end of the runway of the international airport and getting blown into the sea when a passenger jet lands. From the carousel, they made a beeline for a French Bakery close by – but this year it was closed. So, they settled for ice cream back at the carousel. Always the Redleg, Jack reported this year he remembered to bring the recipe for a French 75 and, when they returned to the ship, he went to the bartender he had trained earlier during the cruise and got his French 75 – just the way it was made in Harry's New York Bar in Paris back in the early 1900s. Jack also added that one knows when it is time to try a new trip itinerary when local shore excursion drivers say "Welcome back, Sir John...."



[Photo #7 – “Jack & Meg Miller going in circles and keeping warm in the Caribbean”]

E2 and G2 Transplants Assemble in Naples, Florida

After some grieving and rescheduling, the original E2 gang gathered with their G2 classmates for a mini-reunion in Naples Florida early this year [Note: Since it takes more than a bright light and a rubber hose to get anything out of these guys, I figured out that the event was held during the winter from the blinding whiteness of the golfers' legs]. The occasion was originally scheduled to take place in Colorado Springs last September at **Dan & Patty Winter's** home. However, with Dan's untimely passing and after a lengthy pause, **Skip Greeby** brought up the idea of trying something somewhere else. **Jock Merriam** suggested Florida – specifically, Naples since Skip was familiar with the area (he and **Joan** go there every winter). It was also discovered that **Mike & Donna Wells** spent time there – as did **Rob Broderick**. And a new plan was born. Mike, Donna, and Jock did some legwork and the rest is history with almost everyone attending. It was an extra special gathering because Patty Winter attended. Jock & **Malena** also grabbed an evening with **Ned Doyle** – a hockey player and former classmate who was turned back our cow year and ended up graduating with '69. Jock and Ned were roommates for one semester. Besides fellowship, food, Chardonnay, and golf, one of the guys' golfing buddy – a UNSA '70 grad -- arranged a Coast Guard cutter tour & briefing about the CG Auxiliary.



[Photo #8 – “E2/G2 assembles with brides in Naples: Chick & Carole James, Jock & Malena Merriam, Patty Winter, Kitty & Steve Rogers, Bruce & Susan Sweeney, Ginger Ratcliffe, Al Kimball, Lamar Ratcliffe, Donna Wells, Jane Bachman, Mike Wells, Bill Bachman, Becky & Rob Broderick Harold Timboe, Jim & Donna Lawton, Rich & Nancy Flanagan, Skip & Joan Greeby.



[Photo #9 – “The E2/G2 golfers during the mini reunion: Chick James, Lamar Ratcliffe, Jock Merriam, Skip Greeby, Bill Saltenberger (USNA '70), who led us on a Coast Guard cutter tour & briefed us about the CG Auxiliary), Harold Timboe, Jim Lawton”]

Dick & Kathy Shipley Enjoy South Texas

Upon their return to their home in San Antonio from their compound at Deep Lake, Washington, **Dick & Kathy Shipley** repacked and traveled to south Texas with friends to stock their freezer with doves to enjoy with new world wine from visits throughout California, Oregon, and Washington and the cellars of **Bob & Carol Shimp’s** Mendoza, Argentina winery. Since Kathy has finally retired-retired from flying the friendly skies, she accompanies her hubby on hunting forays.



[Photo #10 – “Dick Shipley checking for land mines”]



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Support Information for George Heckman

You may have noticed that we received word of **George Heckman's** passing by AOG – indicating that friends of George & Julie knew how to get the West Point and interment balls rolling. Within a day after the AOG announcement of George's passing, **Gary Halstead** and I received an email from **Les Krohnfeldt** informing us that George's primary go to classmate is **Paddy O'Keefe** F3 Troopers are going to use the same group effort to prepare George's Memorial Article that they have done for **Rich Russell's**. These guys didn't set to work because we all have plenty of time for admin details due to our current world situation these days, they understand the importance of consoling and making many tasks easy for our classmate's next of kin and that these tasks are not like wine – they do not get better to accomplish with time. Thank you, Troopers.

A Golden Anniversary in Undefined Times



Fifty years ago this month, **Andy Shaffer** was set for R&R in Hawaii to marry his soul mate, Betty. Andy's and **Betty's** parents as well as Betty's very pregnant sister and Andy's often time West Point roommate attended the nuptial celebration at the Fort DeRussy Chapel. A year ago, being the ardent cruisers that they are, Andy & Betty decided to go all out and booked a Viking Mediterranean cruise starting in Milan to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in April of 2020. Surprise surprise. International and domestic flights were cancelled as was the Med cruise that featured Italy. The new destination was set for a favorite B&B in Fredericksburg, Texas. Then more restrictions were imposed. Let's all congratulate the Shaffers as they celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 23rd with a takeout meal from their favorite Italian restaurant.

[Photo #1 – “Betty & Andy Shaffer 50 years ago this month – the magic continues”]

Jim Altemose Offers Praise to Andy Shaffer and Substance to our Legacy Site

Jim Altemose dropped an email to let us know that, during his new-found free time, he was on our class Legacy website and pretty much hit every page in part to see what all is there. He said that it was cool stuff, a worthwhile reference site, and praised Skip Greeby for recommending it and Andy Shaffer for creating it. Clicking through the site, he came to the Very Old Pictures section as well as Cadet Drill where **Stew Beckley's** instructions for the drill are posted. Jim let some grayness seep out by reflecting that he has always loved Cadet Drill – that it was one of the coolest, most impressive things we did as cadets. When you have some time,

check out the site (<http://www.westpointclassof1968.com/>) – maybe you have something to contribute.

Migration – Another Chapter in the Book of Retirement

Like in volleyball, the rotation continues. As reported on our 2/28 Notes posting, **Rick & Ann Wright** picked up stakes from their DC area condo that Rick had spent so much time remodeling and moved to San Antonio. Last month **Mike Kulikowski** reported that he and **Kathie** were moving from San Antonio, TX back to Phoenix, AZ to be closer to family. **Jay & Carol Crenshaw** checked in to report that their former home on the edge of the wilderness near Prescott, Arizona no longer fit their fancy and they moved to Sun City, Oro Valley (next to Tucson) in the middle of a large herd of folks that look like us. They made the move because they both are beginning to experience OLD and AGE. Also, their youngest daughter is only 5 miles away, so they can help her with her six-year-old – George -- for a couple of years, after which George will help their daughter with Jay & Carol...

Tony Ambrose Reports From a Coronavirus Outpost

Just when **Tony & Linda Ambrose** got wheels turning to retire-retire-retire, like all of us, they entered the Twilight Zone. The primary good news is that they, their daughters, sons-in-law, and grandkids are all fine. But, as with most new front-line organizations, South Central Pennsylvania, as well as its Medical Center, was a little late on the draw, kept heads in the sand, and then went bonkers on March's Friday 13th. Lots of adjustments were made – some were wise and some just for show – and all were a royal pain. This new Stephen King novel cast the Ambroses in the midst of selling their Hershey home of 26 years and decamping to an "Old Folks Home" in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. The good news was that the Hershey house "sold" – but settlement has not yet happened. Since Real Estate is not "essential" in Pennsylvania, things are on "pause." So Tony is still doing his 80 percent (plus an extra few hours) medical gig. His crew has divided in two groups: one is exclusively in the hospital; and the other (Tony's) is strictly outpatient. He understands that he's at high risk (a new nice way to be told you're old) and since some things just can't be done with a telephonic consultation for obstetrical problems, he's trying to be careful. Tony & Linda had planned a cruise to the United Kingdom and Ireland for mid-May, but that's not looking so good. Now, he hopes that Pennsylvania Class VI stores will be re-deemed essential and the MarchBack at West Point in August happens. Tony echoes **Dan Kaufman's** comments about all the things which have been trying to put us away since graduation. When he is asked if anything prepared him for the fear of seeing patients during a pandemic, he reflects on a portion of our "class trip" to Southeast Asia in the early 70s – scary situations, but never afraid.

A/D2 Micro Mini Reunion in Florida



Ardent Phillies phans **Terry Wildrick** and **Bill Marriott** ventured to Clearwater, Florida, to watch some Phillies spring training games in early March – just before MLB cancelled all games. The guys were obviously good luck for the Phightin’ Phils as they won three out of the four games that they attended. They got together

with fellow A/D-2ers **Chuck Witschonke** and **Bruce Brown** who live in the area (but are not Phillies phans). The conversations ranged from quite fuzzy memories of cadet days to the many varied and common medical procedures and problems they have all experienced. Bill is not totally sure, but he noted that there might have been at least several repeats of some of the stories.

[Photo #2 – “Just like cadet days – no horses, no wives, and no mustaches: Terry Wildrick, Chuck Witschonke, Bruce Brown, and Bill Marriott reuniting in Florida prior to group gatherings being banned. The photographer was Bill’s son, Tim, the most ardent Phillies phan of all”]

Updates to 2/28/2020 Post

Gordon Tillery dropped an email to update us about **Dave Ohle’s** nomination for the Washington, DC area WPS Castle Award that is presented to a USMA grad who has distinguished himself in exemplifying the ideals of West Point, in either a military or civilian capacity. We are happy to announce that Dave did indeed receive this prestigious award at the DC area Founder’s Day celebration. Congratulations Dave! In Gordon’s post on 2/28, he mentioned that **Jim & Lisa Greenberg** were taking a break after their mission to teach English to students in a small tropical city in Colombia. After that, they traveled to enjoy other parts of



the country – until they got word that Colombia was stopping domestic flights to restrict inter-department (what they call a state or province) movement to slow the spread of the coronavirus. They managed to book a flight to Bogota where they were put in quarantine until the next day when they left on the last flight out of the country.

