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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.



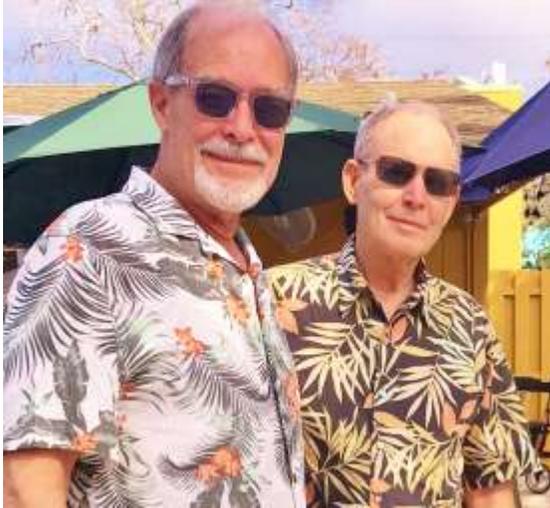
[Photo #9 – “Bill Jeffries and Jesse Gatlin at the WPS of the Northern Shenandoah Founders Day Celebration

### **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”]