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News From the Late Ranks

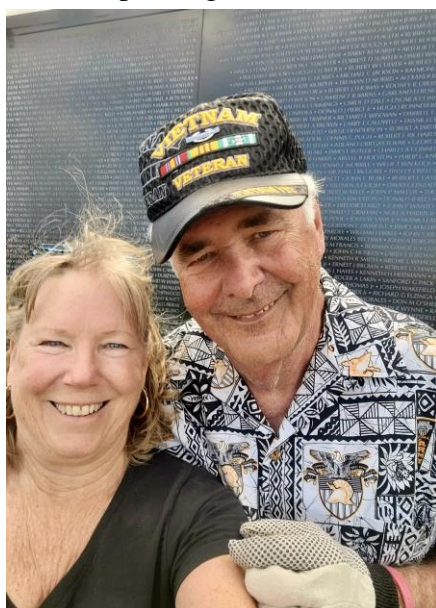
Gordon Tillery discovered a photo taken almost two years ago after our class memorial weekend in June 2022. It was of Gordie and **Dave Ohle** when they presented a check from the class of '68 to the Military District of Washington's Morale-Welfare-Fund at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall as a class thank-you to the Old Guard for support of our ceremony at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial (Wall).

Classmates Dave Ohle and Gordon Tillery flanked by Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall officials who gladly accepted a \$1000 donation on behalf of our class



John & Margie Hedley Welcome “The Wall That Heals” to Maui

Speaking of The Wall, while they were in Maui this year **Margie Hedley** shared that she and **John** participated in the assembly of the traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial – The Wall That Heals – for its first visit to Maui. The County of Maui, in partnership with the Maui County Veterans Council, hosted this scaled-down, 3/4-size version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. After Margie helped carry a panel, she was put in charge of ensuring that others who handled panels wore gloves and wore no sharp or pointed objects that would mar or scratch the panels. John helped carry the panels that contained the names of our fallen classmates.



Margie & John Hedley helping to build “The Wall That Heals” in background

Classmates Continue to visit Egypt

Seeing the Pyramids Along the Nile continues to ring with our class. In keeping with **Charlie & Janet Lieb, Dick & Regina Palke, John & Frances Dallen, Brian & Karen McKenna, Ray & Robin Puffer**, and others in the class, **Barbara & I** took the plunge last November to visit this intriguing country along with Jordan – known as two quiet families in a very noisy neighborhood – to take the obligatory photos. After the descriptions rendered by all



previous classmates who have visited the area, the only thing we can add is that Egypt is officially known as the Arab Republic of Egypt. You'll discover that when you order a scotch or bacon.

Barbara & Dave Gerard at Giza after the obligatory camel ride

Dave & Barbara Gerard with one of only two tour groups making the downhill trek through Petra in Jordan. Normally, the place is shoulder to-shoulder with tourists



A short time after we got home, photos of Giza taken by **Mike McClary** and his entourage started appearing in social media. Stay tuned for Luxor.



Mike McClary & friend in Giza



John & Frances Dallen and Brian & Karen McKenna Headed South for the Winter

In January, **John & Frances Dallen** set off with **Brian & Karen McKenna** for their first visit to Buenos Aires, Montevideo and Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay, Mendoza (the wine capital of Argentina), and the Iguazu Falls from both the Argentine and Brazilian sides. Their first stop was to take in the European architecture of city center Buenos Aires where they passed monuments galore that attract graffiti from the many protests for which Argentina is famous. Of course there were the “ABCs” (another beautiful cathedral) and military tombs where the guards showed up a little late (this is Latin American, after all) to post soldiers at the tomb of Revolutionary War hero José de San Martín. The most interesting stop was a visit to the Recoleta Cemetery – nearly 300 years old and considered one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the world that has the monuments and remains of presidents, Nobel prize winners, and (most popular to the tourists) Eva Peron. The footprints of the individual monuments vary from a few square feet to perhaps several hundred. Each family designs and maintains its own monument. Remains, both full body and, (more commonly now), ashes, are stored two and three levels deep. These family mausoleums varied from magnificent to neglected. As usual the McKennas and Dallens separated for each day of touring, agreeing to rendezvous for the evening meal. Separation served several purposes – each couple can deal with the day at their own pace, and share experiences during dinner. Further, the McKennas typically don’t eat lunch while John & Frances do. John boasts that he hasn’t missed a meal since Ranger school. As mentioned, the first stop was Argentina where excellent steak, Malbec and Viognier (both produced by **Bob & Carol Shimp**)



abound. John’s descriptions of Mendoza sounded more like a kid in a candy store. You can tell that Iguazu Falls was the McKennas’ and Dallens’ last stop. They certainly take advantage of every excursion

Frances & John Dallen with Brian & Karen McKenna from the Argentine side of Iguazu Falls

Frances & John Dallen on what looks to be the Brazilian side of Iguazu Falls



Dan Adams Reports on Mardi Gras and More

After a month of Mardi Gras regaling, **Dan Adams** managed to dash a quick note and photo during Babylon Krew prep. As mentioned earlier, Dan is a Babylon Krew mate with **Victor Farrugia** and Vick's son Michael. Mardi Gras began this year on January 6 and Babylon's parade was on February 8th. On that day, the weather was excellent -- warm, no rain, and thirsty.



Dan Adams with Victor and Michael Farrugia in their Mardi Gras Babylon "uniforms" on parade day

After Mardi Gras, Dan took a little breather with a trip to Peru to visit Machu Picchu to stretch his legs at 7,970 feet.

