

The Class of 1968 Memorial Service



The Cadet Chapel

May 22, 2023

1000 hours

Remembrance: “Be Thou at Peace.”

Welcoming Remarks and Prayer

By: Jerry Hansen

Welcome to the Memorial Service of the Class of 1968. Thank you for being here. Fifty-five years have passed since we gathered on The Plain to repeat the time-honored ritual of the Graduation Parade. Much has changed in our lives and in this country. We have fought, we have served, we have loved—and many have died, including spouses, children, friends, and comrades, all of whom we remember today. Let us pray.

A Prayer for Our Fifty-fifth Reunion

Gracious Father, we have come together during this, our 55th Reunion, to remember Your gracious mercies throughout our lives and pay tribute to those who have departed our ranks – both our classmates and the wonderful women and family members who have supported them and us. Help us to honor them and You by rededicating ourselves to the good work You have called us to do during the time you have given us. May we “soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer”, as we support those who grieve, with prayer and presence. Help us to keep our focus on You and finish this life well. Amen.

Tribute to Our Fallen Classmates

By: Walt Meinshausen

To our fallen comrades--who fought the good fight with courage and faith in their God, their Country, and their cause, who put on the whole armor of God to stand against the schemes of the enemy. Their fight was not merely against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil. Equipped with God’s armor and covered by the prayers of the saints, they stood firm in the face of mortal combat. They cried to God when overwhelmed—and trusted in the shelter of His wings—that they might receive the heritage of those who fear His name-- to dwell in His house forever. Blessed are those who put their faith in the Lord, the God of our salvation, who alone provides our escape from death. Truly a day in His courts is better than a thousand elsewhere!

Anonymous

Reading of Names of Classmates Lost During Vietnam
By: Tom McNaugher and Dave Schulte

David L. Alexander
Donald R. Colglazier
Kenneth T. Cummings
Peter M. Connor
John E. Darling, Jr
William F. Ericson, II
James A. Gaiser
Richard A. Hawley, Jr.
Harry E. Hayes
Denny L. Johnson
William F. Little
David T. Maddux
William F. Reichert
Jeffry R. Riek
David L. Sackett
Louis J. Speidel
Henry M. Spengler, III
Donald F. VanCook, Jr.
Douglas T. Wheless
Donald R. Workman

**A Remembrance of Ours Who Now Also Grip Hands With Us
From the Shadows.**

The reading of the names

By: Chuck Jones and Larry Jordan

Arthur W. Ackerman, Jr.
Robert A. Adams
Maurice D. Adams
David L. Alexander
Henry W. Alward
Anthony Ambrose
James F. Anderson
Vincent P. Baerman
James T. Baird
Mark L. Barnett
Stewart D. Beckley
Charles F. Besanceney
Warren F. Bowland
Stephen L. Bowman
B. Sam Brooks
Michael E. Bruce
Jerry L. Buckley
Thomas N. Burnette
Clarence A. Burrell
John A. Calabro, Jr.
William N. Campbell
John J. Clark, Jr.
Neil F. Cowperthwaite
James D. Craig
Paul H. Crist
Gordon Crupper
Edward B. Cutting Jr.
Donald J. Darmody
Kenneth M. Day
Joseph A. de Blaquiere, Jr.

Francis S. Delia
Richard F. DesJardien
Manolo N. Diamante
Michael A. DiBenedetto, Jr.
Daniel J. Donahue III
Joseph M. Dooley
Joseph D. Durkan

Kenneth P. Knitt
Terence K. Laughlin
Ray W. MacDonald
Larry B. Main
Joseph F. Mance
John T. Martin, III
Roy W. Mase
Richard M. Mason
Thomas C. McConnell
Willard P. McCrone
Robert G. McDonald
Howard C. McElroy
Donald J. McLane
Neil A. McLean, III
Robert B. Messell
Johnnie Miller
William S. Miller
Kenneth J. Moran
Leon F. Morand
Maurice E. Murphy
Nicholas Nahorniak
Bohdan Neswiacheny
Kenneth R. Nicholson
Jess R. Nickols, Jr.
Thomas J. Nolan
David W. Olmsted
Thomas D. Onasch
Richard L. Palke
Allen S. Parker
Peter G. Paulson

Thomas H. Peirce
William J. Peplinski
Robert A. Pinzuti
G. Keith Quinney, Jr.
Lewis H. Robertson
Miguel O. Ruiz
Richard T. Russell Jr.

Bruce F. Erion
Ernest Flowers, II
Richard J. Flynn
Joseph C. Fowler, Jr.
Larry S. Fulton
George A. Gardes, Jr.
James E. Garrison
Jack E. Gerke
Daniel E. Gooding
Robert R. Gora
Karl J. Gustafson
Howard F. Harper
Charles F. Hawkins
George J. Heckman
Robert H. Henderson
Dennis Hergenrether
Neil D. Hughes
Christopher S. Iaconis
Daniel W. Ingwersen
Claude A. Johnson
Oliver R. Johnson
James D. Kelly
Richard R. Kent
David A. Knecht

John J. Ryneska
Gary L. Schappaugh
George W. Schweitzer
Thomas H. Simmons
Jon K. Stallings
Charles L. Steel IV
James J. Stettler
Douglas F. Stevenson
Werner J. Stolp
Jack W. Swaney
Arthur F. Torres
Charles A. Vehlow
John P. Walsh
Thomas A. Wantuck
Harold L. Wilhite
Gary S. Williams
George K. Williams
John N. Williams, Jr.
William E. Williams
John B. Wing
Daniel J. Winter
W. Marvin Wooten
F. Gordon Zophy

Over the years we have shared the grief at the deaths of spouses, children, parents, and comrades with whom we have served our nation. Let us take a moment of silence to think of those whom we see no longer except in our memory. Until we meet again.

