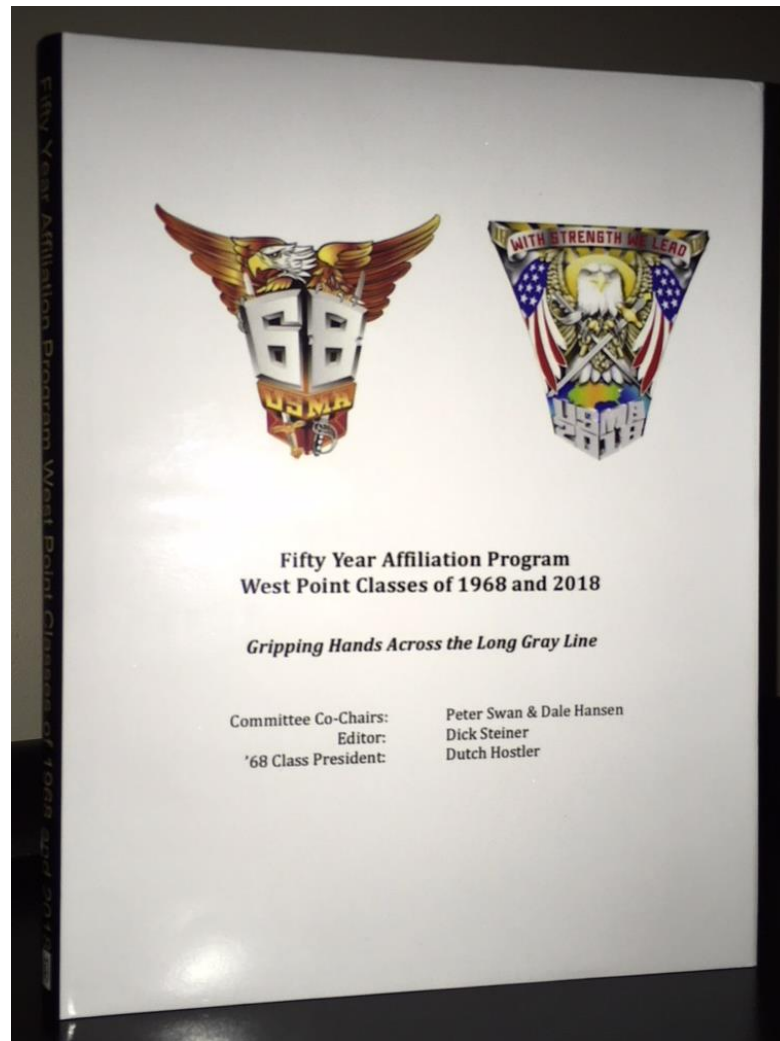


Cover and three sample images from book - *Fifty Year Affiliation Program West Point Classes of 1968 and 2018*





Class of 1968 March Back Attendees

12 miles Bob Adams, Tony Ambrose, Dean Becker, Bill Brown, Greg Camp, Craig Carson, Jay Crenshaw, Ralph D'Alessandro, John Dodson, Michael Einbinder, Tim Fisher, Rich Flanigan, Steve Frushour, Jess Gatlin, Dale Hansen, Jerry Hansen, Mark Hansen, Peter Hanson, Terry Holland, Dutch Hostler, Tom Jewell, Jay Johnson, Paul Joseph, Dan Kaufman, Bob Lower, David Martin, Toney Mathews, Doug McKenna, Mike Mears, Jack Merriam, Pres Miller, John Morris, Craig O'Connor, Joe O'Connor, Dave Ohle, Pat O'Keefe, Paul Ptasnik, Lamar Ratcliffe, Rick Rhoades, Ray Rhodes, Gary Roberson, Rich Scaglione, Fred Shahid, Tom Simmons, Jim Tallman, Gordon Tillery, Ralph Tuccillo, Greg Unangst, Tom Vallrath, Jimmy Walsh, John Walsh, and Rick Wright.

2 Miles Jim Carman, Myles Crowe, John Cruden, Bill Dickerson, Dave Gerard, Skip Greeby, Hank Gregor, Gary Halstead, Joe Henry, Jerry Holderness, Larry Jordan, Tom Kurkjian, Ed Lorentzen, Larry Manning, Jim McClain, Chris Ohlinger, Ray Puffer, Robby Robinson, Pete Swan, Mike Toole, Steve Winsor, and Terry Wong.

Boots and Flip-Flops

Old grads were first permitted to join New Cadets for the end of Best Barracks March Back in 2000. I made that 15-mile field march shoulder to shoulder with my older son David, Class of 2004. Tony Ambrose '68 also participated in full distance of the inaugural "old grad March Back." Classmates Jim Greenberg and Joe Durkan opted to participate at a less strenuous level, joining only the final two miles of the march. In subsequent years, Tony and I were accompanied by a core group of classmates who participated regularly in the annual March Back event. It occurred to me that those members of our Class making the full length of the arduous march merited some sort of recognition. Accordingly, I established the "Loyal Order of the Dilapidated Boot," and inducted into that august organization each year any members of the Class of 1968 making the full distance march for the first time as an "old grad." As a remembrance and indicia of membership in that select group, I presented a pewter combat boot lapel pin with '68 numerals to each new inductee.



