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### John & Frances Dallen Make a “Limited” Trip

Eric Thomas dropped a note to share that **John & Frances Dallen** traveled from their Georgetown, Texas home for a two day visit with Eric & **Rhonda** at their Villages abode in Central Florida. Eric also raved about John’s book, *The Oktokrona*, that he published a couple of years ago. When I asked John about the book, he explained that walking is his primary exercise and, if not walking with Frances, he typically listens to audiobooks. Between books, he lets his mind roam and sometimes a story idea would rattle around in him. He began writing the stories down after walks, and sending a few to his sisters. Modestly, John noted that his sisters professed to have enjoyed the stories and encouraged him to continue writing – as well as to expand a couple into longer short stories. For grins, he looked at self-publishing the story as an anthology, which proved to be a straight forward task. The stories vary from a half page “tweet” to a full novel – all in one book! All of the stories are fiction – mostly science fiction and fantasy. He



didn’t market or advertise his resulting book because all of the other books by our classmates are serious publications – his was just fun. A “Dallen Oktokrona” search in Amazon books, or google, with should get you to the purchase site if you are so inclined. The book can be purchased either as a Kindle e-book or paperback. He made it as inexpensive as Amazon would allow.

[Photo #1 – “John Dallen, Eric & Rhonda Thomas, and Frances Dallen last month in Florida”]

### Report on Bench Dedication at U.S. Army Museum

**John Cruden** provided a concise, but moving summary of the dedication of a bench in honor of his beloved **Sharon** at the new Army Museum last month. The Bench Dedication started with a reception in the beautiful Veterans Hall in the Museum, followed by a tour of the Museum, and then the bench dedication. Speakers included John’s former roommates, **Glen Hewitt** and **Paul Joseph**, with the dedication by Major General (retired) William K Suter, the former Judge Advocate General of the Army, and former Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court. The bench is dedicated “In Honor of Sharon Holland Cruden and All Army Wives.” In attendance were John’s and Sharon’s family, about a half dozen of our classmates and over 30 of John’s colleagues who were officers in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. The museum provided great support throughout the process, and sent emissaries to attend the dedication and they took the pictures he sent along that are archived in our AOG Class Notes site. During his recon of the area for our class gathering at the Museum in June, **Gordon Tillery** spotted a plaque dedicating a tree “To Honor Soldiers, Families, and LT **Don Workman**” by **Hugo Croft**.



[Photo #2 – “Glenn Hewett, Gordon Tillery, Norm O’Meara, Paul Joseph, Dave Hatcher, Dave Ohle, John Cruden, and Chuck Giasson at the Dedication Ceremony of a bench in honor of Sharon Cruden at the new Army Museum at Ft Belvoir last month”]

[Photo #3 – “The plaque by a tree honoring Soldiers, Families, and Don Workman donated by Hugo Croft at the Army Museum at Ft Belvoir”]



### **Skip Greeby Helps Sponsor One Final Trip**

As was mentioned two years ago in January, **Skip Greeby’s** uncle was a paratrooper in the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne during WWII. As such, Skip helped create an organization – Scions [Engineer speak for “decedents”] of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne – that helps to continue the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Association’s legacy. The mission of the Scions of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne is to honor the service of all veterans of the 17<sup>th</sup> and to educate others about the history and sacrifices made by the troopers who served in this division during World War II. By the time World War II was over in Europe, the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne had suffered 6,292 killed and wounded – almost double the daily combat average of any American Airborne division. It also had the most Medal of Honor recipients (four). The Scions recently announced their collaboration on a joint project with Andrew Biggio (veteran and author of the book *The Rifle*) for a new monument in Germany dedicated to the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne’s participation in Operation Varsity to be dedicated on March 24 in Wesel, Germany. They will be taking three 17<sup>th</sup> vets (ages 98-100) and their escorts with them for the dedication. At their age, the Scions will buy economy tickets and United Airlines will upgrade them to Business. Once in the ETO, the Scions will also pay for their ground package (bus, hotels, and meals). This is the last undertaking with veterans. If anyone would care to help with this noble cause, send an email to: [Donate2Scions@gmail.com](mailto:Donate2Scions@gmail.com) with your name and the amount of your pledge, and any attribution, if so desired “in honor of....” Then, make your donation directly, either: via PayPal to: Scions of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, Inc. or by sending your check payable to Scions of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, addressed to: Scions of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, 62A Forty Acre Mtn. Rd. Danbury, CT 06811-3353. In either case, indicate your donation is for “March 2022 Trip.” Any further questions, contact Skip at [skip@greeby.com](mailto:skip@greeby.com).

### **Class Standing Committee Shuffle**

I’ve been asked how classmates are selected to serve on the Class Standing Committee (CSC). Since we have had a CSC (which is comparatively recently), the answer is to first have an idea about what the class really needs. Then, go to Class President **Dutch Hostler** with that idea. If you can explain the idea, why it’s good and important, and how to implement it – voila – you’re on the committee – and in charge of implementing the idea you had. Back in the olden days, when we didn’t have a CSC, a classmate had to have the idea and volunteer to implement it. That’s what **Greg Camp** did when he was at the Army War College and called me to find out how many classmates, who had passed away, did not have Memorial Articles written. He took on

the task of reaching out to find classmates (usually, company mates, team mates, and/or classmates with similar interests usually in the same Regiment during cadet days) willing to write or coordinate writing an article, and link them up with AOG administrators who could provide article examples, next of kin or family contacts, Cullum File contents, and check lists, and he was off to the races. By the time Greg graduated from AWC, he had most classmates covered. When I fell behind again, I went groveling to Greg because *all* he had to do, at the time, was create the U.S. Army Infantry Museum (if you want something done, look for the busiest buy in town). Greg accepted and took on B-2 company mate **Gary Halstead** as a Memorial Article team mate. By that time, the internet was exploding, and **Dale Hansen** (another B-2 company mate) had been in on the ground floor in the area of cyber sleuthing – finding people. Dale’s investigating and AOG interests, along with his loyalty to the class, has become an indispensable link to the Memorial Article process. After this B-2 group met, it was obvious that Dale could help the writer get the information that builds up to what makes our departed classmate such a noted person while Greg’s forte was more toward reaching out to classmates to write about why that classmate will never be forgotten. So, Dale took Greg’s job as THE POC for Memorial Articles and Greg took Dale’s job as 2<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Memorial Article Rep. One of Greg’s first jobs was to attend and participate in Company mate **Jon Stallings’** funeral on February 19<sup>th</sup> in Oklahoma City and can be viewed on his Facebook page. With **Fred Johnson** working as 1<sup>st</sup> Regimental Rep, Greg covering 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, and **Jerry Hansen** covering 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Dale’s first job was to find a classmate who is at least comfortable with classmates outside his company, recognizes the important tasks of Memorial Articles, and cares to get that task accomplished. He hit upon the right guy – **Tom Margrave** – a Poop Schooler who knows classmates throughout the Corps, is a Fire Department Chaplain and Red Cross Volunteer, and (sadly) a person who knows the anguish of recently losing a loved one.

### **Steve & Mary Frushour Note Changes in 2021**

**Steve Frushour** gets the “Late Ranks” prize (so far) for Holiday letters. He reminded us (and state legislators) what life can be like in rural Texas. He recapped that he and **Mary** were without water and electricity for over 12 days during the worst Texas freeze since 1932. All pipes and every water filter exploded. Those that didn’t have fireplaces were taken in by their neighbors who did, and they all lived in front of the fireplaces for heat and cooking. Amazingly, Steve reports that a new state law forbids fireplaces to be built into newly constructed homes. Steve’s Mom accompanied Steve & Mary to Alaska to visit Steve brother and his wife, then she came to Texas to celebrate that brother’s birthday as well as Thanksgiving, Christmas and her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since Steve is no longer flying, he sold his plane and has taken up renovating a 1979 Jeep CJ-7 as a hobby. Mary continues to be very active as a Texas Master Naturalist and the kids are going through the growth, relationships, ups, and downs of family and careers.

### **Bodenhamer Family Celebration**

True to his modus operandi of keeping a low profile, **Jim Bodenhamer** allowed his bride, **Julia**, to forward some family news. Jim & Julia have come out of their COVID cocoon enough to do some venturing out for a few cruises and to visit the kids and grandkids. Their son, Jon (’00), is a COL(P), and returned to Texas with his family in the summer of 2021 to become the Director of Combat Systems Integration Directorate in the Army Futures Command Acquisitions and Systems located on the University of Texas Campus in Austin. Their daughter,

Juliana ('05), is a Technical Program Manager for Facebook and living in Palo Alto, California where her husband was just promoted to LTC and is completing his doctorate in civil engineering at Stanford before returning to West Point this summer.

[Photo #4 – “Jim & Julia Bodenhamer amid their kids and grandkids on one of their cruises – this time on aboard the *Disney Wonder* last December”]



### Robersons Get Best Christmas Photo

Like most of our families, **Gary & Cookie Roberson's** brood is far-flung – Gary & Cookie live in the suburbs of Pittsburgh; their daughter, Kristi, her husband, Fabio, and their kids are in Hawaii; and their son, Will, his bride, Cherith, and their kids are in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina. Trying to get family photos is not easy – even when you have a professional photographer (Fabio) in the family – so don't give this entry a Chevy Chase *Vacation* nod when you look at it. **Cookie** titled it “let's try this one more time.” It's what happens when you try to take a "nice" family photo at the end of a vacation instead of at the beginning. It was the last day, the morning light wasn't good, and Will and family were departing right after the photo shoot. The grand kids were tired, bored, didn't want to stand still, but were



there because they liked being with Gary & Cookie. It was too early in the morning for Kristi and Cherith, so they had finished getting the kids dressed and fed, and were still preening. Will was anxious to get on the road, and Fabio was busy setting up photo equipment. It only happened to make Gary & Cookie happy. Cookie smiled because she knew that they'd have a family photo for our 2022 New Year's card.

[Photo #5 – “Cookie & Gary Roberson surrounded by family – or else”]

### Dutch & Megan Hostler's Celebration of Life Tour

As previously announced, **Dutch Hostler's** 98 ½ year old Mother passed away on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – the same day as Jon Stallings. Echoing the discernment of the **Roberson** family, Dutch & **Megan** live in Hawaii, Dutch's Mom lived in rural Southern New Jersey, and their sons live in dispersed parts of North Carolina. Mix in requirements and mandates of COVID-19 by state, island, and county, as well as the medical duties and tasks relating to more than just COVID for their sons, and Megan's limited mobility, “A Bridge Too Far” regarding rallying classmates who knew and loved Dutch and his Mom quickly materialized. While Megan searched for plane, lodging, and other transportation requirements, Dutch arranged for funeral and celebration activities and wrote his Mom's obituary and her Eulogy. They allotted a week to visit family and deal with Mom's belonging (the rental of a small SUV quickly morphed into a

much larger model. Then, on to Fayetteville and Hillsboro, North Carolina to grieve and celebrate with each of the sons' families individually, and off to Georgia to deal with Nine Line Foundation. Dutch, you have our deepest condolences.



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### **Pres Miller and Bill Robinson Participate in Army Legacy Weekend**

On a chilly weekend in late March, **Pres Miller** and **Bill Robinson** attended the Army Rugby Legacy Weekend at West Point. They watched both the Men's' Army Rugby (MAR) and Women's Army Rugby (WAR) matches followed by a banquet sponsored and treated by AAA. Prior to those festivities, the alumni "Old Gray" played the development team, all underclassmen. Bill and Pres had planned a "cameo" appearance – befitting 75 year olds. But the grad team was short in a few positions, so they both played some limited minutes – spending most of their energy avoiding real contact. They acquitted themselves well and had some fun, especially since the next older grads were from '86. There was a lot of sweat and blood by others but just some big satisfying grins on their part. They plan on being better prepared next year... They were presented a replica of our 1967 Notre Dame Rugby Tournament "National Championship" trophy.



[Photo #1 – “Bill Robinson and Pres Miller kneeling and flanking the 1967 Notre Dame Tournament photo of Army’s glory days”]



[Photo #2 – “A ‘Golden Oldie’ photo of the 1967 Army Rugby Team at the Notre Dame Tournament – try to find Art Sands, Bob Hensler, Charlie Hill, Bill Robinson, Chuck Mahan, Tom Moore, and Pres Miller”]

## Dallens and McKennas on the Road Again

Once again, **John & Frances Dallen** and **Brian & Karen McKenna** set out for exotic parts in the face of international risk and adventure. Sometimes, I think the McKennas go along just to see what John is going to do next. This time, they set out for Morocco with the first stop in Marrakech. Then, it was on through the Atlas Mountains by bus to Ouarzazate, on a road built by the French Foreign Legion. At one point, their bus caught the overhead telephone line, pulling down a telephone pole. Ouarzazate is billed as the center of Morocco's film industry and the go-to place for desert scenes. One of the films shot in this area was *Lawrence of Arabia*. This makes it the second time they have been where the desert scenes of this film were shot – the first being in the Wadi Rum of Jordan. One of their overnights was in a desert camp in the sand dunes of Erg Chebbi. This “luxury” camp was a bit less than advertised, with both electricity and water problems. Never mind the board-like beds. But that was not the challenge for John, at least. It was the camels. The plan was to ride camels to the top of a 600 foot high sand dune to watch the desert sunset. That happened. The extra John got was a repeating shower of urine from his camel, as she urinated into her tail, which she then flicked, showering him with a lovely urine mist. John didn't have to wonder why people were avoiding him at dinner. In Rabat, Morocco, John tested positive for COVID. He was in a quasi-quarantine for at least a week while being asymptomatic while Frances continued to test negative. In Morocco, it appears that walks outside are permitted as long as distancing is followed.



[Photo #3 – Brian & Karen McKenna and Frances & John Dallen in Marrakech, Morocco living the dream”]



[Photo #4 – John & Frances at sundown in the Sahara”]

## Gerards and Risers Try to Ease Cabin Fever

While the Barbara & I have tried to be careful during the pandemic fire drill, Barbara seemed like she was going to explode as a result of cabin fever. A conference call with **Henry & Karen Riser** bared the fact that Karen was in the same boat so we cashed in a time share swap at

a nice facility about half way between Annapolis and Lake Norman. I was so antsy to get out and see classmates again that I checked in with Gordie Tillery to get a space at the latest DC Class luncheon – until I realized that the two hour lunch would take over six hours to go to and come back from. Sorry guys – those long travel days are gone. In accordance with the old Anglican Low Church Prayer Book, “when three or four are gathered together – you will find a fifth,” and so it was at our mid-point – we shared some adult beverages that we thought the other would like. Henry brought a very special bottle of whisky that **Pete Paulson** had commissioned prior to his passing. The Paulsons had found a boutique distillery in the Shenandoah’s and Pete described to the proprietor/taster the blend he wanted. After an appropriate mixing and ageing process for the barrel of spirits, it was transferred into a couple of cases of bottles, (Pete’s bride) gave Henry & Karen a bottle, and Barbara & I were honored to be allowed to share a few drams. Kathy was contacted, assured that the product was spectacular, and was forwarded an appropriate photo.



[Photo #5 – “Two starving classmates sample *Paulson’s Impulse Private Stock*”]

### **Larry Jordan Receives WPS of DC Award**

**Gordon Tillery** dropped a shout out note that classmate and West Point Distinguished Graduate **Larry Jordan** received the West Point Society of DC & the National Capital Region Castle Memorial Award for Lifetime Service at its March 19<sup>th</sup> Founders Day celebration. Gordie lamented that he sent the note while on travel and was unable to witness the award presentation first-hand. Classmates **John Cruden** and **Dave Ohle** have also received this award in years past while our class had nominated them for the West Point AOG Distinguished Graduate Award. Congratulations Larry.



[Photo #6 – “Larry Jordan being awarded the West Point Society of DC & the National Capital Region Castle Memorial Award for Lifetime Service by Society President David Halverson (’79) at its Founders Day celebration]”]



[Photo #7 – “Larry Jordan flanked and being braced by Gen (Ret) Ric Shinseki (’65) and LTG (Ret) Joe DeFrancisco (’65) and made to say, “Everything I am or ever will be I owe to the Strength and Drive guys of ‘65”]

### **Jeff & Carlie Rogers and Al & Grace do a Repeat of Last Year’s Founders Day**

Once again, **Jeff Rogers** was the first classmate to send in a photo of him and **Carlie** and **Al & Grace Catron** at the Space Coast’s West Point Society in Melbourne, Florida Founders Day celebration. Last year the Rogers and Catrons were the only classmates to report attending a Founders Day celebration. This year’s photo reflects that the Florida life agrees with them as they both look much younger and happier



[Photo #8 – “Jeff & Carlie Rogers and Al & Grace Catron at the WPS Founders Day Celebration in Melbourne, Florida”]

### **Bill Jeffries Reports on Founders Day Hosted by the West Point Society of Northern Shenandoah**

After their move from Indiana, **Bill & Cheryl Jeffries** jumped into the advantage of numerous West Point Societies of the Old Dominion. Bill reported that he and Cheryl thoroughly enjoyed meeting with friends with common values at this great annual Founders Day event. The Alumni Glee Club, known as The Loose Cannons of which **Jesse Gatlin** is a member, did a magnificent job with *The Corps*, the *Alma Mater*, and *Amazing Grace*. BTW, this July, **Bill & Cheryl** are taking the AOG Danube River tour and Germany Passion Play performance in Oberammergau, and they are wondering if any other classmates might also be signed up for this trip.