[Photo #3 – “Lisa & Jim Greenberg in their obligatory mask shot on their way to Dulles”]

“Neighbors” Shipley and Krueger Meet

Dick Shipley reported that a San Antonio neighbor and his wife are ballroom dancers who dance quite often with **Phil & Judy Krueger** who he discovered was a classmate of Dicks. So Dick & **Kathy** went to the Kreuger casa, Dick’s *Howitzer* in tow as Phil’s was destroyed in a flood, to have a beer and check out Phil’s amazing, fantastic collection of old British cars. The Kruegers still maintain a house in New Zealand and usually spend two months a year there – usually our winter and their summer. Phil’s bride, Judy, an ophthalmologist, is still working and spends time every year in Honduras



providing pro bono care. Judy is from Oregon and the Kruegers lived there before moving to San Antonio.

[Photo #4 – “Dick Shipley and Phil Krueger – a couple of “car guys” in Phil’s garage”]

Jim Orahood Scrapes by With One of Two Photos

In early March, **Jim Orahood** sent a photo of him and family members at his birthday celebration back in the days when you could sit with a group in a restaurant. I think he was trying to let me know that he still has his antique camera phone. If you squint, you can see a bearded guy shaped sort of like Jim. A little over a month later, he sent a photo of a photo of his and **Gary & Patti Halstead’s** granddaughter who is graduating from the Air Force Academy whenever their Supe can get the diplomas reprinted... She apparently is not like either Jim or Gary as she graduated in the top 100 of her class – she’s on the Supe’s and Dean’s Lists, is a flight commander, and she got flight school (Helicopters).



The virus meant they graduated early. Since a classmate is not in the picture that he sent of her, it’s the class that loses out because she quite attractive – does not resemble Jim or Gary at all...

[Photo #5 – “Jim & Rene Orahood and family celebrating Jim being on this earth for three quarters of a century”]

Christina Johnson Checks in for Claude

Tina Johnson reports that **Claude’s** D3 chums all are aware of his condition. She is thankful that **Jim Furr** heads our on-line prayer group that enlightened fellow AG classmate,



Glen Hewitt, who stopped by on his way home to Virginia after our 50th reunion. The visit was lovely, and Claude was most gracious. Claude is still gardening. He spends one morning a week (except for winter) at the Montgomery, NY County Arboretum. He has his own overseer as he will do anything. Like all of us, he just needs some direction and reminding. The grounds love him because he actually works. The other “volunteers” are master gardeners earning credits who often think they KNOW a better way to do things.

[Photo #6 – “Claude Johnson with one of his charges and a County Arboretum grounds keeper”]

John & Fran ONeal Get Some Exotic Travel In In Time

John ONeal dropped a very kind email to let us know that, in mid-November, he & **Fran** got back from a trip to Ethiopia and India after 30 hours of travel from Bombay. I say “kind” because John knew my class GPA, and was sure that my primary map resource was still *Goode’s World Atlas* from cadet days, so he actually wrote “Bombay” rather than “Mumbai.” They stayed with the **Rich & Pat Witherspoon** on the way to Ethiopia and spent three weeks in each country. John said that Ethiopia was spectacularly scenic. They were there just after the rainy season – in the north of the country where it seemed like the Grand Canyon with grass and flowers – and baboons. John spent hours with a troop (also known as a congress) of 50 on a plateau overlooking what seemed like the whole earth. The main draw for them in Ethiopia was the old churches – the most famous are those built by King Lalibela in the 12th century which were carved out of the solid stone! There is a distinctive style of Ethiopian frescoes in the



churches, too – very colorful. The Ethiopian prime minister won the Nobel Peace prize while they were there. In India they spent a lot of time near Mysore, a small city in the south. The raja of Mysore (there still is one; he just doesn't have political power) is the 27th of his line, which stretches back almost five centuries. The O'Neals spent several days hiking through tea plantations around Mysore. Tea grows on steep hillsides so a lot of their hiking was like our days at our Alma Matre – uphill! The GOOD food was compensation! The O'Neals particularly enjoy south Indian cuisine. At one point, they stayed at a palace of the raja of Mysore that had been converted to a hotel – they had the queen's suite and

were the only guests. Near there, they saw elephants, a tiger, and a leopard among other animals. It was cool. They also travelled to Egypt last spring so Fran could lecture at the American University in Cairo. John didn't care much for the city – 25 or 30 million make for a lot of traffic – but Luxor and Abu Simbel were fantastic. Since they have started off-setting their carbon footprints when they travel, if he gets so travel to London in July as he plans, it will be with (almost) a clear conscience.



[Photo #7 – John & Fran O'Neal in the western Simian Mountains in the northern Ethiopia”]

[Photo #8 – “Fran & John Oneal sitting in front of a three-story church (St George's in Ethiopia) that was carved out of the rock they were sitting on. It dates from the reign of King Lalibela in the early 13th century”]



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Staying Connected During Interesting Times Via Zoom

Gordon Tillery reported that nine DC area classmates tried a Zoom beer call in late April and it worked great. He's not sure how many folks can be practically included. After returning from Hawaii and during an appropriate social distancing meeting on **John & Margie Hedley's** bow rider, John mentioned that **Ron Warncke** has taken on duties of the A-1 class IT guru and organized a series of Zoom happy hours for the A-1 gang. Further, the DC area classmates have a couple of techies and they have organized area video teleconferences through Zoom with great success. **Henry Riser** (located in Maryland and close to half of his and **Karen's** family) has also organized multi-company/regiment virtual happy hours with **Charlie & Janet Lieb** (located in Florida but trying to find a quick safe way to get back to Wisconsin), **Dick & Kathy Shipley** (located in Texas but trying to find a quick safe way to get back to Washington), and the **Gerards** (just happy to be on the lake in North Carolina but going a little stir crazy) that have been very uplifting. **Tony Ambrose** and **Craig Carson** have petitioned **Dutch Hostler** to find a possible Plebe Marchback participant to set up a virtual Marchback in case that actual August event is scrubbed for grads. Tony's plea is as follows: "To me, it is intrinsically obvious to the casual observer that, things being what they are, in spite of the U.S. of A. not gloriously reopening on Easter Sunday, the chances of there being a real Marchback in August 2020 are slim to none. With that as a hypothesis, it raises the question: What are we to do, those of us who for two decades have been able to find nothing better to do in early August than congregate in the fine dining establishments of Highland Falls, retire to an altogether too-short slumber, arise to join a hundred or more similar zealots, and be introduced to and sweat with some 1,200 new BFFs on their way back to the place which (in my opinion) inspired the Animals' greatest hit (well, maybe after "*House of the Rising Sun*"), "*We Gotta Get Out of This Place*." Craig heartily agreed and fired back: "... I find myself in disarray about my training regimen. While the world is locked down and self-destructing, I am thinking of more important things like - when do I switch to aerobics and leg training? Will there be any Gatoraide left in August? Important things...." **Dave Martin** noted that the AOG website still has the MarchBack listed for 9-10 August. He had arthroscopic knee surgery in early February, but still plans on signing up for the long march - assuming it's a go. Otherwise, he would join any virtual Marchback. He is still healthy and participating in virtual happy hours via Zoom and Google Hangout with family and with friends. He also mentioned that he's planning to attend USMA graduation on 13 June - assuming visitors are allowed - and is wondering if the USMA Alumni Golf Outing scheduled for 11-13 June is going to be cancelled or rescheduled. There is a group of our classmates that attend that outing, and Dave plans to play the Friday round with them - as he has in the past. It's really good to hear about classmates continuing to reach out to each other and plan to gather



[Photo #1 – “A screenshot of Gordon Tillery, Bill Gardepe, Mike Mears, Tom McNaugher, Lee Outlaw, Glen Hewett, Ralph Tuccillo, and Bub Younts using extreme social distancing during happy hour”]