Dan Adams at Machu Picchu



Founders Day in Colorado

Joe Henry reported that six members of the class consolidated at one Colorado's WPS. The University Club in Denver was packed with 170 attendees. The highlight speaker was the Dean BG Shane Reeves. He had a great sense of humor. The local WPS imported the youngest grad from Fort Carson, Lauren Drysdale ('23), the former first Captain. She was an excellent speaker and had just reported to Fort Carson as an engineer officer. Her husband ('22) is also

assigned to Fort Carson as an aviator.



Colorado classmates participating in Founders Day: Les Krohnfeldt; Joe Henry; Dick Steiner; Gary Halstead; & Mike Fellows. Larry Stevenson didn't make the photo shoot, but was at the dinner

K-1/E-3 Annual Golf Outing

Joe Guignon reported on the annual K-1/E-3) Palm Springs golf outing. This was their 24th consecutive year of gathering in February for some not so great golf but plenty of other wonderful experiences. The outing gathered folks from Buffalo, Atlanta, Houston, San Francisco, Naples, and Leland NC. Joe observed that, for some reason, the week went by way too fast. The telling of ancient stories seems to never get old but the facts get more skewed and fuzzier every year. He also noted that it seemed that everyone gave up the honor code on the courses they played. Maybe it's because they have played on some of the most beautiful golf courses in the world. Along the way, the guys met World Golf Hall of Famer Julie Inkster. She was gracious to spend a moment with each of them to share some interesting golf tips to a few who desperately needed them, (i.e. Jess Gatlin). One key tip was to take some time off from golf and then give up the game completely. The golf winnings usually go to **Jack Bussa** but everyone has a good time. Every evening, they enjoyed superb wine and delicious food. From the photo, one might detect that they thoroughly enjoyed the meals a whole lot – maybe too much. Joe passed along the group's wishes of health and happiness to our fellow classmates.



The February K-1/E-3 golfers Joe Guignon, Mark Spelman, Joe Creeden, Jack Bussa, Jess Gatlin, Julie Inkster, Earl Newsome, Bill Flowers).

Checking off Travel To-Do Lists

It's interesting to see what effects and influences COVID has had on travel it. In earlier days, we'd think very little about putting off travel plans. Rescheduling trips was easy when we were in our 20s or 30s or 60s... Now, our ranks are thinning and physical goals (like being able to breath when we put on our socks and shoes) have changed our priorities and to-do lists. This last year, we took on some big bites out of our travel goals. This winter, we headed south – far south... On our way to Antarctica, we stopped off at Easter Island – partially because I read a Thor Heyerdahl book or to when I was MUCH younger. It meant more to me because each day we were there, Barbara would say, "I never thought I'd live to see something so amazing.

The Gerards' first day on Easter Island



Our next stop – Antarctica – produced the same response by my El Pasoan. The continent is vast and clean – except for the penguin poop...



Our first day on the Antarctic continental adventure

Jim & Julia Bodenhamer Take Big Bites When it Comes to Anniversary Travel

While we were trying to take it all in, I received an email from **Julia Bodenhamer** informing us that she and **Jim** were in Seychelles – the smallest country in Africa as well as the least populated sovereign African country – as part of their 84 day world cruise in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Quite an adventure around west Africa to Tanzania in East Africa– then back around the Cape of Good Hope to South America. The Suez Canal was option 1 but that was dropped along with a host of changes that were implemented due to conflicts in the Middle East! Mombasa, Zanzibar, and Madagascar provided stories for a lifetime not so much with what they saw but the conveyances that transported them to the sites and the routes they took. We are so blessed!



Julia & Jim Bodenhamer in East Africa during their trip around the world

Dave Hatcher Releases his first Book

Dave Hatcher has joined the growing list of classmate authors with the publication of his book *Son of the Heartland: On The Way to The Promised Land*, in which he traces his “checkered past” from his Iowa roots to West Point graduation, military service in Vietnam, and then, for almost ten years, reporting on Asia from locations such as the China-Vietnam border; the Killing Fields inside Cambodia; the assassination of Indira Gandhi; to the last years of the Marcos regime in Manila, and many others. His major life change occurred during a midlife crisis in 1988 when confronted (like the prophet Isaiah) of “living among a people of unclean lips” and being challenged to answer the questions: “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” Like Isaiah, Dave also responded, “Here am I. Send me.” His memoir combines international work and diplomatic assignments with his faith witness as a lay preacher and taking part in related ministries. Readers will discover his formula for great relationships that mesh with personal growth from many dramatic encounters in his unique Christian walk... On the way to the Promised Land. For more information, go to:

https://www.amazon.com/Son-Heartland-Way-Promised-Land-ebook/dp/B0CTHQQJNV/ref=sr_1_3?crd=1W1RNDBCF5OOI&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.gExqa7E22u1Tgu7AUThEORFpk9H6sTtMjjNAu1wzGP4cZ5Fs6Q0RaWnaLHWZOeMABvuEykWYLMStaxGDjR-IVWHz1EhjixJrMwWY3oDcYRYH6KYmQ3AtyQNZh-pDAcy3WjH3CQsIWpE1N6b28vMklhb04pmTr7hj4mi0uI2Y8fXHH7L2O-osHe26Z-YV83ZqoKUrwaKcKRBkkUpAZKz6788gMs8aUCMje11K-gYnks.WswkRxx2lvGcy5XddFfVF9osuju1zgLY5_Ygmq0LF1c&dib_tag=se&keywords=dave+hatcher&qid=1709076783&s=books&sprefix=dave+%2Cstripbooks%2C2033&sr=1-3