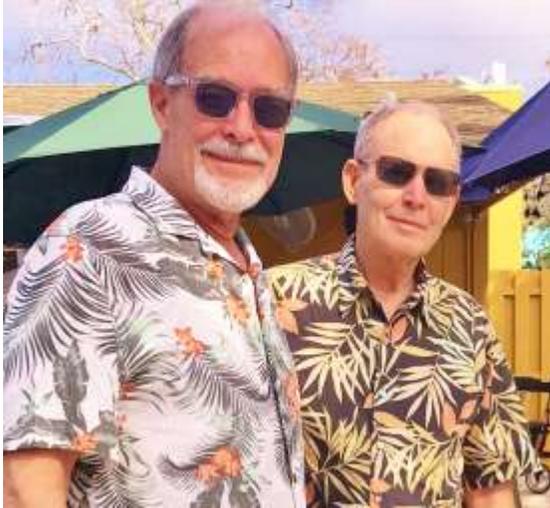
[Photo #9 – “Bill Jeffries and Jesse Gatlin at the WPS of the Northern Shenandoah Founders Day Celebration

### **Jim Orahood Celebrates Founders Day with Grads in a More Relaxed Way**

**Jim Orahood** forwarded some photos reflecting his and **Rene’s** adventures in Sarasota, Florida, where they “winter.” They found a great little restaurant that does Italian in the style of Puglia, which they love. They shared it, as well as the Italia American Club, in Venice, Florida, with Jocko (’67) & Vera (the “Afrikaner”) Mikula. The Mikulas live in Venice full time. The Orahoods often get to see **Mike Noonan** at Jocko’s house, where he Mike pops in every few months. Mike and Jocko were Bob Knight stars at the NIT and Navy games that we got to enjoy back in the day. Jim says that it’s great fun to be with Mike and Jocko, and listen to their trash talk. **Bill & Cindy McCauley** drove up from Miami during Founders Day week and Jim & Rene got to catch up with them at the Ringling Grill. The McCauleys are both taking French classes with their old teacher in Paris, and Cindy is honing her concert piano skills. **Marty & Barbara Bowling** also live in Sarasota and the Orahoods get together and party with them when they are there. Marty still dabbles in the international nuclear energy field.



[Photo #10 – “Jocko Mikulas (’67) and Jim Orahood washing down spaghetti with a fine wine in plastic cups”]



[Photo #11 – “Jim Orahod and Marty Bowling in Sarasota, Florida”]

### **Skip Greeby’s 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Div ETO Trip AAR**

**Skip Greeby** forwarded a brief After Action Report regarding the Scions of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne sponsored trip for three WW II veterans (and their aides) who served together in the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. On 24 March 1945, they made the largest single-day airborne assault in American military history as part of Operation Varsity. A monument to honor the division’s participation in Operation Varsity was dedicated in the drop zone (Wesel, Germany) on 22 March 2022 – the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the operation. Skip thanks all who participated in this adventure by contributing to this project.



[Photo #12 – “Skip & Joan Greeby with the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division colors at the Oct-Nov 2021 trip to Bastogne and Wesel, Germany with vets and 20 descendants of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division”]



[Photo #13 – “Skip Greeby at the grave of Captain John Henry Featherston Jr., USMA Jan 1943, commander of a 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Field Artillery battery. CPT Featherston was killed March 24, 1945 in Wesel, Germany during Operation Varsity. He is buried at the Margraten American Cemetery in the Netherlands and was 22 years old when he died”]

### **E-2/G-2 Reunion Report**

The annual E-2 (and those deported to G-2) company reunion was held on February 11-14, 2022, in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Co-planners were **Skip Greeby** and **Jock Merriam**, who provided the essential “boots on the ground.” Attendees (in alpha order) were: **Bill & Jane Bachman, Rob Becky Broderick, Joe Cinquino, Joan Greeby, Chick & Carol James, Al & Cindi Kimball, Malena Merriam, Chuck & Joan Petruska, Harold & Donna Timboe**, and **Mike & Donna Wells**. Events of the weekend included a golf outing, an airboat ride in the Everglades, several libation-fueled dinners, and shopping in Palm Beach Gardens. The highlight of the reunion was a delightful dinner, including live music, at the Merriam’s home. The reminiscing and regaling actually drowned out the Super Bowl. The continuing trend is that companies who conduct mini-reunions are getting more participants. Now that we’re taking some more casualties, the meetings are still fun – and more poignant with the recalling of classmates who have laid down their rucksacks – in E-2’s/G-2’s case, those classmates consist of **Howie Harper, Jess Nickols, Bob Pinzuti, Mike Ruiz, Tom Wantuck, and Dan Winter**. Plans are already underway for next year’s reunion in Naples, Florida.



[Photo #14 – “E-2/G-2 Golfer Jock Merriam, Skip Greeby, Harold Timboe, and Chick James stealing some thunder from the E-3 guys who usually play golf around Valentine’s Day”]



[Photo #15 – “E-2/G-2 Jock Merriam, Harold Timboe, Chick James, Mike Wells, Bill Bachman, Joe Cinquino, Al Kimball, Rob Broderick, and Skip Greeby”]

### **Jock Merriam Still a Poster Boy for Fitness**

One of the highlights of the E-2/G-2 mini-reunion was for **Jock Merriam** to show off by donning his FD jacket and buttoning most of the buttons while most everyone else could only wear their low quarter socks or a tie. He could have buttoned at least one more if he had taken off the shirt he wore under the jacket. For those of you who still belong to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and peruse its *Military Officer* April 2022 magazine, I’m sure that you saw on page 34 why Jocko can still fit into the jacket. It all started by inspiring his daughter, Jessica (a retired LTC) to join the Army – and she followed suit by inspiring Jocko to take up rowing – at age 60. In 2006, Jock and Jessica were watching a boat parade on the Intracoastal Waterway when Jessica said that that would be a great place to row. Three months later, they created the North Palm Beach Rowing Club (current membership 100 adults and kids). Jock likes the sport because, even if you have injuries (like bad back, sciatica pain, weak ankles, etc.) you can still work the entire body because the rower’s bodyweight is on the rolling seat.



[Photo #16 – “Jock Merriam sporting his FD coat at the E-2/G-2 reunion”]



[Photo #17 – “Jock Merriam racing dolphins and manatees on the ICW in Florida”]

### **Greg Camp Attends Jon Stallings’ Celebration of Life in OKC**

**Greg Camp** reported that, while physical classmate attendance participation was light for **Jon Stallings’** celebration of life in Oklahoma City, there was heavier participation via Jon’s Facebook page. Jon’s widow, **Tiny**, played the Alma Mater before those in attendance left the church. Tiny wanted us to remember Jon in a happy way so she sent out this video as a final remembrance of Jon – who also directed all he knew and loved to put the FUN in funeral. **Dave Ford** organized the B-2 classmates to send an appropriate and beautiful flower arrangement. Just as it ended service ended, Jon’s step son, Hunter Franz (‘14), turned the urn containing Jon’s ashes around so it said “Beat Navy” and the church erupted with Beat Navy. **Col. Stephen Ruth** (honorary USMA 1968 classmate and longtime family friend of Jon and Tiny) also attended and participated. The B-2 gang was kept updated on the sad loss of Jon and his service.



[Photo # 18 – Greg Camp, Jon’s step son, Hunter Franz (‘14), and Col. Stephen Ruth participating in Jon Stallings’ Celebration of Life”]



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### Chick James Reports on 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Golfing Grads Event

Thanks to **Chick James** for sending in a very thorough account of the 34<sup>th</sup> USMA Golfing Grads event sponsored and organized by the classes of '61 and '62. This one was held at the Marriott Robert Trent Jones Courses at Opelika, Alabama, during the first week of May. After a Sunday arrival and turning in their clubs into the pros at the course, Chick met up with **Ken Hauck, Bob Keller, Bruce Korda, Dick McClelland, Bill Robinson, Jim Stanley**, accompanying brides to give an operational test to the Club pub and catch up on adventures. The rounds were played on Monday (two man best ball/scramble), Tuesday (individual play), and Wednesday (four man scramble). Monday evening there was a banquet and new invitees were introduced. Slots for the event event have to be limited so they tend to fill up quickly – if you snooze, you lose. Tuesday evening was left to the individual classes to celebrate. The '68 gang went to Cafe One Twenty Three in Opelika for a wonderful dinner and more catching up. Wednesday evening was the final banquet and presentation of golf prizes and awards – mostly bragging rights. There is a small entry fee to enter that is used for a small gift on arrival, the beverages on the course, and USMA Golfing Grads golfing prizes. Most departed on Thursday morning. The 2023 event will be held at Mission Inn, near Orlando, on 17-19 April 2023. When Chick forwards further enrollment info, jump on the opportunity to play and have fun.



[Photo #-1 – “The 2022 USMA Golfing

Grads: Bruce Korda, Chick James, Bob Keller Bill Robinson, Dick McClelland, Jim Stanley, and Ken Hauck”]



[Photo #0 – “Golfing Grad classmates and special guests: Jim Stanley, Chick & Carole James, Bob Keller, (former 68-er) Chuck Gantner, Dick McClelland, Beth & Ken Hauck, and Bill Robinson”]

### **Marty Bowling Says Goodbye to his Long Time Friend Maurice Adams**

At the beginning of the month, I dispatched an e-blast to the class through the AOG distro net regarding the passing of **Maurice Adams**. While I mentioned that the sad news came from **Marty Bowling**, I did not mention that it was also Marty who introduced Maurice to his future and forever bride, **Elizabeth**, in the fall of 1967. Marty knows their three kids and their whereabouts. He also knows their grandkids. When he emailed the news of Maurice’s passing to their B-3 classmates, he asked if anyone would step up to coordinate the writing of Maurice’s Memorial Article. Everyone knew that Marty was the man for the job. What makes Memorial Articles unique is classmates remembering and recording those special memories. If you have a recollection or a war story involving Maurice – no matter how brief at this stage of our lives – contact Marty at the [\\_bowlings@comcast.net](mailto:_bowlings@comcast.net).

### **Andy & Betty Shaffer Finally Celebrate Their Golden Wedding Anniversary**

**Andy & Betty Shaffer** have celebrated a lot of their wedding anniversaries on cruises throughout the world. One cruise took them back to Honolulu so they could re-affirm their wedding vows at the chapel at Fort DeRussy where they first shared them with each other during Andy’s R&R in 1970. Needless to say, they started planning early to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in high and meaningful style in 2020. The original plan was to visit Italy and then cruise the Mediterranean. That trip was scrapped by COVID so the next year, they decided on a South American cruise starting in Santiago, Chile, down the Pacific coast, visiting fiords, navigating the Straits of Magellan, venturing toward Antarctica to see whales, seals, and sea lions, and pet penguins, and stopover in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Once again, COVID -19 – with its variants and changes – mandated by each cruise line, country, and port city – intruded. What could go wrong? **John Dallen** chronicled his experiences quite well. With the prospect of celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in quarantine in a far-away hostel, the Shaffers finally elected to cruise a little closer to home – a Viking Tour out of Vancouver, British Columbia with stops in Victoria, British Columbia, Astoria, Oregon, and San Francisco, Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Los Angeles, California, where they could see seals, sea lions, whales and dolphins – plus the Golden Gate Bridge, vineyards, and a world class animal park.

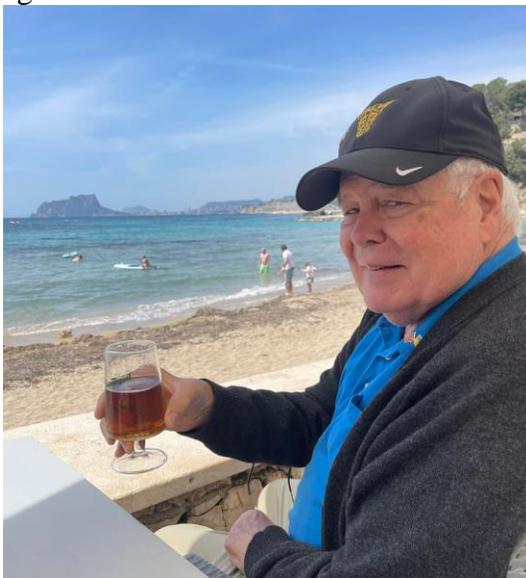
Additionally, if they tested positive along the way, they'd quarantine in some really nice spots in the USA... Happy Anniversary, Andy & Betty.



[Photo #1 – “Betty & Andy Shaffer celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> - 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversaries in San Francisco”]

### Other Classmate Families Venturing Out

While Andy & Betty were holding down the Left Coast, **Mike McClary** and his bride, **Marina Mikhailovna Dvorganych** ventured into the Iberian Peninsula – starting out in Barcelona and pressing inland and upward. The McClarys are great fans of most everything consumable – especially in an adult and relaxed atmosphere under warm sun and cool evenings. Further, they are not ones to follow organized people who carry boards shaped like two-dimensional lolly-pops with numbers on them who make those following them wear earphones. So Spain appears to agree with them.



[Photo #2 – Mike McClary at Playa de El Portet Moraira-Teulada, Spain on the Mediterranean Sea's Costa Blanca”]

After two years of cancellations, **Mike & Sue Toole** finally got the go-ahead to go on a tour of The Netherlands and Belgium – just in time for the tulips to be in full bloom. They shared the experience with another couple and rejoiced in expansive tulip fields, witnessed working windmills, cruised canals, and saw sturdy buildings designed by creative merchants.



[Photo #3 “Mike & Sue Toole in an overexposed Dutch garden because I had to their faces to even see Mike’s under his hat”]

### **Jim Kimball and Bill Easton Brush up on MOSS MOUSE**

**Jim Kimball** dropped a note to tell us that in early April, **Bill Easton** stopped by Jim’s & **Marion’s** home in downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee for a visit on his way from St. Petersburg, Florida to Minnesota. Although he has stopped in before, this time he came to take Civil War tours and see things that he had never had time to do on previous trips. Jim & Marion live in the downtown area of Chattanooga with a view of the Tennessee River and the North Side of Missionary Ridge. They toured Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (including the battlefield in north Georgia), Missionary Ridge, and the site along the Tennessee River where Sherman crossed to start the Union’s breaking of the siege of Chattanooga in November of 1863. Of course they carried Jim’s *West Point Atlas of American Wars Volume 1*. Jim enjoys doing tours and if anyone else might like to do one, let him know. Most of what Jim knows comes from doing tours with the park historian.



[Photo #4 – “Jim Kimball and Bill Easton on the Riverwalk with Lookout Mountain in the background”]

## More Classmates Meeting in Tennessee

A mutually exclusive classmate event occurred when **Bill Mulvey** met up with **Jock & Malena Merriam** at Canopy Coffee and Wine Bar the town of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, prior to the funeral for a long-time mutual friend (USAFA '68 grad and Hanoi Hilton POW) they had worked with in the 1990s . At the funeral they met up with **Bill Raines** who was also a close friend of the departed in the Chattanooga/Lookout Mountain area. Bill is currently Chairman of the Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center in Chattanooga. He invited Bill and Jock – and every other classmate living near or passing through Chattanooga – to stop by the Medal of Honor Center for a very worthwhile visit.



[Photo #5 – “Jock Merriam and Bill Mulvey at Lookout Mountain about the same time the photo of Jim Kimball’s and Bill Easton’s picture was being taken”]

## Terry & Kris Wong Bring up Founders Day Late Ranks

After seeing our last Notes, **Terry Wong** forwarded a photo of him & **Kris** to document their attendance in Mid-March of the Founders Day celebration at Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM), on the scenic Puget Sound close to Tacoma Washington. Despite the hefty concentration of classmates in the Seattle-Tacoma area, Terry & Kris were the only ones representing '68 that evening.



[[Photo #6 – “Terry & Kris Wong showing the Class of 1968 colors at JBLM for Founders Day”]

## Classmates Help Put a Classmate to Rest

In late March, **Paul Joseph** wrote to inform us that he and **Pat O’Keefe** attended a memorial service for **Joe Dooley** at Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Joe had been an attorney and management consultant – working primarily in the

travel/tourism/hospitality industry, and an Executive Coach at Executive Coaching Affiliates, LLC at The George Washington University Law School. Joe related that the Memorial Service was the first time he had met Joe's bride, **Margi**, and their sons. They could not have been nicer. The service they put together was beautifully done and included taps and a flag presentation at the niche where his ashes were placed. Paul and Pat talked with Margi and their sons about doing the USMA TAPS Memorial Article and she said Joe had mentioned it and wanted their sons to play a role in its creation. He hoped for inclusion of USMA/Army "war stories," which, after seeing how they have rallied in previous articles, the F-3 classmates should fully and lovingly support. Pat and Paul will take lead to coordinate.