Lockdown Gives Time to Catch Up on Memorial Articles

Kudos to **Greg Camp**, **Gary Halstead**, and **Dale Hansen** for spurring classmates on to take advantage of “free time” created by the current COVID-19 lockdown. They started this COVID blitz on memorial articles with 32 classmates needing a Memorial Article when the lockdown was imposed. One has been completed and accepted by AOG (**Mike Ruiz**) for TAPS 2021. **Dan Ingwersen’s** (killed in a car wreck in December prior to graduation) article was started prior to graduation and submitted to Dan’s family by **Andy Dull**. Dan’s Dad passed away just after we graduated and the article languished in Dan’s Cullum file until **Dale Hansen** found it and passed it along to **Doug McKenna** who coordinated with Andy, and got **Dutch Hostler** to OK it (a duty of our Class President in the absence of next of kin). It is completed and at AOG with an included memorial cover sheet. When Dan’s article is published, you need to read it because Doug and Andy did a masterful job describing the way we all were. A couple more are complete and awaiting family approval. A total of 20 memorials, including that of Mike Ruiz, have been worked on. **Hal Wilhite’s** article was completed by **Rick Rhoades** and a bevy of D-3 classmates and is also at AOG, who is reaching out the family for a couple of small edits. Four more – **Chuck Hawkins** from E-1 (written by Dale Hansen from B-2), **George Heckman** from F-3 (written by **Les Krohnfeldt** and **Pat O’Keefe** from F-3), and **Ray MacDonald** from G-1 (written by **Steve Childers** from G-3), and **Dick Wiedenbeck** from B-4 (written by Jay Johnson from D-4) are newly completed and awaiting family approval. To prove that if you want something done, look for the busiest person in town – **John Hedley** from A-1 was tagged to write **J.J. Clark’s** (from H-1) because John made a Memorial Gift contribution because he noted no one else had. Lots of others are nearing completion. Right now, we still need authors for **Art Ackerman** (A-4 passed on 6/10/2016), **Henry Alward** (E-3/H-3 passed on 9/23/2019), **Paul Crist** (D-1 passed on 2/10/2015), **Ollie Johnson** (E-4 passed on 3/20/2020), **Dick Kent** (B-3 passed on 2/3/2019), **Bob Messel** (G-4 passed on 1/23/2019), **Lee Morand** (F-1 passed on

5/19/2020), **Werner (John) Stolp** (A-3 passed on 4/26.2020), and **John Walsh** (D-1 passed on 5/20/2019). Few Memorial Articles are written by one person – Dale Hansen is a whiz at finding family and next of kin, company mates and team mates, and others who contribute personally and through Testimonial/Eulogies from the AOG and West-Point.org websites, and our Cullum (part of the infamous “permanent”) Files have information also. As you can see, most of the “unaddressed” classmates have passed away recently so friends and family members may still be available for consultation. Rabble, this task is not going away. Contact Greg or Gary to help.

Old Hobbies Stay With Us

During one of **Gordon Tillery’s** check-ins, he forwarded a photo sent to him by **Bob Clarke** of our class band, “The Well Respected Men,” when we were Yearlings. These guys played at our hops from Cullum Hall to the Cadet Gym while more formal venues were under construction to handle Corps expansion. Interestingly, I noted from Facebook that **Larry Rapisarda** has not changed much – except that he has now switched from guitar to keyboard in doing gigs with his current band. Maybe for reunion 55, we can get these guys to reconstitute for a brief jam.”



[Photo #2 – “Pete Bonasso, Bob Lamansky, Bob Clarke, and Larry Rapisarda – The ‘Well Respected Men’ close to the beginning”]



[Photo #3 – “Larry Rapisarda still rockin”]

Tony Dodson Delivers Keynote Address at Highland Falls Memorial Day Event

Tony Dodson delivered the Memorial Day speech at Highland Falls this year. It may be found on U-Tube at HF Virtual Memorial Day Ceremony 2020 with some patience. Sound is lousy but understandable enough to drive home some good points. Tony tried to lay out some of the reasons America really is special – for those under 40 who have may not have been exposed to actual American history, much less the Constitution.

Martin & Barbara Bowling Took in a Little Different Spring Training

Bill Marriott's earlier report on he and **Terry Wildrick** traveling to watch some of the Phillies Spring Training sparked **Martin Bowling** to send in a piece on his and **Barbara's** trip over to their local Punta Gorda, Florida ball park to watch Army beat Iowa during Army's baseball Spring Training in early March. They also sent a photo with them and Kevin Dubrule ('23), the starting shortstop on the Army baseball team and one of their leading hitters. As an Admissions Field Force Officer, in Florida, Martin helped Kevin through the admission and nomination process. Kevin was committed to going to West Point, and being all-state and captaining his team to two state championships, he could have gone to any top NCAA D-1 school. Kevin also graduated from high school by spending his last two year at a local college earning an Associate of Arts degree.



[Photo #4 – “Barbara & Martin Bowling flanking Kevin Dubrule ('23) at an Army spring training game in Florida”]

They Said That We'd Laugh About This in Another 40 or 50 Years

Within about a week span, I received emails from **Dave Martin** and **Walt Curl** urging me to share a website article about Ranger school. Dave got the article from his daughter, who asked if any of it sounded familiar. He told her, just about all of it. It's long, but interesting, and it reminded Dave of when our class went through the school – eerily familiar. Dave admits that what got him through Ranger School was the camaraderie of doing it with classmates. After graduation (being both bald and gaunt) he got in his blue '68 Corvette convertible and drove up to Pearl River, NY (30 miles south of The Rock) for some R&R and lots of food with **Suzanne's** family. Now, almost 52 years later, he further admits that he's bald again, but admits to hardly being gaunt, and Suzanne is still with him. Walt commented that the article captures the fact that Ranger school still sucks, but it's a great way to spend nine weeks in the outdoors seeing the sights of the Southern mountains and swamps. During a late April DC area classmate

teleconference, **Bob Hensler** spoke about the article: Extraordinarily accurate and detailed article about one of the seminal experiences in our lives... CAUTION: Recommend you not read it late in the evening. I did, and a latent attack of PTSD hit me – couldn't get relaxed after reading it and had to take a couple Melatonin - no [kidding]!" The site is at <https://www.outsideonline.com/2411895/army-ranger-school>. Give it a try when you take a break from writing Memorial Articles.

John & Margie Hedley Make the Most of the Cancelled Southeast Asia Cruise

It was unfortunate that **John & Margie Hedley** had to cancel the class Southeast Asia cruise this spring, but since they planned to spend some time in Hawaii prior to taking the cruise, they decided to soldier on at least that far. Mai-tais at the Sunset Bar at the Hale Koa Hotel is a tradition that never gets old or boring for them, and spending some time with **Dutch & Megan Hostler** is always a stimulating treat. John & Margie bought a time-share on Maui back in the days they were living in Japan so they could have some tropical time when required to leave japan once a year – and the condo continues to serve them well.



[Photo #5 – “Margie & John Hedley surviving at the Sunset Bar on Waikiki”]



[Photo #6 – “When there's not scotch when with John & Margie Hedley gather with Megan & Dutch Hostler, there's rum”]

And Further More -- Jay & Carol Crenshaw From 4/17

To prove they still live in Arizona – only away from the high country of the Grand Canyon toward the desert – **Jay Crenshaw** forwarded a photo of himself and **Carol** by the saguaro cactus near their new home outside of Tucson.



[Photo #7]

Joe & Carla Henry Sneak in a Visit to Ron Kendal in Australia

Before **John & Francis Dallen** and **Brian & Karen McKenna** had flown to Australia to begin a cancelled Southeast Asia cruise, **Joe & Carla Henry** were already on a cruise that terminated in Sydney. They had a chance to visit **Ron Kendall**, in Narrabeen, Australia, which is just north of Sydney on the ocean. Joe and Ron had planned this visit for about six months. The Henrys' cruise ship, the Viking Orion, had scheduled a day in Sydney, but due to weather, arrived on their disembarkation day. Joe & Carla took a cab from the ship to the Manly Ferry and Ron picked them up in Manly. Ron took the Henrys on tour of the Manly beach area and the town prior to taking them back to his apartment so they could unpack prior to going out for lunch. After lunch, they ventured to the Narrabeen beach and then back to Ron's place for a home-cooked meal. Joe and Ron talked for a long time about their days in Vietnam, including flying on the same plane from Travis AFB, in processing with the 1st Cav, and their R&Rs in Australia. They compared notes about their Field Artillery FO and FDO days. Ron's tour consisted of nine months in the field as an FO and three months as an FDO. They agreed on feeling lucky to have survived. On the following day, Ron was continued his tour guide duties in Sydney. They walked around the Opera House, Botanical Gardens, Circular Quay, a huge food court for lunch, and The Rocks area. Then back home for more Kendall cuisine. The next day, Ron took the Henrys to the airport so Joe & Carla could continue the Australian portion of their adventure to Brisbane.



[Photo #8 – “Ron Kendall and Joe Henry last February in Manly, Australia”]

Tillery Clan Reports on (relatively) Recent Cruise

Gordon Tillery took pity on my lack of recent news by happily (but somewhat tardily) reporting on his and **Elsie's** family Caribbean cruise during Christmas week, 2019. The occasion was Gordon's & Elsie's 50th wedding anniversary (which actually was in January 2020). They wanted the celebration to include their entire family so they traveled during Christmas vacation. They completed the cruise (Princess Regal) prior to any sign of virus appeared on cruise ships – really good timing – a week or so later could have seen a different outcome.



