



DAVE GERARD  
8822 Harbor Circle  
Terrell, North Carolina 28682  
828-478-9813

Gerarddw68@gmail.com

<http://www.westpointclassof1968.com/>

### 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 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”]