[Photo #7 – Pat O’Keefe, Brian, Margi, and Jeffrey Dooley, and Paul Joseph at Joe Dooley’s Memorial Service in Virginia”]



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### **Robby Robinson In Sick Ranks Since Easter**

For those of you who have not heard, **Robby Robinson** suffered a stroke over Easter weekend and was rushed to a local med center's ICU where he spent a few days prior to transferring him to an inpatient rehab clinic. In mid-May, he was transferred to Fitzsimmons Community Living Center where Robby serves on the Commission for the Governor's office. Always the cheerleader, Robby said that he welcomed the transfer so he could experience the Center from both sides of the wall. Our Colorado classmates have rallied to Robby's and **Lynne's** side to visit Robby and give Lynne a break so she can look after herself and their homestead. After he returned from the Remembrance Weekend, **Larry Stevenson** reported that it was the week of the Colorado front range gang's monthly lunch and they decided that instead of their usual watering hole in Colorado Springs, they would gather at the Veterans Community Living Center in Denver and enjoy a lunch with Robby. The photo documents those able to make it. In addition to Larry, thanks also to **Greg Camp, Joe Henry** and **Les Krohnfeldt** for keeping us informed on Robby's condition. Another classmate family in transition consists of Gary & Patti Halstead who, after 21 years in their Castle Rock home moved to an independent living complex. Needless to say, they are excited about their new digs where they get weekly maid service, three daily meals (no more cooking unless Patti wants to), swimming pool, hot tub, weekly Friday night Happy Hours, an on-site beauty salon, lots of bridge and other games, and no more lawn mowing or snow removal!



[Photo #1 – “Les Krohnfeldt, Joe Henry, Dick Steiner, Chuck Jones, Gary Halstead, Larry Stevenson, and Jay Francis with Robby Robinson holding court in front”]

### **Larks Record 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

About three days after we found our ways out of Northern Virginia, I got a note from **Neil & Diane Lark** reporting that “Number 54 was in the books” and they are looking forward to more celebrations.



[Photo #2 – “LT & Mrs Lark on 9 June 1968”]



[Photo #3 – “Neil & Diane Lark a little closer to now”]

### **After Remembrance Weekend, Camps Pay a Visit to Mooresville, NC**

On their way home to Columbus, Georgia, **Greg & Joanie Camp** stopped by Richard’s Coffee Shop in Mooresville. Joanie didn’t get to see the inside of the veterans’ friendly coffee shop and museum during the last time they stopped due to COVID so Greg wanted her to see it. She was very taken by what **John Hedley** and his crew has done and they got to talk to a couple of veterans while there. They capped off their visit with lunch at Tiny’s and headed home. The trip took a total of 12 hours but the Camps agree that it was all totally worth it. That’s quite an statement coming from them.



[Photo #4 – “Joanie & Greg Camp at Richard’s Coffee Shop and Welcome Home Veterans Living Home Military Museum in Mooresville, North Carolina”]

### **Remembrance Weekend -- Arrival**

On Friday, 3 June, over 110 classmates (mostly with brides and/or other guests) and 25 next of kin of the classmates we lost in Vietnam began assembling at the Sheraton Hotel between Columbia Pike and Henderson Hall (a spot well known by many as a gathering place for class

luncheons and other celebrations in earlier days) for three days of remembrance, comradery, and fellowship. In the spirit of “many hands make for light work,” **Gordon Tillery**, DC area classmate overall point of contact for about everything, enlisted most all of the DC area classmates and placed them in charge of every task and classmates from all over filled in the gaps. Of course, this whole operation could not have been pulled off without being pulled together by means of a way to keep everyone informed of who is coming when, to what, and where. That little morsel was left to honorary classmate **Megan Hostler** riding in on her 12 year old crutches. **Bob Balog** took charge ensuring the hotel was happy and holding up its end of the contact. The Welcome Desk was run primarily by **Lee Outlaw** (which also made him the go-to guy for all things, except nametags, printed for events throughout the weekend), **Glen Hewitt**, and **Greg Camp**. Design, construction, and printing of the Nametags were taken on by **Norm O’Meara** along with **Bub & Angela Younts**, who also took on the Welcome Bag stuffing task. The Hospitality Suite, that remained open each night as long as classmates wanted to talk) and was always fully stocked with beverages of choice (including Honorary Classmate **Samuel Adams**) was run and replenished by **Henry Riser**, Greg Camp, and **Tom McNaugher** – and whoever else was either standing idly by or complaining that he was thirsty. Another all-encompassing requirement for all day-time events was transportation since road networks and traffic volume within Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia has changed drastically in the last two and a half decades. **Craig O’Connor** and **Mike Wells** took on acquiring suitable bus transportation to and from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Saturday and Museum of the United States Army by Fort Belvoir on Sunday while **Rick Rhoades** gathered sufficient Bus Captains who could explain construction changes that had taken place in the area during the first half of the twenty-first century and manage scores of geezers who had more interest in talking with classmates than crossing streets safely, looking after stuff that they put down and forgot where they put it down two seconds later, and being at the right place at the right time.



[Photo #5 – “Greg Camp and Lee Outlaw (in masks) try to maintain order at the Welcome Desk when pounced on by Charlie Lieb and Kathy Shipley during Friday’s sign-in process”]



[Photo # 6 – “During Friday Sign-in,

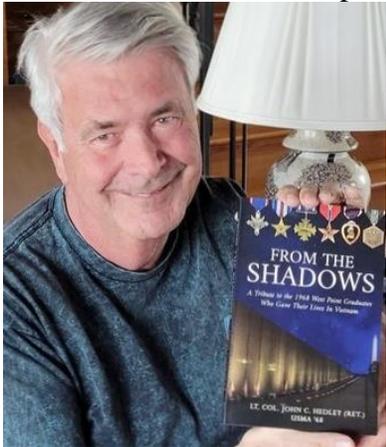
Classmates and friends came into the hotel lobby to welcome a handful of World War II and Korean War veterans and a large quantity of Vietnam vets who had arrived off of an Honor Flight to visit DC Memorials – like looking into a mirror only we had less wheel chairs”]

### **Frosting on the Cake for Remembrance Weekend**

While the DC gang saw to every item for our guests of honor and the classmates and guests who attended and participated, **John Hedley** provided a magnificent tribute to our fallen classmates with his latest book, *From the Shadows: A Tribute to the 1968 West Point Graduates Who Gave Their Lives in Vietnam*. John has spent our COVID lockdown years pestering and pushing classmates, friends, and next of kin to remember things about these forever young classmates so they will not be forgotten. He was at the Welcome Desk and in the Hospitality Suite autographing books while his loving **Margie** attended to the logistics and financial side of the operation. The class elected to present a hardbound color copy to each of the fallen next of kin.



[Photo #7 – “Greg Unangst, George Shoener, Clem & Pres Miller, and Bette Spengler Meuleners welcoming the Honor Flight of vets to the hotel”]



[Photo #8 – “John Hedley with his new book”]

### **Thank You for Helping with my Job**

I was stunned to see the turn-out at the Remembrance gathering and – after a couple of years of COVID seclusion, I forgot about my Scribe duties. A big thanks to **Rich Scaglione** for bringing his heavy artillery DSLR with him – and using it – and sharing his photos. BTW, any other photos to share are welcome. Prior to begging for his hi-res pictures, we had a “he liked me best” chat about **Joe Fowler**. Since Joe was one of the Army pitchers and Scags was the catcher, they spent call to quarters time practicing down the hallway of East (now Pershing) Barracks. Further, since Joe was in (then) D-2, he would help Plebes in his company learn about cultures of other regiments by sending them over to Scags’ in B-1. When you talked with Joe, you knew that you had his undivided attention because you were his favorite. That trait carried through to his eulogy delivered by someone else.



[Photo #9 – “B-1 company mates Larry Stevenson, Jack Reid, and Rich Scaglione with Jack’s guest, Patricia Williams unwinding after arrival”]

### A Tale of Two A-Pins and More

It didn’t take long for the reminiscing and war stories to start after arrival. While the guys were checking in, I saw **Clem Miller** hand **Kathy Shipley** an A-pin. Hmmm. There was a story there that reminded me of a great A-pin story about **Bob & Jo Brace**. After a visit with them, and some coordination with **Tony Ambrose** and **Andy Shaffer** (classmates in charge of the book project) Clem, Kathy, and Jo agreed to write a story for the future *Both Sides of the Wall Volume 4 – Brides’ Edition*. These are stories that only classes of the 60s and before will understand and appreciate. When I related the stories to **Ralph Tuccillo**, he recalled his experience swimming at a beach in New Hampshire in cold water where he encountered a shrinkage issue – his fingers shrank and his class ring fell off. An extensive search yielded nothing except more shrinkage. Some weeks later back at home in Northern Virginia, he received a phone call from a gentleman in New Hampshire asking Ralph’s name and if he had recently lost an “item.” Ralph mentioned and described his ring and the gentleman said that he was a metal-detector hobbyist who scours the beach where Ralph was swimming and found his ring buried over a foot deep in the sand. The density of the ring gave off a strong signal – but you already knew that.



[Photo #10 – “Dick Shipley supervising a dirty old Scribe trying to fasten an A-pin on Kathy Shipley so she won’t lose it” at the Remembrance Weekend arrival”]



[Photo #11 – “Rick Wright, Ralph Tuccillo, and George Ziots in search of metallic objects such as cans and Sam Adams caps in the Hospitality Suite during arrival”]

### **Travel to the Remembrance Weekend Story**

After spending some time Lion Fish hunting on Bonaire and prior to arriving at the Remembrance Weekend with **Suzie, Bill Mulvey** put in 10 days hiking and camping (spent a small fortune to live like a homeless person) on the Appalachian Trail dragging rainy weather with him. Bill had to ensure that he was in good shape because he was going to be meeting eight other of his C-3 company mates at the Remembrance Weekend.



[Photo #12 – “Prior to Remembrance Weekend, Bill Mulvey executes a Marine river crossing (one person actually crossing the river with one photographer) on the Appalachian Trail”]



[Photo #13 – “Four of the Nine C-3ers at the Remembrance Weekend – Charlie Lieb, George Shoener, Bill Mulvey, and Dave Ohle]

### Great Finding Lost Sheep

I thought growing old would take longer, but I’m questioning myself when I didn’t recognize a Cow year roomie. This was **Pete Lopes’** first appearance at any class reunion or Remembrance weekend. Our other roommate, **Dave Drummond**, another comparatively new attendee at such events said that, when he discovered how much fun they were, he has been nagging Pete & **Sue** to make an appearance to see for themselves. Firstie year, Pete and Dave were split up for the safety of West Point– with Pete being shuttled to G-4 and Dave staying with the original A-1/D-2 gang; however, they still are able to coordinate – note Sue and Irene sporting slings. My last memory of Pete was graduation morning and Pete still walking the area.



[Photo #14 – “Three of seven old A-2/D-2ers with their brides: (sitting) Pete & Sue Lopes and Irene & Dave Drummond with (standing) Linda & Phil Samuel and Linda Ambrose in the background”]

### Skip Greeby’s First War Story

To get things off easy, **Skip Greeby** reminded me of when we were on the Buckner detail as new Firsties. Skip related taking his platoon on a night attack. He was on the edge of a mountain looking down at uniformed aggressors around a bonfire – his objective. He briefed his platoon on how to conduct the night attack prior to stealthily slipping down the mountain. The platoon got on line and, on Skip’s command, they rushed the objective yelling and screaming and firing their blanks with their M-14s and M-60s, sweeping and overrunning the objective, and catching the aggressors totally by surprise. Upon consolidating over the objective, they returned to the bonfire to find out that the aggressors consisted of a Boy Scout Troop from the Diamond

District of New York City. After getting the scouts calmed down and explaining to their leaders that they were on federal property, Skip moved on to find the real objective. And that's why there are residents with PTSD from the diamond community in NYC to this day.



[Photo #15 – “Donna & Harold Timboe, Joan & Skip Greeby, Jerry Hansen, and Bob Clarke sharing kinder and gentler war stories”]

### **War Stories From Another Venue**

When **Jon Dodson** and **Sandy Cohn** get together, they relate how they crossed paths in Vietnam. Jon had been severely wounded and medevacked to a field hospital. He had been there for a couple of days and was ambulatory. When he heard that another incoming dust-off carrying a lieutenant in bad shape was approaching, he pulled himself together to see if he knew the officer. It was Sandy – badly shot-up and not conscious. Both Jon and Sandy were evacuated soon thereafter and never discussed the encounter until many years later at a class luncheon – possibly at the Sheraton hotel that was hosting our Remembrance Weekend. Doctors are still picking shrapnel out of these guys.



[Photo #16 – “Jon & Aj Dodson and Sandy & Kathy Cohn – all vertical and all happy to gather together”]

### **Fred Johnson and Family Give Thanks on Memorial Day**

**Fred & Mary Johnson** gathered Fred's son, Pat, and his wife, Jackie, and grandkids, Logan and Taynton, at the Memorial Day Parade in Monona, Wisconsin so the guys could ride in the town's parade.



[Photo #17 – “Fred & Mary Johnson together on Memorial Day”]



[Photo #18 – “One of Fred Johnson’s grandsons and son, Pat with Fred and the car that held the Johnson vets in the Monona Memorial Day Parade”]

### **Class Grandkids Graduating From Service Academies**

News received from a couple of classmates was met with mixed emotions. **Jerry & Susan Holderness** proudly announced that their daughter Maggie Pratt's ('95) son, Marshall, a Star Man, graduated with the USMA Class of 2022 on 21 May. As a follow-on, Jerry let slip that his Dad’s class (June '43) gave him an engraved memento, as did our class to Maggie; however, he wondered if classes gave grandson or granddaughters any such acknowledgement. Class President **Dutch Hostler** explained that our Class has customarily presented remembrances to USMA legacy sons and daughters upon their graduations; however, we have left parents’ classes with the honor of presenting remembrances to their legacy children. Further, when aware of a legacy New Cadet grandchild during the era of the Old Grad Marchback, Dutch has given our classmates who marched with their grandchildren an extra ‘68 pewter boot pin for them to present as a remembrance to their grandchild. Furthermore, **Jim & Rene Orahood** proudly reported that the last child of their son, Jim (USAFA '93) and his wife Kari (**Gary & Patti Halstead**), graduated #1 in her class from USAFA at the same time as the Holderness’ grandson. She was chosen to attend grad school with a return to the Alcoa U as a Biology professor. She was a 6ft 2in volleyballer until a back injury sidelined her. We are all proud of these accomplished young folks even if they do remind us that we’re old. Both grandparents attended their respective grandchild’s graduation, but none of them could remember to get a picture taken to share with the class.

## C-1 Gathers for a Mini-Reunion

**Jimmy Walsh** reported that '68 C-1 descended on Alabama again for a mini-reunion in Hartselle from 17-20 May 2022. Since Jimmy's and **Peggy**'s son and his family returned to his lake house, the C-1 gang didn't have the lake and dock, and it did not matter because his new house came with a pole barn, which was perfect for a bunch of seniors who think they can still hack it – and they could! May 17th was a terrible flying day, with lots of delays and route changes. The photo taken the second day included all attendees except **Eric & Rhonda Thomas** who had family arriving from overseas. Medical issues intervened as well for several others, including two last minute cancellations. Despite some losses to sick ranks for classmates or wives, including two at the last minute, they had a ball. Same old stories, same great friends, with a side of great food, and a drink or two. They were blessed with the attendance of **Brenda McConnell**, **Tommy's** widow, and Meg Hawley, **Rick's** sister. They continued their tradition of remembering their (all of our) fallen C-1 classmates: **Rick Hawley**, **John Darmody**, **Roy Mase**, **Mike Bruce**, and Tommy McConnell. And, they paused to remember those who were unable to attend for medical reasons. Everyone bid a fond farewell, promised to look out for their health, and promised to make their best efforts to be present at West Point next year for our 55th Class Reunion. The C-1 classmates gave many thanks to Jimmy's and Peggy's daughter-in-law, Mary, who was a tremendous help, and daughter, Sara, who kept the dogs in line, and was their catering driver. They could not have asked for a better time, or better companionship. These folks shine when they meet again..."