[Photo #9 – “Back Row (L-R): daughter Megan, son-in-law Matt, daughter Allison, granddaughter Natalie, grandson Matt, son-in-law Jeff; Front Row (L-R): grandson Luke, Elsie & Gordon Tillery, and daughter Stephanie during Gordie’s and Elsie’s 50th wedding anniversary celebration in the Caribbean last Christmas”]



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John Cruden Elected to American Bar Association's Board of Governors

Gordon Tillery just put out a blast to the DC area class members that, on August 4, **John Cruden** racked up another accolade by being elected to the American Bar Association's Board of Governors. When nominated by the class as a Distinguished Graduate, **Dutch Hostler** noted that, "John is widely regarded as the most accomplished environmental lawyer in the United States. This remarkably talented and dedicated soldier and citizen is esteemed for a lifetime of exceptional military and public leadership and service, resolving some of the most complex, contentious legal issues of our times. John Cruden is the epitome of excellence and service in his devotion to protecting and defending Americans, their environment, and the rule of law." John has served as Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice (DOJ). While at DOJ, John led the settlement negotiations for the BP/Deepwater Horizon and Volkswagen litigation. As reported earlier, he received the highest federal government award - the prestigious Presidential Rank Award - from THREE different Presidents (Clinton, G.W. Bush, and Obama). He has successfully served on the Board of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and as a member of the Judicial Conference of the DC Circuit's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services. In recognition of his advocacy for the disadvantaged, the Federal DC Court of Appeals annual award for pro bono excellence is now named the "John C. Cruden Award." Last year, several classmates and their brides were with John & **Sharon** when the West Point Society of DC presented John their "Distinguished Member" award.

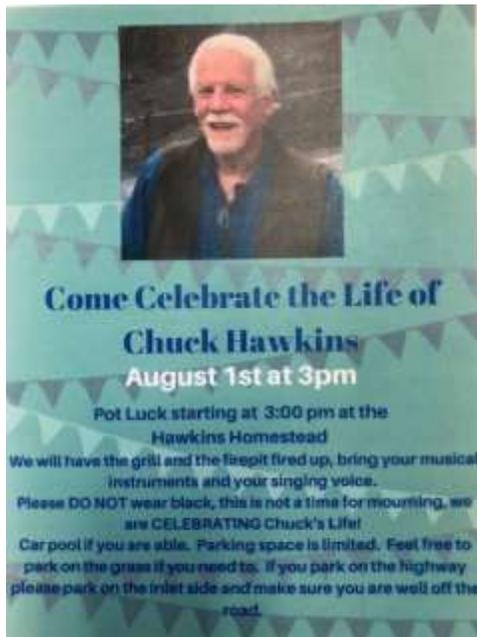


[Photo #0 – “John Cruden newest member of the 43 member ABA Board of Governors”]

Chuck Hawkins' Brother Plans First & Second Annual Celebration of Life

For those of you who missed the announcement in **Chuck Hawkins'** obituary in *The Peninsula Clarion* (“the only comprehensive source of news and information for Alaska's central Kenai

Peninsula”), when his October 19, 2019 Memorial Service was announced, so was a Celebration of Life scheduled for August 1, 2020. Fortunately, a week prior to the Celebration of Life, Chuck’s predecessor as commander, Alpha Company of 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, in Republic of Vietnam notified Dutch Hostler to invite any and all classmates to the August 1 celebration. To clarify the location of the “Hawkins Homestead,” I received the following directions: “...fly into Anchorage and then drive south about 120 miles to the town of Ninicchik. Once there, it should be apparent or call his brother.” Unfortunately, as a sign of our times, Alaska changed its entry rules, and all arrivals must have documented negative COVID-19 test results or possibly face a 14 day quarantine upon arrival. With the backlog to get tested, all who planned to attend the event can only look forward to next year – same date and same place. For more information, contact Chuck’s brother, Dick. If you have any questions contact his brother Dick at maritimedick@yahoo.com or call at 907-250-0611.



[Photo #1 – “Chuck Hawkins’ Celebration of Life invitation for this year and next”]

Tom Margrave Loses His Marianne

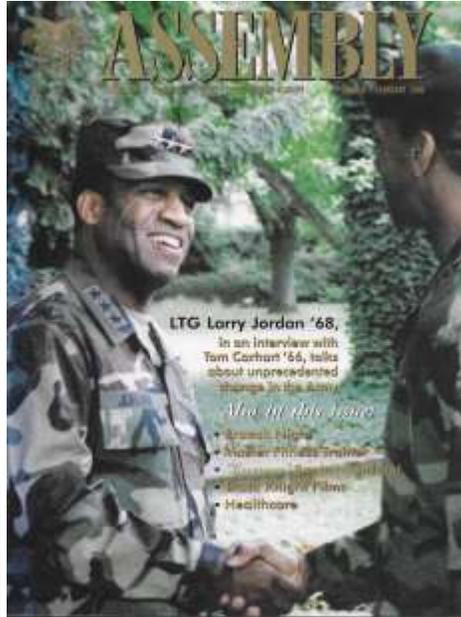
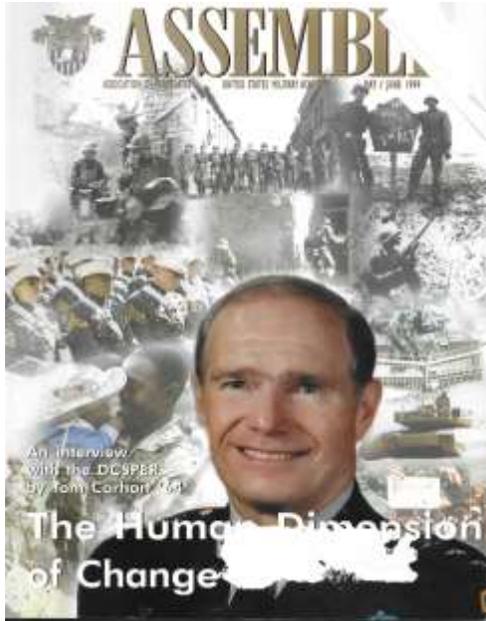
Last month, **Tom Margrave** reported that **Marianne** fell while shooing a pet away from their peach trees. As she fell, she hit the side of a neighbor’s garage and broke off the ball that goes into the shoulder socket. Surgery was delayed until the shoulder expert could get back from vacation and Tom kept her as comfortable as he could. Marianne underwent surgery and Tom helped keep her pain free for a week. On the morning of July 28, Tom went to see what she wanted for breakfast and found her collapsed in the bathroom looking as if she had fallen asleep. She had passed away. Tom had been the comforter, and now he needs to be open to the comfort others are offering. They had been married for 45 years, and Tom urges us all to be glad for the time they had together and treasure the time we all have with each other. She now resides in the heavenly dwelling places with the other saints in light. Tom can be reached at 29 William St, Cortland, NY 13045-3036.

A New Way to Talk to & Hear From Classmates About Different Subjects

For about the third time, **Megan Hostler** has sought the help of West-Point.org to set up a Chat Room for the class where we could have the ability to easily communicate with each other, stay in touch, discuss matters of concern or common interest and in general, just be a venue for whatever conversations we wish to have. **Jerry Hansen** recommended restoring classic cars, helping special needs grandkids, etc. However, within about 10 minutes, the discussion topic centered on a subject that grumpy old guys have spent way too much time on while social distancing to the point of alienation... There was more civil discourse and cooperation in the close combat pit – but not as much fun as a food fight football rally in the Mess Hall. **Henry Riser** dropped an email to express his concern that our 55th reunion would be limited to “by invitation only.” If you opted out about that time, you missed the making up and group hug orchestrated by classmates like **Tim Carpenter**, **John Hedley**, **Kim Henningsen**, **Ed Mendoza**, and **Ray Puffer**, while the folks who had focused on vitriol seem to have returned to name calling on Facebook.

Dale Hansen and Andy Shaffer Provide the Class with Extra Reading

As mentioned in a separate email that I sent to the class in search of a Gray Hog hoarder that might have January and March 2001 *ASSEMBLY* issues, **Dale Hansen** has compiled every set of our Class Notes from **Dave Carraway**'s initial submission in early 1969 to the present. Immediately after graduation, nobody wrote in since our addresses were either constantly changing or non-existent due to weddings (in various capacities) and initial schooling and assignments. **Andy Shaffer** opted to share all these Notes with the class immediately. To view them, go to <http://www.westpointclassof1968.com/>, click on “Newsletters” at the top of the page and then click on “Old Newsletters 1968 through 2019. At that point, Andy has divided up our Notes in pdf files. Enjoy. Besides reminiscing, this could be a great tool for Memorial Articles. While we were compiling Notes, I once again noticed that **Dave Ohle** and **Larry Jordan** had graced the covers of two *ASSEMBLY* issues. When I mentioned the pictures to Dave during one of **Gordon Tillery**'s DC Area Zoom calls, he reminisced that there was a time when '68 ran the Army – it was a time when nomenclature and rank had changed from four star Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Intelligence, Operations, and Logistics to three star G1 (Ohle), G2, G3 (Burnette), and G4 (Mahan) plus the IG of the Army (Jordan). The trick was not to let the Chief of Staff of the Army catch on... During a further lull in the lockdown/quarantine, Dale Hansen hunkered down and traced the company that each classmate was in during our four years as cadets. Since ours was the first class to experience company splits due to expansion, and each regiment split and expanded in a different manner, this was a very laborious task. This piece of information will also be useful in compiling Memorial Article information. For your perusal and us, Andy Shaffer has filed this information on the <http://www.westpointclassof1968.com/> website at About Us (at the top of the page) and Class Companies. Dale's next project has to do with *Bugle Notes*; however, since he lost his copy sometime in the past he's looking for a classmate who would be willing to part with his copy. If you are willing, please contact me. In the meantime, pop 'em up Dale and Andy.