A Reading of Psalm 121

By: Greg Johnson

A song of Ascents

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from whence comes my help?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not allow your foot to slip;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord is your protector;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil;
He shall preserve your soul.
- 8 The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

The Cadet Prayer

By: Ray Rhodes

O God, our Father, Thou Searcher of men's hearts, help us to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship of Thee be natural. Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking, and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretense ever to diminish. Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half truth when the whole can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy,

that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice, and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy. Guard us against flippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service. Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer. Help us to maintain the honor of the Corps untarnished and unsullied, and to show forth in our lives the ideals of West Point in doing our duty to Thee and to our Country. All of which we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of Men. Amen.

The Mourner's Kaddish **By: Mike Romash and Marv Belasco**

The Mourner's Kaddish — Mike Romash

תַּגְדֵּל וַיִּתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעֻלְמָא דֵּי בְרָא
כְּרַעוּתָהּ. וַיִּמְלִיךָ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיֵּינוּ וּבְיוֹמֵינוּ
וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעֻגְלָא וּבְזִמְנוֹ קָרִיב.
נְאֻמְרוּ אָמֵן:

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמֵי עֻלְמֵינָא:

תְּבָרַךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּבַּח וַיִּתְפָּאֵר וַיִּתְרוֹמֵם וַיִּתְנַשֵּׂא
וַיִּתְהַדָּר וַיִּתְעַלֶּה וַיִּתְהַלַּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקֻדְשָׁא. בְּרִיךְ
הוּא. לְעֵלְא (וּלְעֵלְא) מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא
תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאִמְרוּן בְּעֻלְמָא. נְאֻמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל
יִשְׂרָאֵל. נְאֻמְרוּ אָמֵן:
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. נְאֻמְרוּ אָמֵן:

English

Magnified and sanctified be G-d's great name in the world which He created according to His will. May he establish His kingdom during our lifetime and during the lifetime of Israel. Let us say, *Amen*.

May G-d's great name be blessed forever and ever.

Blessed, glorified, honored and extolled, adored and acclaimed be the name of the Holy One, though G-d is beyond all praises and songs of adoration which can be uttered. Let us say, *Amen*.

May there be peace and life for all of us and for all Israel. Let us say, *Amen*.

Let He who makes peace in the heavens, grant peace to all of us and to all Israel. Let us say, *Amen*.

The Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13)

By: Jerry Hansen

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Hymn of Supplication

"Abide With Me"

by Henry Francis Lyte

(Sung by All)

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Taps by a member of the USMA Band (Please stand as you are able.)

Concluding Prayer

By: Greg Camp

O God of grace and glory, as we gather today as classmates and families to honor those who have gone before us, we remember fondly our dearly departed. We know that you

alone, in your infinite wisdom, know “why” you chose to take them at the time that you did, and you alone can heal the empty spot in our hearts and in our lives. We thank you for the amazing grace you have given the departed as well as the families and loved ones of our departed classmates, as they live lives of honor and service in tribute to their dearly departed companions. Although our days in uniform are past, Duty still calls—to place service to You, our country, our families, our classmates, and others in need-- ahead of our own selfish interests. As we reflect on how best to invest the remaining time you have given us, Lord, we pray that you will show us the way. Help us to make all of our days count-- for You, our country, and our families. Help us to unite as a class, to love and be there for others in need, and for the families of those departed. May we leave a legacy of honor, service, love and “courage born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy.” We pray that you will continue to bless our nation, our Army, and our families – and be with those Soldiers who have filled our places in the ranks, who are in harm’s way, engaged in the endless conflict to protect and promote freedom and liberty. May they know you, may they serve honorably, and may they come home to a joyous reunion, knowing they have done their duty to you and to their country. All of this we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of Men. Amen.

The Singing of **The Corps**
(Please stand.)

THE CORPS! THE CORPS! THE CORPS!

The Corps bareheaded, salute it
With eyes up thanking our God
That we of the Corps are treading
Where they of the Corps have trod

They are here in ghostly assemblage
The men of the Corps long dead
And our hearts are standing attention
While we wait for their passing tread

The Corps of today, we salute you
The Corps of an earlier day
We follow close order behind you
Where you have pointed the way

The long grey line of us stretches
Through the years of a century told
And the last one feels to his marrow
The grip of your far off hold

Grip hands with us now, though we see not
Grip hands with us strengthen our hearts

As the long line stiffens and straightens
With the thrill that your presence imparts
Grip hands, though it be from the shadows
While we swear as you did of yore
Or living or dying to honor
The Corps, and The Corps, and The Corps

RECOGNITION

We thank Mr. Craig Williams for his musical offerings on the Chapel organ.

Our appreciation to classmates who participated in this service.

Our thanks to Chaplain (MAJ) Shawn Lee for his support to our reunion.

Thanks also to the USMA Band for providing the bugler for our service today and for all they do every day to enhance the mission of the Military Academy.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL **By: Tom Margrave and Jerry Hansen**

Numbers 6: 24-26