[Photo 19 – “C-1 Mini-reunion day #1 taken after dinner – front to back – left to right: Ground Level: Brenda McConnell, Karen McKenna, Jack Cochran, Ron Yasukawa. 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Peggy Walsh, Meg Hawley, Eric & Rhonda Thomas. 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Brian McKenna, Susan Poynter. 4<sup>th</sup> row up: Joyce Canella, Jimmy Walsh, Pete Poynter, Susan Hazen. And 5<sup>th</sup> Row: Lee Outlaw, Chuck Canella, Pres Miller, Clem Miller, and Bill Robinson”]



[Photo #20 – “C-1 Mini-Reunion Day #2: 1st row: Brenda McConnell, Susan Poynter, Joyce Canella, Peggy Walsh, Clem Miller, Susan Hazen, Gail Hall, Karen McKenna, Meg Hawley, Jack Cochran. 2nd row: Ron Yasukawa, Pete Poynter, Chuck Canella, Jimmy Walsh, Lee Outlaw, Bill Robinson, Don Hall, John Dallen, Frances Dallen, Pres Miller. PS: Major, Jimmy’s son’s boxer, Major, stood proudly that day as the center of attention, and with no hint of a medical issue. On June 4<sup>th</sup>. however, Major’s undiagnosed and unapparent issue forced his last stand, and he left only this proud picture as a memory”]



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### **Charlie Beckwith Recounts a Moving Encounter**

There's rarely a Notes posting goes by that **Charlie Beckwith** doesn't drop an email expressing gratitude for keeping up with classmate adventures. This time, he related that, after 30+ years of wearing eyeglasses, he finally decided to take a chance on cataract surgery. He had his first eye done by a young Korean doctor working for the VA in Charleston, South Carolina. After two weeks of smooth and favorable sailing, he went in for the prep for the second eye where he met with a different masked face who said that he would be doing the second eye. At the day-after appointment at 0700, the masked Doctor (a young man Charlie assumed to be an intern or junior resident or), went through a methodical, careful, and thorough examination of his work and answered every one of Charlie's questions with surprising and greatly appreciated clarity and substance. When he left the exam room for a moment, Charlie told **Deanne** that they needed to write down his name because Charlie wanted to be sure to get this impressive doctor as his Doc if anything went wrong after they returned home. When the doctor came back, Charlie asked his name; he replied Aker, and Charlie said, "I had a classmate with that name, a very smart, impressive, handsome, and big-time athlete." The young Doc stopped his exam, stared into Charlie's blurry eyes and asked where he had gone to school. When Charlie replied West Point '68, the doctor's demeanor changed and he said, "That's my father." Dr. Jonathan Aker, son of our classmate **Alan Aker**, returning clarity of sight with confident and expert attention to detail for one of his father's classmates. Young Doctor Aker reported that his father met his mother when they were both residents at Cornell and they moved to Boca Raton, Florida in the early 80s. His father has practiced ophthalmology for the past four decades, and took the family back to visit West Point often when they returned to New York for family events. Charlie reflected that he knew he was in good hands, but they were better than I could have hoped. Some classmates cast a giant shadow – and some help you see – and some do both. Using his new-found sight, Charlie has already read **John Hedley's** compilation. In doing so, he noticed reference to Alan Aker and felt quiet satisfaction of appreciation for the continuing contributions of classmates serving on land and sea. Well done.

### **Dale Hansen Continues to Pick up the Pieces**

The weekend after our Remembrance Weekend, **Dale Hansen** visited Alison Saksena, **Bill Little's** half-sister and gave her John Hedley's *From the Shadows* book, along with programs, photo of all fallen classmates, and the commemorative condolence card folder from the previous weekend activities. After the presentation, Dale (ever the dedicated classmate) returned home to focus on finding lost sheep **John Armstrong, Mike Gorecki, Phil Kreuger, Chuck Parker, John Toraason, and Dan Popov**. Any help from classmates would be appreciated.



[Photo #1 – “Two of Bill Little’s classmates from Pingry School in Hillsdale, NJ, Dale Hansen, Alison Sakskena and her daughter and husband gather for Dale’s delivery of John Hedley’s latest book and mementos from our Remembrance Weekend”]

### **Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

We’ve come a long way since 1988 when we first gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to remember and honor our classmates whose names were gouged into the black granite of The Wall. There was a good sized contingent of classmates still in uniform in the DC area, but they were deep in transitions – next step in or out of uniform and kids’ next step in or out of college. First, we got the class together. Then, more classmates started helping, widows and families were included, and our classmates whose names are on The Wall were appropriately remembered. This year, **Dave Ohle, Jess Gatlin, Henry Riser, Glenn Hewitt, and Sandy Cohen** planned and coordinated with 20 classmates who representatives of our fallen classmates and their families as well as a throng of classmates, as needed, to put together an magnificent staging area overlooking The Wall. A new and welcome touch for the area were folding chairs that had to be added, arranged, rearranged, and taken down in a timely manner. Dave Ohle welcomed us, as he did in 1988. **Tom Margrave** came down from Cortland, New York to convey the Invocation and participate in other venues. Class President **Dutch Hostler** delivered a stirring Commemoration. Henry Riser read the Roll Call as Glen Hewitt passed out yellow roses and a commemorative condolence card folder supplied by the Association of Graduates, to the 20 classmate representatives who would escort families of the fallen to the appropriate spot at The Wall where our classmates are listed.



[Photo #2 – “Class President Dutch Hostler delivering his Commemoration Address at our Remembrance ceremony at The Wall”]



Photo #3 – “Rev. Tom Margrave delivering the Invocaton during our Remembrance ceremony at The Wall”]

### Wrapping up the Sitting Part of the The Wall Ceremony

After roses and cards were distributed by Henry and Glen, and Sandy finished the Cadet Prayer, all in attendance began to make their way to The Wall.



[[Photo #4 – “As Henry Riser read the Roll Call of our fallen classmates, Glen Hewitt handed a yellow rose to **Fred Shahid** on behalf of Bill Little”]



[Photo #5 – “The 20 class representatives of our fallen classmates sunning themselves in preparation to their walk to The Wall”]

### What Goes Around...

An additional surprise group who attended The Wall ceremony consisted of three members of our 50 year Affiliation Class who are currently stationed with The Old Guard at Ft Myers.



[Photo #6 – “Gordon Tillery with three members of our Affiliation class of 2018 joining us at The Wall ceremony”]

## A Stroll to The Wall

The short stroll to the wall gave us time to chat with other attendees, remember previous treks in preparations to seek names on panels and lines, and reminisce about happier and sadder days.



[Photo #7 – “Prio to getting up, **Dan & Gwynne Taylor** take in the assembly that our classmates had put together”]



[Photo #8 – “**John Hedley** escorted **Ralph Hawley**, **Rick’s** brother, to **Rick’s** location on The Wall. **Ralph** met **Dave Alexander's** widow, **Louis**, at a gathering of NOK who lost family members in Vietnam and have maintained contact ever since, Around **John** and **Ralph** are **Jess Gatlin**, **Jim Tanski** (who was a representative for **Ken Cummings** at The Wall and a reader at the Army Museum event the next day), and **Henry Riser** Leading the way”]

## At The Wall



[Photo #9 – “**Ross Nagy**, one of our honoree's representatives, who stood in for the next-of-kin in their absence, took this picture showing **Don VanCook** engraved on The Wall with his yellow rose and an AOG commemorative condolence card folder”]



[Photo #10 – “**Janet** with hubbie **Charlie Lieb** who is pointing out classmate, lacrosse teammate and 1/506<sup>th</sup> mate **Don Workman** where Don was killed during Operation Ripcord. Charlie was Don’s representative at The Wall and Reader the next day at the Army Museum event”]

### More at The Wall



[Photo #11 – “**Lynn & Terry Wildrick** after paying respects at **Pete Connor’s** site at The Wall”]



[Photo #12 – “Reflections of **Al & Katherine Vitters** with the class at The Wall ceremony”]

### The Signal to Depart

As our assemblage at The Wall drew to a close, a drummer and bugler from The Old Guard appeared at the edge of The Wall. The slow drum beat got our attention, the bugler sounded Taps, we faced the American Flag at the spot we had assembled for our ceremony, and veterans rendered a hand salute. The view of the drummer and bugler at the left, the Flag at the right, the green grass in the middle, and the Capitol Dome over the hill on the horizon emphasized the fact that we have been – and continue to be – part of something special. The only sound was the bugle.

## After The Wall

Every After Action Report that has been conducted since the class has been creating large events has asked, “What can we do better?” and the universal response has been, “Give us more ‘down’ time so we can just visit and talk.” While accomplishing that request is easier said than done due to time/distance issues at reunion entailing travel to West Point, that response has been met at numerous gatherings featuring Remembrances either at The Wall or Ft Benning. After our gathering at The Wall, buses returned to the Sheraton, the Hospitality Suite was opened, and time was our own. The location of the hotel was perfect for sightseeing in the District, shopping at the Marine Corps PX at Henderson Hall, paying respects to more loved ones at Arlington National Cemetery, or sitting down, rehydrating, talking, and listening.



[Photo #13 – “**Andy & Betty Shaffer** visited Arlington to pay respect to Andy’s father and mother”]



[Photo #14 – “Regimental mates **Ray Puffer** and **Mike Cerrone** catching up with **Dwight Lee**, **Tom Margrave**, and **Kathryn Kaufman** in the background at the Hospitality Suite”]

## More Meetings



[Photo # 15 – “**Jennifer Harrelson** with hubby Keith and B-1 mate **Larry Stevenson**”]



[Photo # 16 – “**Rich Scaglione, Bob Swedock, and Pete Sowa**”]

### **Jock Merriam Still Getting Kids to Excell**

While **Jock Merriam** was re-graying with Beast company mate **Greg Unangst**, Cadet Band mate **Marv Markley**, and company mate **Skip Greeby** (see AOG '68 Photo Album page for a photo ), Jock's bride, **Malena**, was telling us how Jock is keeping his boyish figure – rowing. They both say, and **Tom McNaugher** (who rows multiple times a week on the Potomac) echoes, that there's not a lot of strain but lots of movement and flexibility – motion is lotion. As mentioned earlier, Jock and his and Malena's daughter own and run a rowing club in West Palm Beach, Florida and are members of the Florida Scholastic Rowing Association – an organization that promotes high school student participation in rowing. The association conducts meets and hands out awards to academic and athletic stand-outs. Last season a father of a contestant purchased and established a trophy dedicated to competition in girls' sculling, and named the trophy after the oldest rowing competitor he knows whose first name is the same as his.



[Photo #17 – “Note the name of the trophy held by its winner next to its namesake.”]

Jock's next stop this summer is a rowing competition in France where he will take a side trip for a week of wine tasting on a river barge excursion. Jock is also proud to have his picture taken with **Dick Steiner** – his “twin” – at least they seemed to be when they attended the Guatemalan Military Academy in 1966. Jock Merriam Still Getting Kids to Excell. Thanks to Dick for providing us with a CD of tunes that influenced us in one way or another during tours in Southeast Asia. He has already created a CD of all-time hits during our time as cadets for our 55th reunion. Plan to attend just for that.



[Photo #18 – “**Dick Steiner and Jock Merriam remembering cadet days in Central America**”]



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### **Classmates and Grads Celebrate Bob Beahm's Birthday**

**George Shoener** sent along a photo of **Nellie Laughton**, **Bob Beahm**, and himself at Hawaiian Shirt Give-Away Day at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. A couple of days prior to Bob's birthday, the guys teamed up with the West Point Societies of Baltimore, Annapolis, and Chesapeake (primarily Delaware) to attend the Orioles' game against the L.A. Angels. Bob not only got the nifty Hawaiian shirt, but the Orioles beat the Angles as an added birthday present.



[Photo #1 – “Nellie Laughton, Bob Beahm, and George Shoener at Camden Yards preparing to visit the Hostlers”]

### **John Cruden Returns from Alaska**

**John Cruden** reported in on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He had just returning from a family vacation in southeast Alaska. They joined a National Geographic ship in Sitka and spent a week along the inner passage as they surrounded themselves with family in a beautiful world that looked a lot like heaven as they felt closer to Sharon. John's four teenage grandchildren thoroughly enjoyed whale watching, moose tracking, bear observing, kayaking among sea lions, and kayaking in several different places. They particularly liked flying in a small plane over Glacier Bay National Park.



[Photo #2 – John Cruden surrounded by family in Alaska”]



[Photo #3 – “John Cruden kayaking and engulfed in nature’s splendor in Alaska”]

### Happy Fourth of July!

I saw a number of fireworks scenes and good wishes online from classmates and families. As usual, **John & Margie Hedley** personified the celebration with a parade and opening their home to friends and family. This year the demographics were very different – **Craig & Susan Carson** and **Ray & Mary Jane Rhodes** couldn’t make it; however, the Hedleys’ daughter and a number of her friends who were with child at last year’s gathering brought along the fruits of their labors this year. The average age of this year’s festivity was decades lower and the Hedleys’ pooch seemed to stay away from lapping water in the pool. The traditional participation in a local town’s parade of years gone by has morphed into a community procession that feels a lot more comfortable.



[Photo #4 – “**Tommy Barnes** and John Hedley lead the now traditional 4<sup>th</sup> of July community parade. Note **Don Colglazier**’s authentic NC license plate”]

### **Remembrance Weekend – Sunday Tribute to Classmates Killed in Vietnam**

The Sunday event of our class Remembrance Weekend was held at the new Museum of the US Army close to Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Originally **Gordon Tillery** and **Ralph Tuccillo** had planned for us to walk a ways on the Museum grounds to personally view the 20 paver bricks that the class had donated. The names of our 20 classmates who gave their lives in the Vietnam War are carved into those bricks. In good 50 years after Ranger School manner, that portion of the event was scrubbed due to weather (the sun was shining – a lot) and we were redirected to the air-conditioned museum for self-guided touring until we were to assemble in a spacious conference room to witness a well planned and executed tribute to our classmates. This tribute was conducted under the direction of Ralph Tuccillo who began planning it a year ago. Each of the 20 tributes was written by a classmate, to last (exactly) two minutes and thirty seconds, consist of 10 PowerPoint slides, and be uniquely different from all other classmate tributes.



[Photo #5 – “Gordon Tillery and Ralph Tuccillo were major coordinators for our Remembrance Weekend”]



[Photo #6 – A last minute tweak and the new Army Museum: **Dale Hansen, Rick Rhoades**, Ralph Tuccillo, and **Fred Johnson** – Note the heavy eye-lids”]

### **The Manpower Needed to Pay Tribute**

With the help of **Karl Leatham**, who has made a very comfortable retirement nest egg teaching the art of presentations, the COVID period of lockdown that was abundantly filled with rehearsals – lots of rehearsals – and editing – and it was worth it. The group of classmates who participated as representatives of fallen classmates and their family next of kin, as tribute writers and tribute readers, was magnificent and reflected how much the classmates who gave their all were loved and respected throughout the Corps. Great job guys. As a post script, a few months ago, the AOG wanted to write an article in *West Point* magazine on how classes of the 60s honor and remember classmates who were killed in Vietnam as well as how we include the families of these fallen. AOG asked for each class’ input not to exceed 300 words. Our class invited AOG members to come down to the Washington, D.C. area to see for themselves and Barbara St. John, the Memorial Support Manager, and Cathy Kilner ('90), the Director of Class Services came down for a peek. Not only did they observe but we threw them into the fray to complete various tasks that popped up. Thank you, ladies – I’m sure that you got more than your 300 words worth.



[Photo #7 – “Karl Leatham in Command Central at the back of the conference room in the New Army Museum”]

[Photo #8 – Note the number of different classmates it took and the various companies and regiments they were from to represent and pay tribute to our classmates who gave their all in Vietnam.

Fallen Classmate	Cdt Co	Family Rep at Wall Classmate	Cdt Co	Tribute Writer Classmate	Cdt Co	Tribute Reader Classmate	Cdt Co
Donald F. Van Cook, Jr.	H-4	Ross Nagy	B-4	Bub Younts	F-4	Ralph Tildon	F-4
William F. Ericson II	H-4	Bob Stroud	E-3	Robby Robinson	F-1	Fred Johnson	F-1
Denny L. Johnson	E-4	George Ziots	G-4	Ralph Tuccillo	E-4	Ralph Tuccillo	E-4
Kenneth T. Cummings	D-4	Jim Tanski	D-4	David Clappier	C-4	Jim Tanski	D-4
David L. Sackett	E-3	Jess Gatlin	E-3	Jess Gatlin	E-3	Jess Gatlin	E-3
Peter M. Connor	A-2	Bruce Korda	A-2	Dick McClelland	A-2	Dick McClelland	A-2
James A. Gaiser	C-4	Elwood Cobey	C-4	Joe Javorski	D-4	Joe Javorski	D-4
William F. Little III	F-1	Fred Shahid	F-1	Gordon Tillery	F-1	Gordon Tillery	F-1
Donald R. Colglazier	A-1	Ray Rhodes	A-1	Craig Carson	A-1	Ray Rhodes	A-1
Jeffry R. Riek	E-3	Jack Munson	H-3	Ross Irvin	E-3	Jack Munson	H-3
Harry E. Hayes	F-4	Bob Brace	G-4	Bob Brace	G-4	Bob Brace	G-4
Richard A. Hawley, Jr.	D-1	John Hedley	A-1	Mike Brennan	C-1	Mike Brennan	C-1
John E. Darling, Jr.	F-3	Paul Joseph	F-3	John Cruden	H-3	Paul Joseph	F-3
Donald R. Workman	C-3	Charlie Lieb	C-3	Brian Utermahlen	C-2	Charlie Lieb	C-3
David T. Maddux	C-4	Tom Margrave	F-3	Tom Margrave	F-3	Tom Margrave	F-3
Douglass T. Wheelless	H-4	Bub Younts	F-4	Mike Fisher	H-4	Bub Younts	F-4
William F. Reichert	B-4	Russ Baker	D-4	Mike Trollinger	B-4	Russ Baker	D-4
David L. Alexander	D-3	Rick Rhoades	D-3	Rick Rhoades	D-3	Rick Rhoades	D-3
Louis J. Speidel	B-2	Dale Hansen	B-2	Greg Camp	B-2	Greg Camp	B-2
Henry M. Spengler III	B-4	Mike Havey	B-4	Jim Locher	D-4	Mike Havey	B-4

## Mike Havey's Report

**Mike Havey** surfaced at the June Remembrance Weekend gathering for good very good reasons – he escorted **Bette Spengler** Meuleners on Saturday at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. and he read the memorial tribute to **Hank Spengler** written by **Jim Locher** on Sunday at the U.S. Army Museum. Mike has been missing for so long that I had to get a write-up. After working for a dozen years as SAIC's Director of its Threat Reduction Support Center for Defense Threat Reduction Agency, he worked for another 11 years as a Contractor for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) Research and Development Group. He finally figured out he might as well turn back to government again, so he switched badge colors in NGA about 18 months ago. On another note, Mike's junior namesake (referred to as "Young-son-Michael") left the J3-Staff mid-May to take over the 1st Batt/7th FA out at Fort Riley, Kansas. Mike, Jr. was assigned to Gen Custer's quarters and has been counseled not to follow in his footsteps. He obviously obeyed that piece of advice since his command assignment includes moving his battalion to Europe in only a couple of months. Mike, Sr. also mused that, when Taps was played over the slow drum roll at The Wall, it was the first time he had ever heard the whole Mall area go completely silent.