[Photos #2 & #3 –

“LTGs Ohle and Jordan gracing the covers of ASSEMBLYs”]

Classmates Discover that Wind and Water Help With Social Distancing

Two classmate sailors report that sailing helps ease the stress of isolation brought about by a pandemic. **Jim Greenberg** grabbed **Henry Riser** to help him crew his sailboat on the Chesapeake Bay while **Tay & Becky Yoshitani** strike out on their own to maintain social distancing in the Puget Sound whenever they can.



[Photo #4 – “Jim Greenberg prepares for greater sailing adventures beyond the Chesapeake Bay”]



[Photo # 5 – “Tay Yoshitani hones his sailing skills in Puget Sound so he and Becky can invite others aboard when the time is right”]

Millers & Mulveys Celebrate 50 Golden Years

Congratulations to **Pres & Clem Miller** and **Bill & Suzie Mulvey** for getting to celebrate their Golden wedding anniversaries while on lockdown. From the looks of previous photos and reports over the years, you four know how to celebrate and it appears that you do it very well together.



[Photo #6 – Clem & Pres Miller on day one”]



[Photo 7 – Suzie & Bill Mulvey on day one”]

Millers & Mulveys Show That They Can Restrain Themselves



[Photo #8 – “Look what Pres can still wear”]



[Photo #9 – “Someday, Bill & Suzie will look back on this and show a smile”]

Meinshausens Celebrate 52nd Wedding Anniversary

While trudging through Facebook to find something classmate related that also had nothing to do with politics, I came across this gem of **Ann Marie & Walt Meinshausen** taken 52 years ago – before they became a Kentucky population explosion. Figuring the photo speaks for itself, and being a man of few words, when I asked Walt what anniversary they were celebrating, his answer was 52 with no embellishment like date or place. If I have overlooked any classmate wedding pictures, please set me straight.



[Photo #10 – “Anne Marie & Walt Meinshausen 52 years ago last July”]

Tom Vollrath Chronicles ‘68’s Corvette Journey

Joe Henry forwarded a copy of the Summer 2020 issue of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the National Corvette Restorers Society Newsletter containing an article by **Tom Vollrath** about our class purchasing 150 Corvettes during our Firstie year. It is well researched and documented with photos, A&C Chevrolet Order forms and vehicle registers loaded with familiar names. Look for the article at our Legacy site. I believe that Joe is our only classmate who still has his Corvette. Tom’s passion for Corvettes has never waned. Tom & **Sheryl** currently have a 1963 Split Window Coupe and a yellow C7 sitting in the garage, and they are seriously contemplating adding a C8.



[Photo #11 – “Sheryl & Tom Vollrath at home in Virginia”]

More Sad News Within TJ Nolan’s Family

Ralph Tuccillo reported that, while working on **TJ Nolan’s** Memorial Article, he discovered that TJ’s family recently went through another terribly tragic accident. Ralph has worked closely with TJ’s three siblings – Mary (Sek), his older sister; and Dan and John (TJ’s two brothers). They are all wonderful people and Ralph had developed a close relationship with them during the information gathering process. On June 21st, Mary’s daughter and son-in-law were killed when a truck driver lost control of his truck, crossed over the median, and hit them head on while they were riding on a motorcycle. TJ’s sister, Mary, has also lost a granddaughter from another tragic event in 2012. The pain and sorrow the family has endured to have lost a brother Tommy (TJ), a granddaughter, and now her daughter Mary and son-in-law is unimaginable. If you would like to send TJ’s sister a sympathy or Mass card, she can be contacted at: Mary and Stanley Sek, 2032 Huntington Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Continuing a Lifetime of Service

A few months back when the word about stimulus checks started to circulate, **Rick Rhoades** posted the following: “Most if not all of us where I live lead a very comfortable retired life. I was floored when I opened my checking account to pay bills to see that **Mary** and I were recipients of a ‘relief payment’”it is appalling to me to receive money when there are unemployed people standing in long food lines. I suggest any of us who see this as an unneeded windfall donate our [“payments”] to a local food bank or other worthy cause.” In various fora, classmates have voiced and taken to heart various causes – especially dealing with veterans. **Terry Wildrick** wrote to let us know that **Dutch & Megan Hostler** were featured a recent Wake Forest alumni magazine regarding their participation in Nine Line Foundation – a small organization that has no overhead - no salaries, no brick & mortar, everyone involved covers their own expenses - so every penny contributed supports the cause of helping wounded veterans. Megan previously served on the boards of Operation Support Our Troops and Help Our Military Hero’s. Dutch was quick to offer that a sizable number of classmates are involved in charitable organizations supporting wounded veterans. **Rand Allen** recently posted regarding his service on the board of the Wounded Veterans Relief Fund in Florida. **John Hedley** continues to play a key role in Welcome Home Veterans in North Carolina. **John Wing** established Operation Grateful Nation. **Bill Marriott** plugged The Code of Support Foundation, founded by Alan Salisbury (’58), as a veteran/family support foundation. In addition to direct

support to veterans and their families, they also developed and maintain a database of veterans support organizations throughout the country, links to services provided by the VA and DoD, self-help guides for veterans to help them obtain benefits, and other tools used by government and non-governmental veteran support organizations. If someone is looking for a "link that will answer a need," that is an excellent place to begin the search. The COSF homepage is <https://www.codeofsupport.org/> and the database is <https://patriotlink.org/>. If you are involved, or know of a classmate or spouse involved in a wounded veterans charity, please consider sharing that info. Perhaps the involvement awareness and contact linkage among our classmate network might provide the link that will lead to answering a need.



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Dennis Rosenberry Gets Spruced UP

While many of us are passing time in clothes with draw-strings, **Dennis Rosenberry** decided to get dressed up. The last we heard, he was the Fiscal Planning Manager for the San Antonio Police Department. The photo may be a way to show the folks associated with the Police Dept. what a successful Manager looks like.



[Photo #1 – “Dennis Rosenberry”]

Walt & Kay Curl Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary in August

This August, **Walt Curl** announced that he and **Kay** were celebrating 50 years of marriage at their home around Asheville, North Carolina. By his count, that includes 17 houses, 9 cities, 3 grandchildren, 2 war deployments, way too many boats, and a whole lot of adventures.



[Photo #2 -- “Kay & Walt Curl 50 years ago”]



[Photo #3 -- “Kay & Walt today around Biltmore Lake, NC”]

Pres Miller Gives Overview of This Year’s Marchback

Not to break with decades of tradition, **Tony Ambrose, Craig Carson, Dale Hansen, Dutch Hostler, Dave Martin, and Pres Miller** represented the class in a virtual march back with the Class of 2024. Although Pres drew the short straw to deliver an AAR, he came through in usual complete and attention-grabbing style. Initially, nine classmates registered by shelling out \$150 to AOG, who provided a shirt, hat, pin, coin, and lanyard with our name tag (just in case the registered geezers forgot who they were). Everybody got his gear – except for Dutch who did not get the coin (Pres opined that Dutch was short-changed). The smart people did not register – they just dug out older West Point gear and marched for free. Most agreed that the new “virtual” version was lonely for most but offered new opportunities for all. The six classmates named planned extensively via Zoom and cocktails. It took about two hours total and resulted in lots of prior march remanences and a motivational Zoom video for the Class of 2014 put together thanks to the tech savviness of our classmate marchers – get a large cup of coffee and go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPbKd0DNJV8&t=105s>. True to form, AOG sent lots of instructions, follow-up instructions, and follow-up corrections. Basically virtual marchers had to walk nine miles (yeah, I know – it used to be longer) over 3 days from August 7 through 10 (Dave immediately pointed out that’s four days), and over different terrain. Due to local Covid-19 restrictions, Dutch, in Aloha Land, and Tony, somewhere in eastern Pennsylvania, had to stay within the confines of their communities, meaning there were some “repeats” or laps. Dutch marched in tropical beauty and humidity with some occasional downpours, while Tony got to recon and get the lay of the land in his and Linda’s new senior living community. In Arizona, Pres marched with new neighbor **Doug McKenna** and six other grads from the 70s, 80s, and 2010. Like **Dave Ohle**, Doug was supposed to be marching with his grandson, Class of '24 and it was also Doug’s 72nd birthday. Pres did some quick math: since Doug’s grandson is a fourth generation to attend West point, 72 years old divided by 4 (number of generations) is 18 – the age of Doug’s grandson. If that’s not gray enough the father of Doug’s bride, Susan, was Class of '45. Doug is '68. Doug’s & Susan's youngest daughter, is Class of '01. Their son-in-law is Class of '92, and the grandson is now Class of '24.



[Photo #4 -- “Dutch Hostler virtual marching over his farmstead on Oahu”]



[Photo #5 -- “Pres Miller and Doug McKenna at the end of overachieving the virtual march back in dry heat in Arizona”]

Other Virtual Marchback Adventures

Dave Martin used a couple of days to accomplish his version of the virtual Marchback in New Jersey, and occasionally got a little wet. In preparation for the Marchback, **Craig Carson** marched in Indiana and found himself in disarray about his training regimen. While the world is locked down and self-destructing, he thought of more important things like when do I switch to aerobics and leg training and will there be any Gatoraide left in August? Another hive, **Dale Hansen**, a recent nominee to become an Advisor-at-Large to the AOG Board of Directors, marched in New York City’s Riverside Park, so he could go out only in daylight hours. He marched for two days and covered 9.3 miles, so he had 10ths to spare! Traditionally, on the day of the Marchback, all the classmate marchers would meet 6 pm, in Newburgh, along the Hudson to partake of celebratory food and drinks, so the guys continued the tradition via Zoom, which made it 3 pm in Arizona and noon in Hawaii. Of course nobody complained about drinking early in the day – a Covid perk... There were new stories, old stories, and a 30 minute monologue by Craig, who Pres noted didn’t need to breathe while talking. As he sipped his martini and listened, he had to admit that it was entertaining. Pres also noted that, given the circumstances, everyone had a lot of fun and celebrated the fact that classmates – 52 years removed from West Point, can relax and feel like it was just yesterday.



