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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.