[Photo #9 – “Mike & **Kit** Havey with **Dennis Rosenberry** in background at the classmate tribute portion of our Remembrance Weekend at the Army Museum”]



[Photo #10 – “Hank Spengler, **Russ Baker**, and **Ace Reichert** Cow year”]

### **Seen at the Army Museum**

At the conclusion of the tribute to our fallen classmates, we were honored and entertained by the very poignant and spot-on remarks from Retired General Eric Shinseki ('65) a past Chief of Staff of the Army, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and good friend of the class. Thanks also to **Larry Jordan** for coordinating this portion of Sunday's event.



[Photo #11 – “Part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment contingent: Steve Lyons, Bill McAdams, and Frank Robinson with others in the background”]



[Photo #12 – “Half of the F-2 Zoo contingent: **Lucille & Jim Swinney** with **Dick Bowers** and **Bill Nash** in the background”]

### **After the Museum, More Free Time**

When the buses returned to the Sheraton, the Hospitality Suite was opened, the drinking lamp was lit, and more information and laughter was exchanged. We heard **Vic Farrugia** talk about the properties he had inherited from his father in New Orleans and the time and effort he and Christine put into restoring them. If you are interested in indulging yourself in an elegant and historic home, see what's available on Vrbo on Erato Street in NOLA. When you book, ask for the classmate discount.



[Photo #13 “Dapper Classmates Hank Gregor and Vic Farrugia take full advantage in sharing stories”]

### One More Event and Thanks

The evening after the tribute at the Army Museum, we were blessed to attend our final event – supper on the hotel’s penthouse events facility where we had a wonderful view of the United States Air Force Memorial and a five sided day-care center. Prior to supper, we could partake in a “cash” (not charge to room, not charge to a card, no check – CASH) bar. **Gordon Tillery** sent along a photo of **Bub Younts** and **Bob Balog** setting up the “entrée card” table outside the bar where folks picked up cards identifying their pre-paid supper – all at once. Bub, Bob, and **Marv Markley** ran the table. There was ample confusion, when folks who had not paid to attend the optional dinner, and all who had paid showed up at once. The photo according to Bob is peaceful time– sort of like Omaha Beach an hour before H-hour. Also, thanks to **Jess Gatlin** for booking the West Point Alumni Glee Club (The Loose Cannons) for the event. They were wonderful – singing Old Corps and military favorites and an assortment of songs from our days at West Point and Southeast Asia.



[Photo #14 – “Bub Younts and Bob Balog at the entrée card table for our last supper – they never knew what hit them”]

### Well, Maybe Just One More

The Loose Cannons Glee Club and **Gordon Tillery**’s reminder of all of the classmates and families who had worked so long and so hard to make this weekend an event to remember gave us another reason to visit the Hospitality Suite just one more time. As hard as we tried, there was still liquid refreshments left over so Gordie grabbed **Henry Riser** and **Charlie Lieb** to get them to find a way to get rid of all of it. Did you know that Charlie was an auctioneer? So, off they went digging into the refrigerators and wine boxes to auction off everything, Everything must go! **Janet Lieb** brought back the TP and paper towels from the restrooms and the Red Solo Cups from a closet that was left open by the custodial staff. **Kathy Shipley** jumped into the

bidding early – to boost the prices up – but kept “winning.” Since they were flying out the next day, they couldn’t take all the liquid with them. The final item to go the next morning was the banner that was displayed in the hotel lobby – taken by **Fred Johnson**. What a weekend – the Class Admin Fund was bolstered and we all agreed to room together next semester...



[Photo #15 – “Fred Johnson and Charlie Lieb trade a Class Banner for a wad of cash”]

### One More Alan Aker Encounter

Charlie Beckwith’s encounter with part of **Alan & Ann Aker’s** progeny struck a chord with **Jim Altemose**. Back at our 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion, as you may recall, we held a group of fund-raising drawings for which several of our classmates donated the prizes. Jim & **Fran** and won one of those drawings: an eye surgery procedure donated by Alan but which, at the time, had not yet been formally approved. It took a little over a year before Alan called Jim & Fran announcing the approval and asked when they could get Fran down to Boca Raton for the surgery. Alan & Ann even put them up at their guest house. Jim & Fran met young doctor-to-be Jonathan and his sister during their stay there. Fran went from cataracts and terrible vision to no cataracts and 20/20 vision virtually overnight. Her first eureka moment was at a restaurant the evening of the surgery when she was handed a menu and shrieked loud enough to garner the attention of everyone in the restaurant. She could read the menu without glasses for the first time ever! Pretty cool stuff Alan and Jonathan are doing. Jim wrote to relate his flashback from Milan after arriving in Italy back on 6 April. They were in Sicily for a month and then ferried into Italy at Messina, toured the southern provinces, and turned left and North at Lecce to head up to Abruzzo and Fran’s maternal roots. At the end of June, they moved to Basel where they were to embark on a river cruise on the Rhine in early July; however, coming down with COVID caused them to forego the cruise, so they spent a week in Basel and then moved on to Milan. They still have a month remaining in Milan, Florence and Parma before flying back to Atlanta on 10 August. With COVID limitations over the past couple of years and then spending four-plus months in Italy, Jim has not had much contact with classmates; however, he did report that **Mike Peters** is entertaining his extended family this summer and that **Jon Anderson** is doing well.



[Photo #16 “Alan & Ann Aker with Fran & Jim Altemose on the evening after Ann’s surgery in 2005”]



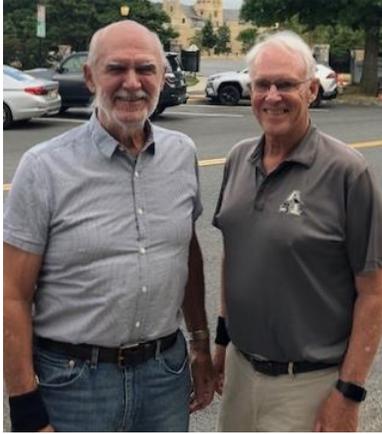
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### **Classmates More than Traditionally Participate in End of Beast March Back**

During this year's March back, seven members of the class participated and wore black wristbands in **Tony Ambrose's** memory. Long-time stalwart **Pres Miller** (wearing Tony's lanyard/ID as well as his own) joined Beast roommates **Terry Wildrick** and **Craig O'Connor** for the full distance in from Lake Frederick. **Dutch Hostler, Dale Hansen, Dave Martin, and Jerry Holderness** opted for the short stroll in from the ski slope. At the post March back luncheon, the Supe told the story, acknowledging Tony's stalwart support of the program and the Academy and called for a moment of silence in Tony's memory. Dutch Hostler noted that it was a fitting gesture and a touching moment. Tony had marched the full distance of each March back since Tony and Dutch participated in the first one in 2000. Even during the height of the COVID pandemic, Tony marched the full distance – albeit locally. Knowing Tony, he probably walked during that time with greater precision than most old grads who participated in that manner. Tony had signed up for the march back from Lake Frederick again this year. A few weeks prior to the event, Tony sent an email to the Class cohort walkers who have been convening for the March back year after year, indicating that a medical issue had arisen that cast doubt on his doing the full distance march. Tony subsequently withdrew his name from the full distance March back list so that another grad on the waiting list might be able to participate. The group all hoped to see him for the short march, although he had quipped that he wasn't particularly fond of the thought of being awarded the dreaded “flip-flop” pin. We now know, of course, that Tony had suffered a stroke and was subsequently diagnosed with the complication of pancreatic cancer, then suffered a second stroke on the way to his ultimate passing.



Photo #1 – “2022 Class March back participants Jerry Holderness, Craig O’Connor, Terry Wildrick, Pres Miller (with Tony Ambrose’s lanyard/ID) Dutch Hostler, Dave Martin, and Dale Hansen at the West Point Ski Lodge”]



[Photo #2 – Beast roommates Craig O’Connor and Terry Wildrick reuniting for the 2022 March back”]

### **Tony Ambrose Will Be Remembered Far Beyond this Year’s March Back**

True to form, **Tony Ambrose** had registered to join in the March back event prior to his and Linda’s participation in the Remembrance Weekend in June. During that event, he made one last pitch to classmate brides to contribute reminiscences of their adventures with their husbands for the distaff volume of our *Both Sides of the Wall* memoirs and coordinated with **Andy Shaffer** for the book’s format and publication. No one at the Remembrance Weekend but God knew that he would not be with us in body by the time of the March back. In another true to form gesture, **Pres Miller**, another long time participant, asked the AOG for Tony’s ID lanyard to wear during the walk back to the cadet barracks.



[Photo #3 – “Warhorse classmates Tony Ambrose and Andy Shaffer at the Vietnam Memorial portion of our Remembrance Weekend. Photo courtesy of Betty Shaffer”]



[Photo #4 – “Pres Miller honoring Tony Ambrose by wearing Tony’s lanyard/ID during the full March back with the Class of 26”]

### **Hostlers Return to Mainland for More Service and Business**

In keeping with the actions of many classmates after the Remembrance Weekend, **Dutch & Megan Hostler** went to a glamorous spot – their home in Hawaii for a few agricultural and laundry tasks in preparation to return to the Mainland for non-profit participation, AOG Leader Conference, and the traditional march back. Their first stop on their trip to the mainland was Brunswick, Georgia for a fundraising event in support of Nine Line Foundation’s current project: Golden Isles Veterans Village – a transitional housing project for homeless veterans. **Dan Kaufman** had graciously agreed to Megan’s request that he serve as guest speaker at a fundraising dinner event. Dan & **Kathryn** were both raised in Brunswick, so Dan is a hometown hero – a natural choice and perfect fit for the occasion. Kathryn was away on a long planned excursion to NYC with a granddaughter, but the night before the event Dan picked Dutch & Megan up at their hotel and they enjoyed a great dinner together at a local restaurant. On the way back to the Hostlers’ hotel, Dan was stopped in traffic and was rear ended by a truck towing a trailer. In lawyer-speak, the force of the impact caved in the back and drove Dan’s car into the vehicle stopped ahead of him. The culpable truck then clipped the vehicle stopped ahead of Dan’s car and veered into the woods lining the roadway. The driver abandoned that vehicle and vanished into the night without a trace. Megan was showered by shattered rear window glass - and Dan’s car was severely damaged (likely totaled). Fortunately, Dan, Dutch, and Megan all walked away from the wreckage without apparent serious injury (you can never be totally sure about possible “soft tissue” whiplash injury) – none of them bled that evening. The next evening, as we’d all expect, an unperturbed Dan reliably delivered an excellent talk on behalf of the cause at the fundraiser. No task too great.



[Photo #5 – “Dan Kaufman none the worse for wear with his car that can’t say the same”]

### **Classmates Gather to Offer Comfort and Bid Farwell to Claude Johnson**

**Paul Joseph** reported that he and **Claire** traveled from their home in Virginia to meet with **Rick Rhoades** and his and **Mary’s** daughter (Kate) at the Box Car Restaurant in Short Hills, New Jersey to celebrate the wonderful life of **Claude Johnson** with his bride, **Tina**, and their family. Paul said that Claude’s family did a great job in making it a very nice evening honoring Tina’s husband, Christopher’s and Kathryn’s father, and our friend and classmate.



[Photo #6 – “Paul Joseph, Rick Rhoades, Tina Johnson, (Rick’s & Mary’s daughter) Kate, and Claire Joseph at Claude Johnson’s celebration of life last July”]

### **Traveling With the Dallens and McKennas**

After an adventure in Morocco, **John & Frances Dallen** and **Brian & Karen McKenna** have cleared our calendar – the barge trip is now rescheduled for August of 2023 and they've decided to pass on the Dubai to Singapore cruise, and the trip to Japan was canceled by the tour company. To keep their tootsies in the travel pond, they scheduled a 21 day July tour that started in Denmark and included a cruise to several Norwegian fjords as well as a visit the White Sea, and to ports in Russia. Due to Tsar Vladimir the Terrible, the Russian ports had to be given up in place fo fascinating Scottish islands. John said that he was prepared to begin his journal their trip with the usual litany of complaints and near-disasters; however, aside from questionable airline schedules and food the excursion qualified as a veritable miracle. To get the full report, tune into [dallen.posthaven.com](http://dallen.posthaven.com).



[Photo #7 – “Brian & Karen McKenna and Frances & John Dallen at the North Cape globe monument in Norway – as far north in Europe as one can get by land, 71° 10’ 48” North. Although John reported that the weather included fog, rain, and wind, it eased enough to get this picture. **Andy & Betty Shaffer** and the **Gerards** only wished for their weather during their visit there three years ago”]

### **Hansens Take a Memorable Break in Preparation for this Year’s Marchback**

After the Remembrance Weekend, **Dale & Joyce Hansen** participated in the Empire State Bike Trail – a five day trek covering just over 200 miles starting at the Battery in Manhattan and ending at the Rensselaer-Albany Train Station. They went with 10 others (eight of whom they have biked with several times) along with two guides. After that, Dale & Joyce took off to Germany for a week and a half. They started in Munich and stayed in the Hotel Platzl, a block away from the Hofbrauhaus. They then traveled to Oberammergau where they watched the five hour Passion Play (two and a half hours at a time with a 3 hour intermission for dinner.) After that, they traveled to Garmisch-Partenkirchen where they stayed at the Edelweiss Resort (what in our earlier days might have been the General Patton Hotel), the familiar the Armed Forces Recreation Center. Yearning for some exercise, they traveled to the Zugspitze and walked the Partnach Gorge prior to heading to Augsburg.



[Photo #8 – “Dale & Joyce Hansen (who didn’t check the uniform flag) with a few other rider friends on the Empire State Bike Trial”]



[Photo #9 – “Joyce & Dale Hansen cleverly hiding their refreshments at a beer garden in Augsburg”]

### **Another Classmate Family at the Passion Play**

Speaking of the Passion Play, **Bill & Cheryl Jeffries** took a two week trip down the Danube with 19 other West Point alumni to visit Budapest, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, and Germany to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play. *On Brave Old Army Team* frequently echoed off the lazy river, the walls of 11 levees, and the restored ruins of several small towns. After some fine Hungarian, Slovakian, Austrian, and German wine, the Army alums tried to teach the song to alumni from North Carolina State, Universities of Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Virginia, and North Carolina. Bill urges that, if anyone hasn't attended this historic performance to be sure and put it on your bucket list for 2030. Even our current AOG President joined in on the cruise and event. After the play Bill & Cheryl opted for an excursion to Berlin where he had the chance to see Check Point Charlie from a different perspective than the last time he saw it in the 70s.



[Photo #10 – “AOG Pres Todd Brown ('85) and his bride, Bill & Cheryl Jeffries and other alumni who participated on the Danube Cruise and Passion Play”]



[Photo #11 – “Bill Jeffries at current day Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin being over watched by a McDonalds”]

### **Elwood Cobey Shares a Bucket List Experience**

Elwood Cobey’s travel adventures always include two criteria – a spectacular spot and family. After the Remembrance Weekend, Elwood’s brother, a member of The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews invited him to attend – which included a formal dinner prior to kick off festivities – as his guest at The Open. The Open was the 150<sup>th</sup> playing of the championship and the 30<sup>th</sup> time that St Andrews has hosted the world’s biggest and most popular golf event. To ensure that this was going to be a once in a lifetime event for Elwood, he worked to give other golf courses a chance to be most popular by continuing to yell, “Get in the hole,” while each golfer would take a swing.