[Photo #6 -- “Craig Carson setting out on his portion of the virtual Marchback”]



[Photo #7 -- "Dale Hansen after traversing an urban hill in Riverside Park, NYC during his portion of the virtual Marchback"]

Neil & Diane Lark Playing it Safe Close to Home

During the lockdown, **Neil & Diane Lark** are setting the example in their community and around their family regarding how to keep safe. Early on, their church organized a drive-by to wave and ensure congregation members were faring well. The drivers took a great video of Neil & Diane but I couldn't figure out how to get one photo out of it. In the meantime, they are safe and an inspiration to the community.



[Photo #8 -- "Neil & Diane Lark enjoying some South Carolina Low Country Views while being socially distant"]

Everyone Touring the US and Canada, Stet Forward – Not So Fast, Lorbeers

Bob Lorbeer had planned that this year was to have been another "travel all over the US, and Canada" for himself and his bride, Belinda Gail, with her gigs and his judging. Every one of Belinda's gigs has been canceled, except for one coming up in December, and they think that one will be canceled as well. Belinda had several concerts on Facebook; Sunday gospel concerts and Wednesday Western music concerts that were well received and attended. As you may know, Bob has stepped away from the law business for humans and the only thing that sounds legal about him is that he now judges horse shows. He has done it for years – judging all over the US -- and every one of his horse shows has been canceled. Both Bob & Belinda sit on the Board of Directors for the International Western Music Association, and this year Bob was elected President. The IWMA Board generally has face-to-face meetings, but with the exception of a meeting in early January, all other meetings have been via telephone and Zoom. This has been a

year of staying at their Texas home where the most excitement they have had is their mini-Australian shepherd having puppies.



[Photo #9 – “Bob & Belinda Lorbeer with their mini-Australian excitement bringer”]

Al Vitters Gets Away From it All by Getting Outside

Whenever **Al Vitters** needs to take a break from being a locked down shut in, he hits his favorite trail overlooking the Long Island Sound. During the height of the pandemic hype in April, he found a tulip on his route to brighten up his day...



[Photo #10 -- “Al Vitters enjoying spring on Long Island”]

Childresses Are Staying Active

Steve & Linda Childress have been "travelling" extensively during the pandemic and highly recommended their new travel agent. Some of the places that they have visited include: Machu Pichu, Ecuador, Peru, Philippines, Tunisia, river cruises from Amsterdam to Budapest and Switzerland (also took a train through the Alps) as well as up the Mississippi, Snake & Columbia rivers, Switzerland by train, Prague, The Louvre, Kyoto, Kisa Trail, Belarus, hiking the Himalayas, New Zealand, Gibraltar, Spain, Morocco, and cruising Greece & Mediterranean,

plus the "Magical Andes" [Andes Magico]. The cost and travel arrangements for this "travel" is minimal – no planes, trains or boats to catch; no sea/air sickness; no foreign disease exposure; cheap beer and wine whenever you want; complimentary tour guides; no bad weather; no packing; and no need for travel insurance because you can just turn off YouTube, Netflix, or the Smithsonian Channel, and come home. While “home,” Steve has backed up and digitized his old photo albums and VCR tapes, written and submitted his future Memorial Article to WPAOG, updated his genealogy on the free familysearch.org website, and learned that Take Out and outside dining are good alternatives to sit down restaurants – but he really does miss the buffets...



[Phot #11 -- Linda & Steve Childress enjoying their all-inclusive meal and wine at their lake-side villa in Mission Viejo, California”]



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Class Chat Room Finds its Stride and Produces an Idea

Once a few slow learning classmates finally came to grips with the fact that a majority of the class was more interested in substantive conversations about meaningful subjects in our class chat room that Megan Hostler set up for us, the tool helped foster some entertaining and telling dialog. The first subject was raised by **Jim Furr** who informed us that he had been asked by a local Tulsa organization to describe what our class went through upon returning from our Class Trip to Southeast Asia, and requested that we share our experiences. The responses were not only interesting and thought-provoking but elicited more discussion points. One branch sprouted from the fact that, while we may not have either noticed or experienced any adverse reaction during our one or two days of travel home to our loved ones in the land of the Big PX, possibly our brides did have noteworthy experiences during the year or so while they were waiting for our return. That point resonated with Jim's bride, **Ginny**, and **Tony Ambrose's** bride, **Linda**. Further discussion led to the fact that, while traveling along our life's road together, our brides had a valuable perspective of our journey that is most worthy of mention. Therefore, Tony has proposed an addition to the Class publications bookshelf: a collection of reflections authored by the wives of USMA '68. **Andy Shaffer** discussed the idea with his bride, **Betty**, who was instrumental in Andy's successful compilation and editing of our *Both Sides of the Wall, Vol III*, and he agreed to collaboratively lead the project. **Dutch Hostler** has already sent out drafts that Andy created that describes the project, topic ideas and guidance for submissions. This is a project that all of our life partners – regardless of span of marriage – can meaningfully contribute to. The proposed book would be an anthology collection of reflections from the wives of the Class of '68 and would be targeted for availability and distribution at our 55th Class reunion. Any questions, comments or suggestions that you or your bride may have can be addressed to Andy at <oldgrad68@swbell.com> or Tony at <ambrose1968@gmail.com>

Jack & Meg Miller Celebrate a 35th Anniversary –

In early October, **Jack & Meg Miller** celebrated their 35th Anniversary of "hitting the beach" in Seaside, Florida since settling in Huntsville, AL in the 1980s. Both of them spent their youthful summers on the beach in Seaside Park, NJ, so when they settled in Huntsville years later they needed a new place to go for their annual beach sojourn. They headed South until they found Seaside on the Gulf of Mexico. Jack noted that the town back in the mid-80s was just developing, but now is 100% complete (i.e., no more vacant lots). They had hoped to dine for the 300th time (but who's counting) in the local Bud and Alley's restaurant; however, because of the pandemic, they instead enjoyed a B&A take-out meal in their rental cottage. Jack said it was great to get away and enjoy the water and sunshine. On their last day in Seaside, they were also able to enjoy AAA (Army, Alabama, and Auburn) football victories. Now back in Alabama, they are planning their next ocean cruise when the industry opens up again.



[Photo #1 – “Jack & Meg Miller at the Seaside for (at least) the 35th time”]

Merriams Quarantine in Small Car From Florida Home to Grand Titons

We may never know why, but **Jock Merriam** convinced his bride, **Malena** that it was time to get out of Dodge and “dodge” some hurricanes and a virus while at it....and maybe drive to see the Grand Tetons. “What the heck” said Malena, and off they went last month. Somehow the route had them launching from their daughter’s place which meant a small detour to the upper east coast with short infrequent stops to visit Jock’s family. Their last (pre-COVID-19) trip was in February to Park City to ski with friends. They left after a few days and drove to Moab, Utah which they had never been to. Jock had been to lots of other places out west – including hiking to the Colorado River from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon with **Jimbo Lawton** as they were trying to set in shape for Ranger school. Jock and Jimbo had done Pikes Peak a week earlier. While on the February trip, Jock & Malena also visited Arches National Monument and Malena says it was her favorite of all they had visited. They then headed east so Jock could take Malena through Colorado Monument just outside of Grand Junction. Jock had ridden there on one of his Colorado bike rides he did some years ago and wanted her to see it. So, this time, they visited places they had never been before. They are still in awe of this magnificent land we all love and understand better than ever what the early inhabitants and subsequent generations had to do to make a life in the west – only Jock & Malena took full advantage of great places to eat, clean and comfortable hotels, off the beaten path sights and attractions, and plenty of Starbucks coffee. In all, they took 19 days to drive 6730 miles through 18 states, and log more than 2,000 hours of butt time in a small car while engaging in good conversation.



[Photo #2 – “Malena & Jock Merriam visiting the Grand Tetons on Wyoming”]

Risers Carefully Venture out to Visit Family

After weeks of appropriate quarantining, **Henry & Karen Riser** dropped by on their way up to the Blue Ridge Mountains for a visit with Karen's sister and Henry's siblings and spouses. Just to make sure that we were properly sterilized, we ate in, did not venture out, distanced on the porch and dock, and cleaned ourselves – inside and out – with appropriate alcohol-related substances – as substantiated by thank you notes from a couple of Scottish distilleries. Henry reports that he is far more mobile than before his knee replacement surgery last winter, but while it hasn't helped his golf much, it has helped his strength and endurance for his Rotary projects and duties.