The Class of 1968's participation in the March Back with our 50-year affiliate class was substantial. We far exceeded the 50 slots allocated by the Academy to the senior affiliate class, relegating a significant number



of our classmates who wanted to be a part of the event to marching only the final two ceremonial miles. I was presented with a dilemma. It did not seem appropriate to diminish the long distance marching "pewter booter" group by inducting mere two-mile marchers. On the other hand, every member of our Class who supported that very special March Back with our 50-year affiliate class deserved to be recognized. After some agonized reflection on the matter, I resolved the dilemma. I presented pewter boots to the new long distance marchers who had earned them. To recognize those comrades making the more modest march, however, I established another organization, inducting them all as charter members of the "Fraternal Order of the Flip-Flop," and presented each with a pewter lapel pin depicting that more relaxed footwear with our Class numerals. Q.E.D. No Task Too Great for '68! - Dutch Hostler '68

Acceptance Day (17 August 2014)

Acceptance Day is the day on which an incoming class of New Cadets is, with appropriate ceremony, accepted into the Corps of Cadets and elevated to the lofty position of Plebeedom. The Acceptance Day parade is one of the two most moving and meaningful ceremonies for any West Point class - the other being their own graduation parade.

On 17 August 2014, the Class of 2018 marched onto one side of the Plain while the remainder of the Corps marched to their traditional positions on the parade field. On appropriate commands, members of the Class of 2018 marched across the Plain and were absorbed into the formations of their assigned academic year companies. The then "fully formed" Corps of Cadets completed the parade by "passing in review" before a reviewing party that included the USMA Superintendent, Commandant, Dean, Command Sergeant Major and representatives of the 50 year affiliate classes of each of the cadet classes comprising the Corps. Class President Dutch Hostler represented the Class of 1968 in the reviewing party at the Acceptance Day parades over the years our affiliate class was involved.

In August 2017, the Academy changed the Acceptance Day parade ceremony by reducing the reviewing party to just the USMA senior leadership and, during the parade narrative, acknowledging the 50 year affiliate classes representatives seated in the Supe's reviewing stand. Dutch was on hand to represent the Class of 1968 at the final Acceptance Day parade in which the Class of 2018 participated.

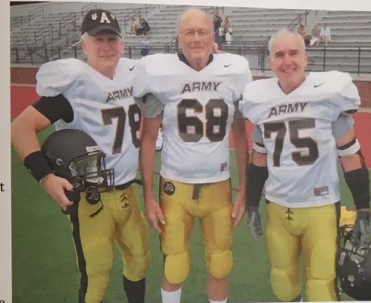


Acceptance Day Parade
AOG Chairman Larry Jordan '68 and
Dutch Hostler '68 in Reviewing Party
Photo by: Staff Sgt. Chrissy Rivers

Sprint Football Mentor

It all started when I did the March Back from Camp Buckner with the New Cadets from the Class of 2018. The New Cadets were "wide-eyed" and full of questions. I knew then that being a "mentor" was not being some abstract retired officer, who only stood up and discussed solutions to military or command problems. I wanted to get involved on a personal level. In 2014, I attended the Sprint Football Alumni Weekend. This included meetings, talks, discussions, banquets and a full contact football game between alumni and the present Sprint Football Team. During the "Alumni Game" several Piebes played on the alumni team during the second half. I

got the idea to unofficially "mentor" the Sprint players from the Class of 2018. I had an instant connection with the team members, as we have gone through making weight and playing the game for the fun. Not for the glory. It has been four years of great fun since that time. At



each Sprint Alumni Game since that time a T-shirt has mysteriously appeared for the Class of 2018. During the last Alumni weekend, I was given a "150 Pound Football" jersey (Number 68) that had been signed by the team members of the Class of 2018. Off-season, my wife (Mary) made sugar cookies in the form of footballs and jerseys. On numerous occasions e-mails were exchanged and everything from classes, assignments and politics was discussed. Three or four times each year I traveled from Texas to visit with the team members. Class Affirmation and Ring Weekend were attended. We had time to talk, personally, to the cadets and many of their parents. It has been a great experience to watch these young men develop from high school "kids" to mature men and leaders. It was a great four years for all of us. They understand that their class will truly "Grip Hands" with ours. -

Steve Frushour '68

Rest of the Story: '68 Grandson

Michael F. James graduated on May 26, 2018 and was commissioned a 2LT in the Corps of Engineers. At the awards ceremony conducted Thursday evening, Michael was recognized as a Distinguished Cadet and for achieving the highest grade in one of his nuclear engineering classes. At the Graduation Parade held on Friday, May 25th, Michael was cheered on by 25 family members and friends. That same group was there for his graduation in Michie Stadium and subsequent bar pinning ceremony in Ike Hall. Later that evening, the group, sporting identical T-shirts, joined together for a wonderful celebration dinner. At that event, Michael was presented with one of the '68 Sterling Silver Class coins by his grandfather, Fred Shahid '68. The next day, most of the group headed to the Outer Banks in NC to

continue the celebration. After his graduation leave, Michael will head to Fort Leonard Wood, MO for his Engineer Officer Basic course. Then he is on to Ft. Benning for Airborne and Ranger Schools before ending up at his first assignment at Ft. Bragg. **Fred Shahid '68**



The Shahid family supporting their 50YAP Grandson - it is a family affair!

Once all members of the graduating class had received their diplomas and commissions, the Commandant administered the Oath of Office, the Alma Mater was sung and on the order "Class Dismissed," the Class of 2018 threw their white hats high into a spectacularly blue sky backdrop - just as the Class of 1968 had done a half-century before.



Throwing of Hats 2018 (WP Photo)

Bar Pinning Ceremonies

At various locations around the Academy for much of the afternoon following graduation, individual and small groups of newly minted second lieutenants held bar pinning ceremonies, with Academy staff and faculty officers administering the oath of office and gathered family and friends affixing rank insignia to the Army blues that had replaced Cadet Gray for the Class of 2018.