[Photo #12 – “Elwood Cobey and his brother in front of The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews prior to the formal supper to kick off the championship event”]



[Photo #13 – “Elwood Cobey at the 17<sup>th</sup> hole at The Old Course in St Andrews in July 2022”]

## Jack & Meg Miller are Back in the Travel Saddle

After bidding farewell to the A-2 gang and getting some timely tips regarding Viking ship travel from **Andy Shaffer** at the Remembrance Weekend, **Jack & Meg Miller** finally resumed their cruising lifestyle by setting off for Alaska and the Inside Passage after two previous tries. Their first stop in this vast wilderness was the Hubbard Glacier that is six miles wide where it meets the ocean. They couldn't get too close to the glacier due to icebergs. Jack indicated that, although during the cruise there were numerous majestic scenes no matter where one looked, the highlight for him and Meg was the zip line ride down Hoonah Mountain – a descent of 1300 feet in 90 seconds with speeds of 60 mph – without having to do push-ups with his feet on a big red rock. He also added that a close 2<sup>nd</sup> was the visit to an Iditarod dog summer camp in Seward and their 1.5 mile ride in a modified “sled” pulled by a team of 14 dogs. Jack reported that their next cruise will be a little more sedate and closer to home – a trip down the mighty Mississippi on the new Viking Mississippi. Good for them! Especially after COVID, they gotta travel while they still can.....



[Photo #14 Meg & Jack Miller with the Hubbard Glacier in the background”]

## Tillerys Take a Break

After our Remembrance Weekend, **Gordon & Elsie Tillery** attempted to recover from Gordie's long periods of pre-occupation and distraction with a well-deserved week with family on Lake Namakagon, in the north woods of Wisconsin.



[Photo #15 – “Gordon & Elsie Tillery during a day trip to Copper Falls State Park in Wisconsin”]

## Other Steps to Wrap Up Remembrance Weekend

In accordance with the Class Standing Committee approval, and since the Class was not able to identify a next of kin for **Ace Reichert**, **Dutch Hostler** presented the 20<sup>th</sup> copy of **John Hedley's** *From the Shadows* purchased by the Class for next of kin to the USMA library for its special collections. Our Class' contributions to the USMA library special collections now include

all three volumes of *Both Sides of the Wall* and our 50 Year Affiliation book - as well as the book Dutch donated while participating in the Annual AOG Leaders' Conference that coincided with the March back. Dutch presented the book to Christopher Barth, the USMA Librarian, who informed Dutch that USMA's special collections will ultimately be housed in Cullum Hall, which is currently undergoing extensive renovations.



[Photo #16 – “USMA Librarian, Christopher Barth and Class President Dutch Hostler at NOK presentation event”]



[Photo #17 – “As part of the same book NOK presentation event on behalf of our Class, **Vic Farrugia** presented a copy of *From the Shadows* to Danny Johnson, **Denny Johnson**'s brother in Louisiana”]



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### **Classmates Make the Best of Army's Season Opener**

**Jeff Rogers** dropped a note and photo to document that there were at least three classmates at the tailgate for the Army vs. Coastal Carolina season opener football game in Conway, South Carolina. Jeff & **Carl** traveled the farthest (Melbourne, Florida), while it was more like a local commute for **Dwight Lee** (Pawleys Island, South Carolina) and **Rich Carlson** (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina).



[Photo #1 – “Dwight Lee, Jeff Rogers, and Rich Carlson at the Army tailgate prior to the Coastal Carolina game”]

### **Jack Reed Took the Weight Challenge**

After seeing photos of classmates like **Tom McConnell** and **John Hedley** who dropped weight so they could fit into their blues for special occasions, or **Don Roberts**, **Keith Harrelson**, and **Larry Hart** who dropped weight (and kept it off) from their cadet days because they were no longer competing in sports that required heft, or **Pres Miller** sporting his grey jacket with its Rabble Rouser signification because he could, **Jack Reed** took up the weight loss challenge because he wanted to maximize and prolong his quality of life. Now, like Marty McFly in *Back to the Future* looking at the year meter on the DeLorean as he goes back in time from 1985 to 1955, Jack was at 185 pounds, and, went back to 155 pounds. He felt that his ideal weight was what he weighed in 1964 – he didn't say if that was before or after shower formations. So he now weighs the same as when he was 18; however, age has redistributed it to different locations. He shrugged off the cop-out “I cannot cut food intake because I love food too much,” for, “You cannot eat food when you are dead because you ate too much.”



[Photo #2 – “A lighter and redistributed Jack Reed in his cadet white trou”]

### **Jim Orahood Used COVID Lockdown Well**

When all we hear about COVID is how much weight everyone gained and how sluggish they became, **Jim Orahood** opted to do the opposite. At the beginning of the pandemic, he bought a sturdy bicycle that weighed about two pounds and practiced to highlight the motto: “You never forget how to ride.” To underscore his efforts, he signed up with a local bicycle club to Ride Across, Indiana (RAIN) – a 160-mile trek running from West Terre Haute to Richmond to be covered in one day. Upon hearing that Jim was so serious about riding, the club cancelled the race for two years. Jim kept practicing but diverted his attention to hiking and looking after grandkids. Needless to say, he has set quite an example for his family.



[Photo #3 – “Jim Orahood hiking with son and grandson”]



[Photo #4 – “Jim Orahood all decked out in riding RAIN gear and bike”]

### **Alan & Kathy Vitters Finally Celebrate Their 50<sup>th</sup> as Planned**

Alan & Kathy Vitters finally took a twice cancelled (due to COID) river cruise to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary together. The trip was from Berlin to Prague along the Elbe River. They had both been to Berlin in the early 80s so they found the changes interesting. While much has changed, much remains the same. The place where the Wall had stood is marked by tracks on the roads. They found it not surprising that they saw lots of Ukraine flags flying in the Czech Republic.



[Photo #5 – “Kathy & Al Vitters at today’s Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin”]

### **Rhodes Families Reunited After Three Year Lockdown**

From late July to early August **Ray & Mary Jane Rhodes** went to Thailand to visit their son and his family who just moved there from New Zealand in June. Their son is currently the Director of the Land Operations Directorate in Joint US Military Advisory Group Thailand and on the O-5 list (promotion scheduled for next May. Ray & Mary Jane had not seen the family for over three years as they were stationed in New Zealand and the Kiwis wouldn't let outsiders into the country. Their three grand kids are five, seven, and ten, so they really missed seeing them in person. Thank goodness for Facetime!



[Photo #6 – “Mary Jane & Ray Rhodes at an elephant park in Thailand with their son and his family”]



[Photo #7 – “Mary Jane & Ray Rhodes with their son and his bride for a little grown-up time in Thailand”]

### **A-3/G-3 Classmates Bid Farewell to Mike Murphy**

Marvelous **Marv Markley** reported that he joined A-3 classmates **Bob Beahm**, **Jon Gardner**, and **Bill Higgins**, and G-3 classmate **Dave Ohle** on a humid day in mid-July at Arlington National Cemetery to attend **Mike Murphy’s** funeral. As firsties, Dave and Mike were in G-3 and in C-3 Yearling and Cow years, they were in C-3 and A-3 respectively. Since Dave, Bob, and Bill live in the DC area, they didn’t have to travel too far; however, Jon lives in New York and Marv has established roots in Louisiana, so more extensive travel plans had to be made. This was Marv’s first visit to Arlington and he was rightly awed at the location as well as the over 100 attendees at Mike’s service.



[Photo #8 – “MM Markley, Bill Higgins, Jon Gardner, and Bob (Moon) Beahm in a traffic jam at Arlington National Cemetery for Mike Murphy’s funeral service and interment”]

### **McCauleys Making Do With the Weather**

Although **Bill & Cindy McCauley** live in Miami and have been blessed with not even the slightest threat of a hurricane, they've had more than their share of intense tropical sun. They're mobil enough to leave the tropics to the tourists and enjoy breezier shores further north.



[Photo #9 – “Bill & Cindy McCauley at a beach with dunes, grass, and shade”]

### **Bodenhamer Progeny Follow in Dad’s Footsteps**

As soon as **Julia Bodenhamer** got home in mid-August from her and **Jim’s** son’s promotion ceremony at the Army Futures Command in Austin, Texas, Julia shot an email with picture off to us. Jon was promoted to Colonel and currently serves as the lead Science and Technology (S&T) Analyst and S&T Branch Chief in the Science, Combat Systems Integration Division (CSID) of the Army Futures Command. As you can see the ceremony was a fine tuned and coordinated affair with Jim, Julia, Jon’s bride, and their kids all participating in the pinning portion of the ceremony.



[Photo #10 – “Proud parents, Julia & Jim Bodenhamer with son Jon’s bride and kids participating in either a promotion ceremony for Jon or a rugby scrum”]



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### Three Generations of Joseph

**Paul Joseph** took some time off from honoring classmates and looking after their families to pump his own chest up and share his joys of family life. He sent along a photo of his son, John, and his son's son, Jack. Paul was a spectator to see his son carry on a running tradition and finish the Baltimore Marathon a couple of weeks ago. John ran the marathon for a Johns Hopkins "Pacing for Parkinson's Team" (note his T-shirt). The team ended up raising over \$43K in charitable contributions to fight that disease. Another notable trait passed along. Paul's photo with Jack was part of a ninth birthday celebration in September.



[Photo #1 – “Proud Dad, Paul Joseph with his son – a new runner in the family”]



[Photo #2 – “Proud granddad Paul Joseph with his awesome grandson”]

### A Meeting with Gil Tijerina

While enduring delayed flights and crowded planes from the East Coast to sunny El Paso for Barbara's high school reunion, we made it a point to seek out our old Leavenworth, Purdue, and Stony Lonesome neighbor and fellow TAC, **Gil Tijerina** and his bride **Susan**. They live in

the east part of town in an area that we would have never thought existed back in 3<sup>rd</sup> ACR days. Both are semi-retired – Susan from real estate and Gil from education, computer science, and a credit union board. Both are still involved with their church activities. Recently, Gil has been contacted by some soldiers who had served under him in Vietnam when he was a company commander. They discovered that the awards earned during fierce action that Gil had put his troops in for never made it through proper channels and had apparently been lost. For Gil – a leader who knew and loved his men – this is a catastrophic situation and he is spending most of his time coordinating with soldiers of long ago to piece together who was there when and what they did during the fighting. He is reaching out to various veterans organizations and the Veterans Administration to correct this overdue miscarriage. If there is anyone that can get these soldiers their due, it's Gil.



[Photo #3 – “Happy Gil Tijerina with his bride, Susan”]

### **Class Was Well Represented at the October Army vs. Wake Forest Football Game**

Despite some occasional surprises, the Army Team is still Wake Forest's homecoming whipping boy – and an excuse for classmates to gather for some fellowship. Rabble Rouser emeritus (but still dapper and fit) **Pres Miller** teamed up with his bride, **Clem**, to talk their daughter's family who live in the area into going to the game and gave a firsthand account. Apparently the highlight was the pregame tailgate. The first 5 minutes of the game produced some hope that ended abruptly with a fumble inside the Wake Forest five yard line. The rest, Wake 45 Army 10, is history. The Army crowd – led by **Joyce Hansen** – was loud and supportive throughout. High rollers **Dale & Joyce Hansen** and **Dave & Suzanne Martin** traveled south with the Army “A” Club elite while the Millers visited family. Walking from the tailgate party to the game they ran into **Steve & Mary Frushour** and grabbed a quick photo with Steve. While the evening was chilly and the game disappointing, the time with Classmates was a wonderful surprise.



[Photo #4 – “Dave & Suzanne Martin, Clem & Pres Miller (plus daughter and grandkids Ashley, Evelyn and Patrick Perrott), and Joyce & Dale Hansen



[Photo #5 – “Steve Frushour and Pres Miller while they could still smile at the Army-Wake Forest game”]

### **Classmates Bludgeon Paper Targets**

First class reporter for the DC area, **Gordon Tillery**, dropped a note to relate that he joined **Lee Outlaw** and **Bub Younts** to take advantage of Bub’s membership in a local shooting range near Ft Belvoir, so they could try and damage some paper targets using their class pistols. Bub’s shots were all target center. Many of Lee’s were too. Gordon (you can’t spell artillery without Tillery) pistol whipped his targets and signed up for remedial aimed-fire training.



[Photo #6 – “Lee Outlaw, Gordie Tillery, and Bub Younts ... each holding his replica M-1911 Class Pistol. (Note Bub’s license plate)”]

### **News From the Colorado Contingent**

In late September, **Larry Stevenson** dropped an email from Colorado and non-hurricane country to report an out-of-sequence lunch to welcome **Bob Clarke** back to Colorado (even if only for a week as he and **Annaliese** were doing some summer travel). As you can see from the photo, the gang was enjoying totally healthy dishes cleverly disguised as burgers, fries, and fish ‘n’ chips. **Bob Hensler** commented that the gang laughed so much that they drew stares from adjacent tables. One gent came over to their table and asked them if they were Academy grads and they answered yes, but not AFA. He was USAFA '76 and had been a helicopter pilot and is currently a LTC in a command billet. He volunteered to do extra duty supporting the Florida Ranger Camp. The Colorado gang then lavished him with praise recalling how the AF crew chiefs would hand out pogie bait to starving ranger students! **Gary Halstead** reported that he & **Patti** are both doing great at their new retirement living digs and a sizable group (~10) of classmates had lunch with Gary’s Ranger buddy, **Robby Robinson**, and **Lynne** at his VA room. They drank a beer, ate sandwiches and generally just yucked it up. Robby is doing better, was sitting in a wheelchair and seemed to really enjoy all the fun. Lynne has strained her back

learning the transfer skills for Robby. He waited four months for a special electric wheel chair and when it arrived it didn't fit... Lynne is working on preparing the house and buying a minivan for mobility but is not expecting him to be released from the VA facility until sometime into next year. Gary & Patti further added that they are looking forward to sharing their and everyone's lives at our reunion next spring.



[Photo #7 – “Bob Hensler, Tom Martin, Larry Stevenson, guest of honor Bob Clarke, Joe Henry, Chuck Jones, Gary Halstead, and Don Johnson welcoming Bob Clarke back to The Centennial State”]

### **B-3 Classmates Gather to Celebrate Their Brides' Birthdays**

Last month, **Marty & Barbara Bowling** met **Allan Crecelius** and his bride, **Sandy Comrie**, at a nice rental home on the ocean in the Poipu Beach area of Kauai for an eight day celebration of Marty's and Sandy's birthdays. Prior to joining Allan & Sandy on Kauai, Marty & Barbara rafted the Salmon River in Idaho for five days and camped out under the stars. They then went to Alberta to hike in the Banff National Park and the Jasper National Park. Marty shared that since author Michael Crichton frequently visited Kauai, when *Jurassic Park* was being filmed, he selected the botanical gardens near where they were staying to shoot some scenes. A photo taken by their guide at the gardens had a mitten with a dinosaur head which the guide held it in front of the camera. The Bowlings played along by acting scared. In addition to touring and celebrating, both couples had enough time to relax and sample soothing scenes, and tasty food and drink.



[Photo #8 – “Sandy Comrie & Allan Crecelius with Martyf & Barbara Bowling at their villa on Kauai



[Photo #9 – “Marty & Barbara Bowling falling into the Jurassic Park portion of Kauai”]

### **Speaking of Hurricanes...**

**Charlie & Deanne Beckwith, Bob & Carol Fabrey, and Dwight & Donna Lee** all have homes at Pawleys Island, South Carolina – ground zero for Hurricane Ian – and reported that the deluge of weather correspondents wearing L.L. Bean rain slickers and carrying inverted umbrellas overhyped their reporting. Dwight did whine that, two days after the storm, the golf course was still squishy.

### **Wallaces and Merriams Make the Bordeaux Region (sort of) Ground Zero**

In Mid-September, **Peter Wallace** and his bride, **Barbara** hosted **Mike & Eleanor Peters** at their home in the Bordeaux region of France. While they were sharing great fun, **Jock & Malena Merriam** were in the same area for Jock’s scheduled participation in the 2022 (rowing) Masters World Championship in Libourne – near Bordeaux and the beautiful and old village of St Emilion (where they stayed). Jock modestly reported that he was slightly faster than in nationals a few weeks earlier but middle of the pack at the end (16 out of 32). He grouched that some of the old guys he was competing against are still fast. For a summary, tune into: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpZLgdTyEtM>.

After that, the Merriams were supposed to hook up with the Peters and **Bill & Jane Bachman** for a river barge (that would fit three couples and use many bottles of wine for ballast) cruise. Unfortunately a lack of river and canal water axed the cruise – Peter reported that the Rhine was down to 40cm and one could easily walk across the Loire – great weather in the summer of ‘44, but not so great for today’s tourist industry. The Peters went home and the Bachmans scratched the trip all together and didn’t even show up. With the barge trip off, Jock & Malena decided to pull a cadet improv move and go see parts of Europe that they had never seen. They rented a 6-speed stick shift (new) Fiat 500, and took off for points south. This adventure brought back great memories for Jock of a Merriam-(**Jack**) **Swaney**-Bachman 1966 swing in a Seat 500 from Madrid to Valencia while on summer leave. Having never set foot in Portugal, Jock & Malena pulled a six-day sojourn out of the hat and had a really great run through Basque country – stopping twice along the Bay of Biscay and then on through Porto, Cascais and finally Lisbon. Once they got home Jock opted to take a Tanqueray Martini in hand, celebrate his birthday, and forego hard training for a while.