[Photo #3 – “Karen & Henry Riser and my bride”
on a sunny day at Lake Norman, NC”

Stott Carlton Pays Tribute To Don Workman

A favorite topic of conversation whenever we get together with the Risers is Henry's company mate, **Stott Carlton** and his bride, **Bobbie**, the fun we had when Stott & Bobbie lived in Annapolis, and how lucky I am to still be alive after the bogus trick I thought was funny – and I was wrong... During the last month or so, a photo and a print journalist from the Edgecomb, Maine area have taken notice of Stott. Since we have been shut down due to the pandemic, Stott and his Labrador pal, Skip, on weekdays from 4 to 5 p.m., have been carrying an American flag across the Sheepscot River from Edgecomb to Wiscasset and back, via the Donald E. Davey Bridge. Stott told the journalists that, “We walk to honor the countless soldiers who have given all so we can be free and the tireless workers keeping us going during these trying times. We carry our precious flag to remind us all that we live in the greatest country in the world.” Stott says that he thinks every day about his best friend **Donald Workman**, who died the last day of their tours serving in Vietnam. Both were excited to get home, Stott to meet his son for the first time; and Donny to marry his fiancée. The classmates and best friends sat together on the plane to Vietnam in 1969 and were assigned to different units as infantry platoon leaders. Stott reflected, “We kept in touch while there by letters ... He was killed on our last day there. He flew home in a box in the back of the plane.” Stott, Skip, and the flag, which was harnessed to Stott via the flag's pole, got many peeps, thumbs up and waves. Some drivers with their windows down cheered. Stott also said that, “When people honk, wave and smile, I'm reminded of this the most: America is truly worth fighting and almost dying for, I know,” Stott smiles the whole time he and his Skip walk, whether he's talking, waving, or returning a thumbs up.



[Photo #4 – “Stott Carlton and his buddy Skip walk across the a bridge over Sheepscot River from Edgecomb to Wiscasset to remind drivers what a great country we live in and that great veterans have died for it”]

Robersons Get the Grandchild Call – Gerards Get Barbecue

Whenever **Gary & Cookie Roberson** get the call to go visit their two grandkids in the North Carolina Research Triangle, the Gerards start angling to meet for lunch in a “neutral” area, like Lexington, North Carolina on the Roberson’s route to or from “The Triangle.” Lexington’s county is rural and somewhat safe from the Coronavirus; however the world famous barbecue, variety of hush puppies, red slaw, and homemade ice cream can play havoc on an inactive body. It’s always fun to catch up with Gary & Cookie regarding their family in Hawaii, Gary’s scouting and Rotary activities, and life in the big city of Pittsburgh with their contending sports teams. This trip, we fell into violent agreement over the purchase of present day cars and all their bells and whistles. While it’s easy to fall asleep reading the 2,000 page owner’s manual, the beeps, tweets, chirps, honks, and sirens along with automatic steering and breaking are good at keeping the driver and passenger awake.



[Photo #5 – “Cookie & Gary Roberson with my Barbara after barbecue and continuing laughs”]

Fred Johnson Finds a Way to Get His Sons Together

While combing through Facebook for non-political and non-offensive posts, I found that **Fred Johnson** got his guys together on Monday, September 28 for a little celebrating of National Son's Day at an undisclosed location that contained sunshine, warmth, and water – and no doubt a beverage or two...



[Photo #6 – Fred Johnson flanked by sons Rob, Jake, Pat, and Andy on National Son's Day”]

Jim & Diana Jennings Host Hal Wilhite's Family

In late September, **Jim & Diana Jennings** welcomed **Zehlia Wilhite** and sons Paul and Alex to their home in Southern California. The Wilhite family left their home in Berkeley to find cleaner air during the recent California wildfires. Kahena, **Hal's** & Zehlia's youngest, was away at college and couldn't make the trip. To everyone's delight, Kahena announced via FaceTime that she plans to be a candidate to enter USMA next fall. As a special dinner treat and tribute to their dad, Paul and Alex cooked Hal's famous enchilada recipe for dinner.



[Photo #7 -- “At a typical Southern California table: Alex and Zehlia Wilhite, Jim Jennings, Paul Wilhite and Diana Jennings”]

Classmates Sneak out for Dinner

About a week after Labor day, the Governor of Virginia lifted part of the lockdown and **Charlie & Jane Adkins** teamed up with **Ed & Marie Millson** to escape homebound shackles for a fun dinner. Jane mentioned that she and Charlie are ever so happy to have gone on three cruise/tours in the last year and a half – the last one to Australia and New Zealand in January...with a layover in Hong Kong and China last October. We can make it through this thing with good friends and good memories.



[Photo #8 -- “Two pairs of USMA and Ladycliff grads -- Marie Britton & Ed Millson and Jane & Charlie Adkins”]

Pres & Clem Miller Chance a Plane Ride

Proving that the need to see kids and grandkids is stronger than practical judgement, **Pres & Clem Miller** braved people coming together in a full airplane from various states and airports to be part of family activities in North Carolina and West Virginia. Once again, they followed all prudent directives and relied on their good condition and help to get them through what used to be an easy flight. They not only made the round trip from and back to Scottsdale, Arizona and visited family but they also took extra time out to sneak in a trip to share in some outdoor dining with the Gerards. We were all good and had a lot of fun reminiscing about past cruises we’ve all taken but I learned about Pres & Clem’s adventures in Iran during Army days. Now, if only Dave could remember to comb what hair he has left...



[Photos #9 & #10 -- “Pres & Clem Miller and Dave & Barbara Gerard being good some of the time”]

Jim & Lucille Swinney Migrate North

In early September, **Jim & Lucille Swinney** stopped off to visit **John & Margie Hedley** during their annual migration from Florida to the mountains of North Carolina. Prior to the visit, John, fell victim to an errant wandering disc that has left him with great pain in the back, a numb left leg, and severe walking problems. In spite of all that, he managed to climb in their boat, navigate to the Gerard homestead and almost crawl onto and off of our patio. Jim too is spending some time in the sick ranks but is looking forward to helping with the eradication of bears from their condo complex. Since the pandemic has curtailed human travel, these furry creatures have taken up residence close to most dumpsters in sparsely inhabited areas.



[Photo #11 -- “Jim Swinney, John Hedley, and Orca – despite being walking wounded, there’s always a smile for classmates”]

Cobey Clan Gathers for Family Fun and Remembrance

Elwood Cobey sent a photo of part of his and Mary-Lou’s crew prior to their annual 5K at the beach to honor his brother in law, CDR John Gluck USNA 1962. The family has gathered and sponsored the 5K each year since the year he died to raise money for ALS research. While a usual family beach week draws about 95, the pandemic allowed the gathering to be only in the mid-60s – allowing for Elwood’s winning in the over 55 division a little easier... Ever the competitor, a win is a win. They had zero COVID cases with family from four different states.



[Photo #12 -- “Part of the Cobey crew at the annual beach outing. If you think that Elwood is at the far left, look a little farther to the right in the rear”]



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Remembering John Calabro

For those of you who might have missed the fall *TOGETHER We Lead* publication from the AOG Development Office, there was an article titled “Celebrating the Pursuit of Art” that described a coming event in the spring where more than 100 cadets, faculty, staff, and special guests look forward to the annual Calabro Night of the Arts. Under the auspices of the Department of English and Philosophy and the Cadet Humanities Forum, this evening is devoted to showcasing cadet talent and achievement in the arts, including music, film, poetry, prose, photography and the studio arts. Held in the Haig Room on the top floor of the Jefferson Library (for now), the inspiring view is a fitting backdrop to celebrate the arts at West Point. The event is made possible by the John A. Calabro Music and Arts Endowment established in 2014 by Fred & Dinah Gretch in memory of their lifelong friend and our beloved classmate, John **Calabro**.

John Cruden Receives American Bar Assn Lifetime Achievement Award

Gordon Tillery was the first to announce to the class that the American Bar Assn has presented **John Cruden** a lifetime achievement award in Environmental Law. As Gordie put it, the award is akin to the West Point Assn of Graduates bestowing the title of Distinguished Graduate. Last summer, John was elected to the American Bar Association’s Board of Governors. We all know John has led an exemplary life from his Eagle Scout days to the present. Page after page of the letter our class submitted nominating John as a West Point Distinguished Graduate, is filled with monumental accomplishments. As noted in the ABA citation, John’s accomplishments are incredible. While John served in the Department of Justice he supervised such major environmental cases as: EXXON Valdez, Love Canal, Deepwater Horizon, and the Volkswagen emissions scandal. Among the results was the largest monetary penalty (it may have been a settlement?) ever in DOJ history.



[Photo #1 – “Sharon & John Cruden last year when John received the Distinguished Member award from the West Point Society of DC”]



[Photo #2 – “John Cruden, Tom Vollrath, Rick Write, Gordon Tillery, and Craig O’Connor in 2014 when they were training for the Plebe March Back”]

A Way to Get Out of the House -- Move

There has been a lot of movement among the Colorado classmates. Feeling the tug of family (especially grandkids) **Mike & Diane Billingsley** have recently moved from Colorado Springs to Milton (North and outside the beltway of Atlanta), Georgia. Mike says that, “While we will miss [Colorado classmates] and monthly luncheons, picnics, Army-AF games and holiday gatherings, family takes precedence at this time. Mike is still working part time as an Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon in Georgia, but plans to retire completely at the end of 2021. The Billingsleys’ door is open for a meal or a stay to all classmates passing through the Atlanta area. Meanwhile, back in Colorado, **Joe & Carla Henry** have been house hunting for over a year and finally located a ranch style (1 level) house that they liked and bought. They moved in over the Labor Day weekend from Highlands Ranch to Parker, Colorado. It still remains about 10 minutes from the grandkids and has a finished basement. Joe confides that the process has been hectic with all the moving, packing, unpacking, and the ramifications of COVID-19. The good news was that they sold their Highlands Ranch home in 24 hours and was up for bid. They are now at the point of working out most of the kinks, being settled, and happy to catch up with classmates who have ground floor master bedrooms.