[Photo #10 – “Jock Merriam – setting records and reliving dreams”]

### **John & Frances Dallen Document Travel Up the Coast from Charleston to Virginia**

**John Dallen** normally doesn't blog his and **Frances'** road trips around the U.S., partly because writing a blog and organizing photos after each day's drive takes energy that, at 76, is sometimes lacking— especially if they've had a great dinner. He compromised for this trip by organizing several of his-many photos into an “after action report” rather than post to his blog. For those of you who normally access his blog via Facebook, you can see the "report" via this link: [https://1drv.ms/b/s!AprxJyAB0jo5hq1ULzpIONpR1\\_aJrQ?e=SaCu4w](https://1drv.ms/b/s!AprxJyAB0jo5hq1ULzpIONpR1_aJrQ?e=SaCu4w)



[Photo #11 “John & Frances Dallen at Fort Sumpter”]

### **Lee Norton on the Mend After (More) Surgery**

Fifty-two years ago in Vietnam, **Lee Norton** bent over to show his troops how a real police call should be done, and fractured a vertebra and had to undergo surgery. Earlier last summer, he once again bent over to pick up something off of the floor and it happened again. Fortunately, he had an ex-Army doc operate on him. Judging by the absence of pain, he did well! He is thankful for **Judy** to help and cheer him along while he is currently working on regaining stamina, strength, and calling attention to others of miscellaneous items on the floor. The photo of him prior to surgery reminded me of our class Caribbean cruise 25 years after graduation when we mooned Cuba and **Stott Carleton** declared one evening meal “Animal Night” and we all traipsed into the ship's dining room wearing shower caps and passed all eating utensils off of the tables. He looks forward to walking into the reunion in May.



[Photo #12 – “Lee Norton reliving a nightmare”]

### **Dick & Kathy Shipley on the Rebound**

For those of you who didn't know, **Dick Shipley** spent the last two years of lockdown in dire straits. After his and **Kathy's** return from the class Baltic cruise and side trip to Normandy, he was tentatively diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and lost over 50 pounds before undergoing a Wipple (look it up if you care to) procedure that left him with no energy and unable to get on with life. Their only touch with any semblance of interaction was through the generosity and caring of **Bob & Carol Shimp** who welcomed them into their home in Houston when the Shipleys would travel to MD Anderson for intensive treatment. With Kathy as the family head cheerleader, Ship is finally rallying. His bastion for years has been their remote compound in northeastern Washington where he could rest, recharge and enjoy nature. His medical condition and severe lockdown rules have kept the Shipleys away from this cherished charging station until this last summer. To ensure that he wouldn't have too much rest, Barbara & I ventured to their peaceful Washington estate on Deep Lake to take in the scenery, consume as much of their adult beverage larder as we could, and report – first hand – on Ship's progress. Progress is good. He has a new boat and has been able to open up the compound from last winter and close it down until (maybe) a quick trip to celebrate the New Year with local friends.



[Photo #13 – “Dick Shipley back on the high seas of Deep Lake, Washington with Barbara Gerard and Ship's prime cheerleader, Kathy”]

### **Jim Thome Receives “2022 National Career Service Award”.**

The American Handball Associates presented its “2022 National Career Service Award” to **James J. Thome Sr.** Jim has been actively involved in team handball (the Olympic sport since 1972 called internationally just Handball) for over 50 years. He has been a player, coach, administrator, Vice-President, Board member, etc. He was selected to staff positions in both the 1984 & 1996 Olympic Games and participated in three Pan American Games. Most notably, when assigned to West Point, Jim founded the Men's Team Handball Team in 1975. He coached the team for 6 years (2 tours) which has gone on to become the most successful and dominant

college men's team. Also, he founded the Women's team in 1976 which has also been very successful. In 2000, the West Point Men's Team Handball Program honored him by establishing the James J. Thome, Sr Leadership Award given to the cadet who best displays leadership on and off the team handball court.



[Photo #14 – “Jim Thome receives this year’s American Handball Associates National Career Service Award”]



[Photo #15 – “Jim Thome pictured with four players he coached that attended”]



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### **Dutch & Megan Hostler Turn Back the Folk Clock**

**Megan Hostler** posted on FB that Megan & **Dutch** enjoyed a fantastic concert by The Kingston Trio at the Hawaii Theater Center, a gorgeous old theater with wonderful acoustics. Megan, being a child bride, didn't know most of the songs, but Dutch did. As Plebe roommates, **Andy Shaffer**, Dutch, and I relied heavily on the Trio for "Fallout fodder" – Andy on guitar, Dutch writing masterful spin-off lyrics of Trio songs that likened us to cadet life, and me getting to hum along. The concert reminded the Hostlers of another concert when they saw the original Kingston Trio performing. While chatting with the new Trio members, Megan learned that one of the members was born in Hawaii, his great uncle was the architect for the Hawaii Theater Center, AND his Dad was a June '43 USMA grad, who started out flying biplanes and went on to pilot B-52s.



[Photo #1 – “Dutch & Megan Hostler with the current day Kingston Trio in Hawaii”]

### **Lees Celebrate 54<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**



In case you missed it, Dwight & Donna Lee celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with family last week. Note: this blurb is not to be confused with another bit of news in this submission regarding Lee and Library.

[Photo #2 – “Donna & Dwight Lee at The Library in Myrtle Beach celebrating their 54<sup>th</sup>”]

### **Eric Kunz Among First to Get Good News About Dick Shipley**

After leaving their get-away home in Washington state, whirlwind visits with friends in the Washington, DC area, a Kansas hunting trip, and a stop-off to see the kids, **Dick & Kathy Shipley** settled into their San Antonio, Texas home to prepare for their next trip to visit Ship's

medical team at M.D. Anderson and stay with **Bob & Carol Shimp** in Houston. Kathy, not only a planner but a fan of the impromptu, saw an opening in their busy schedule to not only get a preview of Ship's medical tests and boost his spirits by inviting old pal Eric Kunz down from Ohio for a visit prior to the the MDA/Shimp powwow.



[Photo #3 – “Dick Shipley and Eric Kunz after lunch in San Antonio”]

### **Jim & Kaew Carman Send Greetings from Thailand**



**Jim & Kaew Carman** are currently escaping the winter bluster of Carlisle, Pennsylvania in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where they are visiting Kaew's family and kicking back until next February. They built an apartment by Kaew's brother's home several trips ago use it as their base of operations while in Thailand. One of their first orders of business was to celebrated Jim's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday with Kaew's family. Jim reflected that it was a great party with obscene amounts of great food and drink, a chocolate birthday cake, and even fireworks. Kaew will celebrate her birthday on December 15<sup>th</sup>, although the current plan is to combine the party with New Years. Next on the agenda was for Jim & Kaew to cook a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the family – only to substitute chicken for turkey, as their local turkey source dried up, and turkeys must be imported, and the current going rate is about \$115 for an 11 pound bird. They'll be taking some longer trips after the Christmas holidays. Now, it's anything but business as usual -- relaxing and enjoying their time with family and huge amounts of delicious food, and making short visits to places they've never been or that they'd like to see again.



[Photo #4 – “Jim & Kaew Carman at a small resort atop a mountain that's the home of many Mon villages (Hilltribe people) not far from Kaew's family home.”]

[Photo #5 – “Jim & Kaew Carman during a day fishing for tilapia at a local fishing spot”]

### **Classmates Still Use Army Sports to Meet**



Thanks to **Dale Hansen** for keeping football attendance notes. He saw **Dave Martin** and **Tom Jewell** at the Army-UConn game on 19 November and managed to get a photo of **Ray Puffer** leading a half-Rocket.

[Photo #6 – “Ray Puffer at the 2022 Army-UConn game”]

### **Victor Farrugia Helps a Classmate with Family Thanksgiving**

For those of you who attended and participated in the Class Remembrance Weekend last June, you may have run into **Vic Farrugia** talking about expanding his career interests from “just” law to real estate and tourism. He inherited four 100 year old “shotgun cottages” and has refurbished them. From the outside, they look like googled “doors of New Orleans” and they are comfortable, new, clean, and located a couple of blocks from the St. Charles Streetcar, Magazine Street shops and eateries, and the World War II Museum. While we were in The Big Easy for Thanksgiving with our kids and grandkids, I had lunch with Vic to find out what’s new. Some of the “new” included personal law practice bests and comparing notes on how families tend to look forward to getting together. When the conversation turned to cadet and army days – as it normally does – we shared who we knew classmates like **John Wing** (he was Vic’s Beast roommate and in my battalion and regiment) and **Fred Johnson** (again, one of Vic’s room and company mates while Fred and I go back to USMAPS). If you’re looking to go to New Orleans and would like to stay in a piece of history, call Vic and ask him how to get the classmate discount.



[Photo #7 – “Vic Farrugia and Orca the Scribe after lunch in New Orleans”]

### **West Point Receives Manuscripts of Books by Gus Lee**

**Gus Lee** wrote that he was deeply honored by the decision of West Point's Library and Associate Dean Christopher D. Barth, Director of Libraries and Archives, to receive the original manuscripts of his eight books. Gus mused that, “Years ago, as an immature poker-playing Cadet, I often used the USMA Library not to complete required reading, but to devour novels and to study arcane archives. Meanwhile, CPT Chester Joseph Stanley Piolunek, my wounded, war-hero English prof, via *To Kill a Mockingbird*, was stealthily teaching me how to write. My modest writing collection is currently half novels and half-non-fiction. West Point selected one from each category to become examinable required reading by West Point Cadets, to lamentably include the course that produced the lowest average grades. West Point later forgave me my low grades and named me its first chair of character development. Now, the Academy Library has added my writing to its illustrious permanent historical collections. I absolutely know that only in America could a sickly, blind, self-doubting kid from a poor, broken immigrant family learn to become a novelist at [the] renowned service academy. Only in the USA could military service have given me skills of the spirit to strive, however imperfectly, to provide value, however small, to all others regardless of the person's background and regardless of feelings.”

### **Greg Camp Gets What He Wanted for His Birthday**

When asked by his kids what **Greg Camp** wanted for his birthday back in Mid-November, he told them that he wanted a family picture. As a show of love and respect, they came through and Greg shared a couple of photos on his Facebook page.



[Photo #8 – “The 2022 Camps (L-R): Sister-in-law Julie, grandson Wyatt, son Matthew, daughter-in-law Seema, granddaughter Julia (6), daughter”]

Jennifer, **Joanie**, Greg, son Scott, grandson Coleman (15), granddaughter Kendall (17), and daughter-in-law Jessica”]



[Photo #9 – “Greg & Joanie Camp flanking their grandchildren Wyatt, Coleman, Kendall, and Julia”]

### **Jim Orahood Continues Keeping Classmates Close and Family Closer**

Since his plane was rented out, **Jim Orahood** had to scrounge a new ride Florida to “shoot some ‘golfs” with **Jack Reid** at Jack’s villa in The Villages. Jim loves the local course that is surrounded by his favorite airfield and has a great Jamaican chef, Jim’s “best beach,” is there and it is a haunt of **Mike Noonan**, and home to **Marty & Barbara Bowling**. When not coveting the lifestyle of classmates in Florida, Jim finds way to stay close to his son and grandson. His latest acquisition and family project is a demilitarized High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV)! He got it from a USMC veteran who “demiled” it by removing crucial armor plating and radios. Since it came in to inventory after Jim had retired, the



Orahood and Jack Reid shooting golfs in Florida”]  
[Photo #11 – “Jim Orahood working at restoring the family HMMWV”]

family is learning about it as they go – he marvels at they get parts! They plan on taking it to local air or car shows and driving it in a local parade or two. All the Orahoods agree that it’s a BEAST.



### **McKennis – Home and Away**



**Brian McKenna** forwarded a couple of photos to show that he and **Karen** don’t always travel with **John & Frances Dallen** (although they missed them). In early November, Brian & Karen returned from a two-week journey through France. They started out in the Loire Valley where they hit several of the many beautiful chateaus – then it was on to Bordeaux where they discovered that they really like their wines. After Bordeaux, it was on to Sarlat and some of the most beautiful small French villages the McKennis had ever seen. While there, they also toured the famous caves throughout the area where the wall paintings looked brand new but were painted over 20,000 years ago. They enjoyed France so much

that they're already planning a return trip – with the Dallens – next July for a Rhone river cruise that they've been trying to take since 2019 BC (Before COVID). After the McKennas' return, **Pres & Clem Miller** drove from their home in the Phoenix suburbs down to Tucson to visit the McKennas. Pres said that Brian & Karen have a beautiful home and an amazing view on the east side of town toward the mountains. The Millers were so fascinated by the McKennas' tales of their extensive travels with the Dallens that they figured it would be unique to share a photo of the McKennas with someone other than their usual travel companions.

[Photo #12 – “Brian & Karen McKenna at Fontevraud Abbey (largest in France)”]

[Photo #13 – “Pres & Clem Miller with Karen & Brian McKenna at McKenna Manor in Tucson, Arizona”]



### Don Jones Honored for Continued Service



**Don Jones** continues to set the example of a true patriot and professional for all to emulate by serving with his bride, **Stephanie**, as teachers at Cottage Hill Christian Academy in Mobile, Alabama. The school has a Veterans' Day ceremony each year and Don plays a prominent part. Don & Stephanie are both doing well – except for a pesky AWOL situation with the cartilage that's missing in Don's right knee. He's scheduled for knee replacement next summer if it does not return... In the meantime, he's putting in as much bike time as he can tolerate.

[Photo #14 – Don Jones in front of the banner used at his school's Veterans Day ceremony”]

### Classmates and Brides Celebrate the Life of Claude Johnson

**Rick Rhoades** shared photos of the celebration of life of **Claude Johnson** that was arranged by Mother Nature, Claude, and Claude's bride, **Tina** on a sunny and warm day in early November at West Point. **Paul & Claire Joseph** and **Bob Swedock** attended the function but missed the photos. All in attendance echoed that they felt lucky to have known such a kind, nice, and generous man.

[Photo #15 –

“**Hank Gregor, Steve Caldwell, Valerie Nahorniak** (widow of **Nick), Mike**



**Dauth, Tina Johnson, Christine & Myles Crowe, Rick Rhoades, Glen & Michele Hewitt** at Claude's Celebration of Life”]

## '68 Well Represented in 38th Annual Army Ten-Miler



**Jerry Hansen** and **Tom Vollrath** reported to the Pentagon parking lot at 0700 hours on 9 October along with about 20,000 other Army runners to be a part of the 38th Annual Army Ten-Miler (ATM) spectacle. Believe it or not, the Army band was playing “Old Thumper” as the first wave starting cannon went off at 0800. Both Jerry and Tom have a long tradition of running the annual ATM with their sons and this year was no different. While their sons finished well in front of them, they did the Class proud with Tom finishing 1st and Jerry 5th in their Male 75-79 age group which has slowly attrited

from what was once a large Company-size group down to a Squad of 13 runners. Tom said that he was fortunate to have his youngest son to go to with any running questions – he's a dedicated Ironman (70.3 & 140.6) and training is almost a lifestyle.

[Photo #16 – Jerry Hansen and his son prior to start of the Army 10 Miler”]

[Photo #17 – “Sheryl, Tod, and Tom Vollrath after this year’s Army 10 Miler”]



## Mike Potter Makes 2,248 Mile Motorcycle Ride in Seven Days

At the end of last September, **Mike Potter** set off from his Oregon “hobby farm” with four others on a 2,248 mile, seven day motorcycle tour of Idaho, Montana (as far East as Beartooth Pass) and Wyoming,. He said that, “The ride was epic, but mixed.” They endured temperatures as high as 108° F, got drenched from Red Lodge, Wyoming to Western Yellowstone, and made a decision to avoid Stanley, Idaho since they didn't have a place to stay and the temperature was forecast to be 20° F. He further reflected that the fellowship was awesome.



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### **Jack & Meg Miller Return to High School**

**Jack & Meg Miller** recently attended a Grandparents' Day at their granddaughter's high school -- Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering (ASCTE) – the first Cyber and Engineering school in the nation – in Huntsville. Huntsville was chosen as the site of this magnet school because of its proximity to so many corporations. At ASCTE, 100% of the students participate in an industry internship before graduation. Jack reported that the unusual aspect of the visit was that the campus was a far cry from the 3 Rs days of ours back in the late '50s and early '60s. Since all ASCTE courses are taught at the Honors level, besides typical courses like Math for Engineers, Chemistry, and Foundations of English, there are unique courses like Technical & Analytical Writing, Offensive Security & Assurance, and Drone Racing, to name a few. Out of the enrollment of 254 students (from all over Alabama), 103 are boarded at the school, including their granddaughter. While touring the facility, Jack noted that the shop area had all the tools that he remembered from his high school days but were supplemented with devices like computers, laser cutters, and 3-D printers. Although he did not get to see all of the classrooms, Jack said he was impressed by the number of high tech learning tools everywhere he looked. He did recall not seeing any books – just (desktop and laptop) computers everywhere. Their last stop on the tour was a visit to their granddaughter's dorm room. Her bed was made and the room was spotless – a situation that our alma mater may not meet. Jack & Meg left with a “mission accomplished” feeling. Jack said his white glove inspections long ago of his daughters' rooms on Saturday mornings paid off.