Bob & Elsa Jetland are currently homeless after selling their home in mid-October in Orange County (Mission Viejo – you’ve seen the area in flames on TV). They are finishing up escrow proceedings on a house in San Clemente while using vacation club points to reside at the Marriott Vacation Club PULSE in downtown San Diego. They visited their grandsons in San Diego last Halloween with limited social distancing while trick-or-treating with prearranged neighbors. Bob & Elsa seem to have adjusted well to COVID-19 protocols by relaxing in paradise...



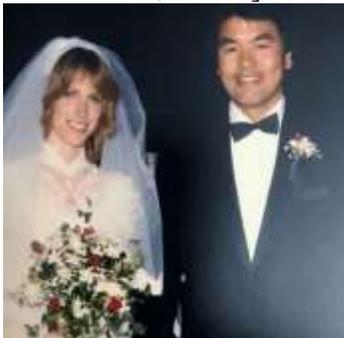
Photo #3 – “Bob & Elsa Jetland with their six month old “monkey” grandson at Halloween in Southern California”]

More Anniversary Celebrations During Lockdown

There have been quite a few wedding photos submitted recently rather than anniversary pics. **Dan Nettesheim** commented earlier this month, 52 “years ago, my precious bride & I exchanged our vows at West Point & began a married life together filled with more blessings than we can count.” At the end of last month, **Tay Yoshitani** wrote, “Today is **Becky’s** and my 35th Wedding Anniversary. We’ve been blessed with a whole lot of love, three beautiful children, numerous great experiences, and a shared love of sailing. But our bucket list is still long.” I may go out on a limb here, but I’ll bet, back in 2015 if someone asked them, “Where are you going to spend your wedding anniversary in five years?” they would have gotten the question wrong.



Photo #4 – “Betty & Dan Nettesheim at the Cadet Chapel on December 8, 1968”]



[Photo #5 – “Becky & Tay Yoshitani on November 30, 1985”]

Lees Celebrate During Pandemic

The pandemic hasn't held **Dwight & Donna Lee** back – much. In late October, Dwight celebrated his birthday with a quick trip from the Low Country of Pawleys Island, South Carolina up into the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Part of Dwight's celebration was to remember where he met and how he knew and enjoyed each of the folks who sent birthday wishes. Thanksgiving was spent with family and in preparation for Christmas and Dwight's and Donna's 52nd wedding anniversary.



[Photo #6 – “Dwight Lee enjoying his birthday”]



[Photo #7 “Donna & Dwight Lee 52 years ago”]

Thals Celebrate Their 50th

Ed & Peggy Thal snuck off from their Colonial seaport home in Smithfield, Virginia to Asheville in the North Carolina mountains for a 50th anniversary celebration with views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and lolling at the Grove Park Inn with its world class spa. Peggy's Facebook sharing let brought wistful comments from **Mike & Sue Toole** who have also visited and fallen love with the area. After touring the area highlights (including the Biltmore estate), sampling the many breweries, and 80 minute massages, be sure that the Thals returned to Smithfield relaxed and smug about stealing off during a pandemic.



[Photo #8 – “Peggy & Ed Thal 50 years ago last November”]



[Photo #9 – “Peggy & Ed Thal happy at home today”]

Dave Martin is Staying Active

During the pandemic, **Dave Martin** has reestablished contact with his old A-4 roomie, **Jerry Sorrow**, and they just discovered that they both first decided during elementary school that they wanted to attend West Point because of the TV series *THE WEST POINT STORY* – the show that helped launch the acting careers of stars like Steve McQueen, Barbara Eden, Leonard Nimoy, Larry Hagman, Clint Eastwood, and Chuck Connors. Does the road to the Rock sound familiar to anyone else? Dave lamented that the AOG cancelled the annual Homecoming Golf Outing in October – probably because there was no Homecoming because there were no reunions because there were no fans at football games. While that was no biggie for people living out of the area, it was a real bummer for local season ticket holders like Dave, who has also attended the Army-Navy games for as long as he can recall. But not this year. So the Martin clan decided to hold a tailgate in their driveway, with their usual chili and hot chocolate, then go back indoors to watch the game in warmth like the rest of us. Dave and his son, Douglas, managed to squeeze in a round at the West Point Golf Course in late October – during peak color. Even without blue skies, the hills were magnificent. A month later, Dave and his bride, **Suzanne**, celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary. They were married right after Dave returned after a year in Vietnam with the 101st Abn and prior to his posting to Ft Monmouth. Since New York and New Jersey were shut down, their celebration was at home – with a bottle of 2004 Penfolds Grange (perhaps the best wine from Australia) followed by toasts with a bottle of 1990 Dom Perignon, and finishing with a bottle of (appropriately) 1970 Quinto do Noval vintage port.



[Photo #10 – “Dave with son Douglas sneaking in a round of golf at West Point in late October”]



[Photos #11 – “Suzanne & Dave Martin celebrating their Golden wedding anniversary on 28 Nov with a photo of themselves 50 years earlier”]

Classmates Find Reasons to Connect

A good thing about COVID-19 is that classmates are taking the time to reach out, remember – and stay stable. Recently, 2nd Regt mates **Jon Stallings** (from Oklahoma) and **Al Vitters** (from Long Island, New York) linked up to remember and relive Al’s introduction to tornados with Jon. The things we go through.



[Photo #12 – “Jon Stallings still living large in Oklahoma”]

Sometimes, You Just Gotta Go

Elwood Cobey sent a photo and the news that **Bob Echols** flew with **Jo** in their plane up to Northern Virginia from Birmingham, Alabama in late October to attend the funeral of one of the Pathfinders that Bob commanded in RVN. While in the area, The Cobey's and Echols managed to grab a masked meal. You can bet that any members of the Tactical Dept. from the mid to late 60s who are still around were feeling a rumbling in "The Force" while these two were together



[Photo #13 – “Mary-Lou & Elwood Cobey with Bob & Jo Echols before a meal (I knew because trousers and shirts were still clean) in Northern Virginia.

Steve Frushour Finds a New COVID Hobby

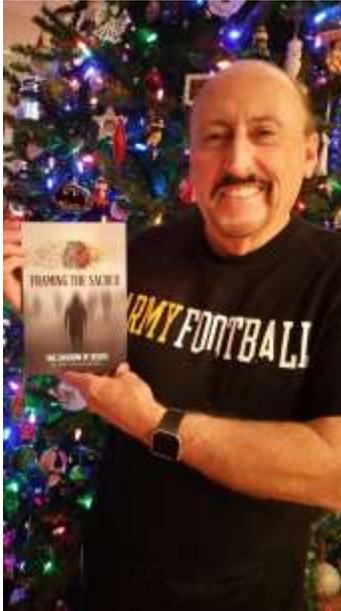
Steve Frushour has observed that 2020 and the COVID sequestration has made many people do strange and weird things – so he opted to join them. He has compiled some fascinating stories from his military life and written them down. He laments that he has waited way too long (over 30 years) to go back, reread, update, and organize these musings but has produced *A DIFFERENT MILITARY LIFE – INTERESTING SHORT STORIES FROM 12418 DAYS OF SERVICE*. Steve takes the reader from West Point, to Field Artillery experiences in Germany and Vietnam, to medical school at The Ohio State University, to medical service in the Army and Air Force and a continuing love of aviation. It's available through Amazon “digital.”



[Photo #14 &15 – Steve Frushour still ‘fits’”]

Bill Jeffries Announces the Release of His Latest Novel

Also in late October, **Bill Jeffries** shared the news that his critically acclaimed fourth adventure novel, *Framing the Sacred – The Shadow of Death*, in the Christian Madison series was released and dubbed an "exciting page turner," "a frightening look at the power of outside forces to reprogram our brains," and "an all too probable scenario in this age of social media obsession." Like **Jack Reed**, Bill explores exciting areas in both fiction and non-fiction. Get your copy today at Authorhouse.com or at www.execustrat.com (the Bookstore).



[Photo #16 – “Bill Jeffries displaying a great Christmas present”]

Camps Attempt a Surprise Visit

In late October, **Greg & Joanie Camp** had spent some very social distancing from the rest of the world in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. On their way home, they took a quick detour through Mooresville, North Carolina to visit the famous Richard’s Coffee Shop and Military museum that **John Hedley** has taken on as a retirement project and labor of love. Unfortunately, the current COVID-19 rules has shut the place down and John was not mobile to open it up – such are the demographics of folks who operate and frequent Richards and are also in the crosshairs of the virus so John is still looking after the troops. On the bright side, one of the best barbecue joints in the area is just a couple of doors down – and open – so Greg & Joanie indulged in some great pork prior to resuming their trip home to Columbus, Georgia



[Photo #17 – “Greg & Jonie Camp outside for Richard’s Coffee Shop in Mooresville, NC”]