[Photo #1 – “Jack & Meg Miller flanking their granddaughter

### **Rick Wright Wraps up 2022**

**Rick Wright** mailed a late Holiday letter because he and **Anne** “had” to take an 11-day cruise of the Western Caribbean to rest up from their third year relaxing at their villa in the Army Residence Community they moved into in San Antonio, Texas. They had visited all the ports in the past; however, they took new excursions and viewed the cruise through the eyes of retired-

retired travelers. That's right – in April, Rick flew to Alexandria, Virginia to finally retire from working at the Institute for Defense Analyses after 27 years. While in the area, Rick also had time to visit his two sons and their families. Back in San Antonio, he and Anne enjoy activities with their new friends at the ARC and lunches with **Dick & Kathy Shipley** at their winter home. He confesses that he has not been bored for one minute and does not have time to do all the things he would like to do in retirement.

### **Jim & Keaw Carmen's Adventures in Thailand Continued**

A couple of days after I hit the Send Button for our last Notes, **Jim Carmen** sent an update to their exploration vacation and family visit in Thailand to share reality news. **Kaew** had tested positive for COVID. After bouncing back to normal, they were on the road again. He sent photos from a visit to the Tharnthong Resort in the Mae Oe District of Chiang Mai. They enjoyed the serenity and natural beauty of the area and, once again, the incredible food. Jim tries hard to break the gourmandizing with trips to the gym four (maybe two) days a week. Because of the last post, **Jim Greenberg** contacted Jim via **Megan Hostler**. Jim Greenberg has several friends and colleagues (two of which were professors at Rutgers and the husband was also a civilian P at West Point) living in Chiang Mai and an adjacent district. They run the Warm Hearts Foundation, which is affiliated with Jim Greenberg's organization, that provides a number of different programs to help the people of the area. After that visit, Jim & Kaew went on an excursion to Kanchanaburi and Chanthaburi Provinces before returning to Chiang Mai. We may know Kanchanaburi as the site of *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. The movie was great and based on an actual event, but the grim reality of "the Death Railway" was brutal and not at all romantic. While there, they saw artifacts, documents, and other items which were a grim reminder and tribute to the thousands of allied soldiers and indigenous people who died as forced labor under the Japanese as they rushed to build a railroad to supply their forces in Burma (after Midway, sea resupply was impossible). They also visited the beautiful Erawan National Park and Waterfall – filled with stunning sights and local wildlife including a Komodo Dragon. They then toured Chanthaburi and the Gulf of Thailand. Swimming and relaxing in the warm clear water during the day was wonderful, with salinity so low it never irritated their eyes. They stopped in Bangkok on the return trip where they stayed with relatives.



[Photo #2 – “Kaew & Jim Carmen waiting for a train to take them to their next adventure at the sight of the original Bridge on the River Kwai”]



[Photo #3 – Kaew & Jim Carmen at the falls in Erawan National Park and Waterfall”]

### **John & Frances Dallen Teachable Adventures Continue**

The latest and first excursion of the New Year took **John & Frances Dallen** to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Their blog (<https://dallen.posthaven.com/>) is filled with descriptive and useful information and photos. If these islands are on your bucket list, take heed. The unique varieties of tortoises, iguanas, seals, fish, and birds are there, but it might be challenging for seventy somethings to get to see them for any extended period. The island terrain is not conducive to flip-flops. The 7AM zodiac landings in rough cold surf onto rocky craggy beaches require a degree of balance to get ashore. Snorkeling in swift currents and cold water can put a strain on endurance. For our Air Force brothers, all meat to be served has to be pre-cooked and the amount of ice cream available on smaller cruise ships may not be upto standards you have become accustomed to. Plus, once you get home and want to share your experiences, working “blue-footed booby” into any conversation isn’t as easy as it used to be. But John & Frances survived, shared great memories, and don’t have to do it again.



[Photo #4 – “Frances & John Dallen with an iguana and cactus in rocky terrain on a Galapagos Island”]

### **Jim Greenberg’s Side of 2022**

**Jim Greenberg** reported that 2022 started off with about 18 inches of snow at his and **Lisa’s** home in Severna Park, so he promptly went skiing with his ski group to Snow Mass, Colorado where he discovered that his days of skiing are over. Now that he has given up skiing,

and his orthopedist has given him a choice between his sailboat (remember his 28 foot trimaran?) and his right shoulder; he has totally immersed himself in a start-up called Biochar Life (see <https://biochar.life/> and Jim Carmen's post above). Biochar Life is the first company in the world accredited to train smallholder farmers to biochar their crop wastes per exacting verification standards, get paid for the resulting CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent removal credits and use the biochar for soil amendments. Jim's first year goal was to remove and sell 100 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. The organization did 2,100 metric tons resulting in over \$100,000 distributed to the smallholder farmers and local team members. Way to go, Jim! Unfortunately, the only photo of him I could find was locked down.

### **Jim & Rene Orahood Help Bill McCauley Celebrate His 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**Jim Orahood** sent an email with a photo as proof that he and **Rene** had a wonderful time with **Bill & Cindy McCauley** in Key West for Bill's birthday. Bill is our first classmate to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> in 2023. They finished the celebration at Louie's Backyard restaurant, which is in the house that our classmate **Sam Brooks** grew up in! Cindy & Bill had a B&B in the Truman Annex, where President Truman used to vacation. Since the day before Bill's big day was Jim's & Rene's" anniversary, the McCauleys opened a \$900 bottle of Moët Chandon for all to enjoy. Jim mused that this was one of those rare times – perfect weather, perfect place, great friends, and wonderful memories – that can be cherished forever. By the way, in case you were wondering, last fall. **Bob Hunt** was the first in the class to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> – followed a month later by **Fred Johnson**.



[Photo # 5 – “Jim Orahood, Bill & Cindy McCauley and Rene Orahood in Key West”]

### **Our Colorado Contingent Celebrates Christmas with a Lunch**

**Larry Stevenson** took it upon himself to share names and photos of the annual Christmas lunch celebration gathering of classmates who live in Colorado. This year, the lunch was held at the Bear Dance Golf Club in Larkspur which is conveniently located mid-way between Denver and Colorado Springs. Twenty classmates, brides, and significant others attended and participated. As it did last year, the club opened just for this special event and provided its usually great buffet lunch – a feast of which everyone took full advantage.



[Photo #6 – “Chuck & Joyce Canella, Ann Wooten, Dick & Paulette Steiner were first in line and readied themselves for seconds and the Colorado Christmas lunch”]



[Photo # 7 – “Mike Fellows, Nancy & Joe McCaffrey”]

### More Colorado Christmas Lunch Photos and News

Ever the ones to make lemonade out of lemons, **Gary & Patti Halstead** shared that Gary has been diagnosed with early stages of dementia. No classmates could notice any difference. As the keeper of institutional memory, Patti said that he’s fine and they are both enjoying their new independent living digs where she has been relieved of cooking and house cleaning chores. They still travel – in 2022 to Washington, DC to see son, Scott, and his bride in Fairfax, Virginia and to bury Gary’s brother, Bruce (’61), at Arlington National Cemetery, and to Breckenridge, Colorado for Thanksgiving with daughter Kari and her family.



[Photo # 8 – “The RED Table Starting with far side of the table: Tom Martin, Carla Henry, Gayle & Chuck Jones, Joe Henry, and Patti & Gary Halstead enjoying the Colorado lunch”]



[Photo # 9 – “The NOT RED Table with guest Tamara Hannaway and Larry Stevenson not showing their plates at the Colorado lunch”]

## Last Photo of the Colorado Lunch

The morning day after the Colorado lunch, **Larry Stevenson** left on a Caribbean cruise. If he had had more time at lunch, Larry could have gotten a shot of **Greg Johnson** who was getting seconds while everyone else was mugging for photos.



[Photo #10 – “The PARTIALLY RED Table with Gary Halstead (again) with Cindy & Les Krohnfeldt”]

## 2022 – Not a Good Year for Classmate Brothers

In his and **Nancy’s** Holiday Letter, **Fred Hoblit** mentioned that he lost his brother, Jerry (’58), in the spring. There was a very moving memorial ceremony in Houston (where Jerry lived); however, his final resting place will be Arlington at a time to be determined. Jerry likely was the most decorated person in his class with an Air Force Cross and four Silver Stars for starters. Fred & Nancy did make their annual pilgrimage to Michigan, but it was delayed by nearly two months due to a device implant to preclude strokes for Fred and pneumonia for Nancy.

## Gus & Diane Lee Send Christmas Wishes

**Gus & Diane Lee** sent a Holiday letter full of old pictures and current good wishes: “May this find you in wholeness of spirit and health!” Their reference to family: “We joyfully embraced our four kids (who inspire and selflessly serve), and eight Grands (who read and happily thrive), in Estes Park and Grand Junction, Colorado, Boston, Seattle, Palm Springs, and Catalina Island, California. Gus lost his sister this year – Ying was 90. He mentioned that: in “Colorado’s frosty high elevation, my one lung went south so Diane and I moved west to soft, sea-level Northern California,” after selling their Rockies dream house.” Consequently,” he says, “it’s good to breathe.”

## John Cruden Shares Friends and Family and Sends Good Tidings

**John Cruden’s** Christmas card contained a pictorial summary of 2022 that was filled with family and love. Previously, he sent a photo of him kayaking in open water in Alaska. From the looks of the ship that he and his family were on, he might have chartered the entire vessel which is why they were all able to get into areas that bigger ships could not. A couple of weeks into the new year, he forwarded a photo taken at a restaurant in Virginia horse country of himself with M-1/F-3 originals **Dennis Manske** and **Bill Kunzman**. Besides some obvious reminiscing, the main topic was celebrating Bill’s new granddaughter born just this side of 2023. Since John and Dennis live in the Northwestern Virginia area and Bill still lives in a Seattle suburb, I’m guessing the new granddaughter’s parents live in Virginia. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, John posted the following on FaceBook: “Today would have been my beloved wife **Sharon’s** 77th birthday. I put

a picture of her on the bench dedicated to her, which looks onto the Potomac River from Oranoco Park in Old Town Alexandria. She walked along the path where the bench is located almost daily. One of our neighbors brought beautiful flower pedals to place around the bench. Sharon's indomitable spirit still shines brightly in the eyes of our daughters and grandchildren. She will live forever in our hearts.



Photo #11 – “John Cruden (second from right) and family on the high seas of Alaska”]



[Photo #12 – “Original M-1/F-3 mates John Cruden, Dennis Manske, and Bill Kunzman together again”]

### **Dutch & Megan Hostler Visit the Mainland**

**Dutch & Megan Hostler** planned and executed a very worthwhile trip from their home on Oahu to the mainland between Thanksgiving and New Years. They spent most of their time on the East Coast – Georgia for Nine Line Foundation meetings, fund raising, motivational advices, and on-site up-dates; North Carolina for **John & Margie Hedley's** Mediterranean (Italian) wine tasting and visiting their sons' families for the holidays; and New York for on-site (Terrytown Marriott and West Point) 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion coordination – so they could experience an entire four seasons of weather. Fortunately, Megan put herself in charge of packing for the expedition so they had all the clothes they needed for all conditions. While visiting the Hostlers with the Hedleys, I felt how lucky our class is to have dedicated classmates who continue to serve the class and veterans.



[Photo #13 – “Dutch Hostler and John Hedley at Richard’s Coffee Shop and Military Museum in Mooresville, NC”]

### **Bill & Cheryl Jeffries Transitioning Well From Hoosiers to Lovers**

As they all are, the **Bill & Cheryl Jeffries** Christmas Letter celebrated their move from Indiana to Northern Virginia (NOVA). Indiana was home for 22 delightful Hoosier years, but they are very happy to have become Virginians. Bill feels that it is as advertised – the place for lovers. When many associate NOVA with the DC suburbs, the Jeffries are a bit beyond that on (another) Lake Frederick tucked under the shadow of the Shenandoah Mountains. Between surgeries, European trips (remember The Passion Play and Checkpoint Charlie?), new business emphases, frequent physical therapy, church changes, book signings, ball games, teaching gigs at Carnegie Mellon, and beach visits, they have been delightfully busy all year. They live far enough away from the DC area that Bill joined a more rural West Point Society and enjoyed the Army Navy watch party with its members.



[Photo #14 – “Cheryl & Bill Jeffries at an Army-Navy watch party at the base of the Shenandoahs”]

### **Friendship Trumps Army Navy Rivalry – Sort of**

**Kathy Shipley** sent a photo of her hubby, **Ricardo**, and a long time Navy grad friend taken at the Shipley hacienda in San Antonio while watching the Army Navy Game. The expressions in this photo show that there is a real and deep friendship there – and one might be smiling a little more than the other.



[Photo 15 – “Dick Shipley with long time good friend Jack Cosgrove (USNA 68) at the Shipleys’ for Army-Navy Game”]

### **The Army Football Team has Friends in High Places**

Right after Army’s win over Navy, **Brian McKenna** sent a couple of photos of how good weather can be on Sunday mornings in Tucson, Arizona and one of Brian & **Karen** with their parish priest, Fr. Chris, celebrating Army’s win over Navy. Fr Chris is a big fan as his Dad, Uncle, and Godson are all grads. Brian also sent a photo of a statue of St Francis at Corpus Christi Church in Tucson – wearing an Army baseball cap. It's nice to have your Parish priest rooting for the right team.



[Photo #16 – “Brian & Karen McKenna with their parish priest, Fr, Chris, celebrating Army's win over Navy”]

### **Another Army-Navy Gathering**

**Jack & Bobbi Munson** reported that they gathered with **Bill & Patty Marriott, Bub & Angela Younts**, and **Ralph & Sandy Tuccillo** at the home of **Bob & Eileen Stroud** in Bethany Beach, Delaware for their traditional Army-Navy watch party and pot luck. Jack also dropped a note that their daughter, Erin has been reassigned to the Council on Foreign Relations awaiting the promotion list to Brigadier General – a first for our class.

### **Charlie & Janet Lieb Keep Traveling – No Matter What**

**Charlie & Janet Lieb** sent a photo Christmas card and a post-it saying that they have done a lot of traveling since we saw them at the Class Remembrance weekend in June. Part of the traveling related to family, golf, and Green Bay Packers (in addition to other games, they attended the Giants vs. Packers game in London). The big news was unscheduled due to

Hurricane Ian. Their Florida condominium got hit by the 12-14 foot storm surge that has made it uninhabitable. They also lost a car, bikes, golf clubs, and other items stored in their garage. The fire-suppression system and elevator are still off-line and not projected to be operational until March or April. The condo was being remodeled when Ian hit, but no work can be done until the elevator is working. Sadly, the Liebs might miss hosting their annual gathering with Vietnam buddies; however, they will find parts of the world in need of economy bolstering.



[Photo # 17 – “Charlie & Janet Lieb in London for the Packers-Giants game in October”]



[Photo #18 – “Charlie & Janet Lieb at a private Green Bay Packers Board of Directors tour of Kennington Palace”]

### **Sandy Cohn’s Ukrainian Excellent Adventure Continues**

For those of you who use the Draft Notes a CliffsNotes version, you really missed the first part of **Sandy Cohn’s** initial latest blog. Following Sandy’s & **Kathy’s** opera sojourn to Vienna and Budapest, he struck out on his own to Ukraine. For those who read the “record” Notes and clicked onto his CNN video (that was available for a short time) most wanted to nominate him for Secretary of Defense. He gave military briefings to the *NY Times*, *Washington Post*, *NBC*, *BBC*, *London Times*, German media, Ukraine media and he was interviewed by the Ukrainian Army Press. At the DC area classmate and guest Holiday luncheon, he took a speaker call from Major General Volodymyr Havrylov, the Deputy Defense Minister of Ukraine so all could hear. The trip was dangerous, arduous, very cold, and exhausting (no water, heat, or electricity). He bluffed his way through checkpoints, slipped into Kherson just hours after the Russians retreated, and he had to trek on a long night walk after curfew avoiding Ukrainian patrols in search of Russians. He did this solely out of a sense of duty because he knew the

reporting was inaccurate and the Ukrainian Army was failing to exploit its successes. No task too great for '68, even at 76 years old.

### **Bursts of Classmates who sent Holiday Greetings**

As expected, classmates sent Holiday letters with news mostly about their kids, grandkids, and great extended family adventures. **Steve Frushour** and **Bob Shimp** are still blessed to have living parents. **Steve & Mary** are carrying on a tradition instituted by **Jon & Aj Dodson** of family and friends gatherings on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Bob & **Carol** are keeping the travel industry solvent by traveling (the longest was a five-week trip to Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand) and finding ways to contribute to worthy causes. All who are afflicted or in discomfort give thanks to **Jim & Jinny Furr** who operate our class Prayer Team email, and to **Ralph & Sandy Tuccillo** who reach out to classmates to ensure they are being taken care of and report to the Prayer Team. Speaking of families, the Holidays wouldn't be the same without a family photo of the **Cobey** clan with Elwood & Mary Lou nestled into what appears to be a small town in Maryland who seem to resemble one another.



[Photo #19 – “Ladies and gentlemen, (part of) the 2022 Cobey clan – minus the Sonduck branch – which appeared on the other side of the Christmas card”]