

Class of 1957 Class Notes 1 February 2015

I am going to start this column off with some Class business, go to current news, include some old news, and end with a review of Class losses since the last notes.

Class Business: The Class now has established a position entitled Widow Advisor on its Executive Board, with duties that will be assumed by Maxine Tieber. The letter written by our Class President, Paul Schwehm, announcing her selection and explaining her role was distributed to the Class via the Regional Representatives and is available on the Class web site. Welcome to the EB, Maxine, and thank you.

60th Reunion Planning: Paul Schwehm continues to work with the AOG on the Thayer Hotel contract for the 60th. Per Paul, the Thayer sent us a contract many moons ago, on which we had many questions and concerns, especially the room rate, which was based on their anticipated rate increase of 7% a year from the \$195 they charged '54 for their Spring '14 reunion. The good news, which Paul had been told but wanted confirmed, is that '51 and '56 have a \$180 rate in the Spring of 2016 and we may be able to get a similar rate with a slight increase. Thanks, Paul.

Class Advisor to the AOG: The official transition of the position from Ted Voorhees to Dave Schorr took place at the end of 2014. We are all indebted to Ted for his service to the Class. On behalf of the Class Paul Schwehm wrote a letter to Ted thanking him for his many years of service, and I am including the letter here.

“Dear Ted,

The year two thousand fourteen is drawing to a close, and it is time for you to stand down, to my regret, from the most recent of the positions of service to our Executive Board and our Class of 1957 that you have held in the past seven and a half years that we have worked together.

You served diligently on many Board projects and activities as a vice-president, to include the planning, preparation and execution of two reunions and a major gift fund drive; I know very well how much Gerry Galloway depended on you for both hands-on work and sound advice.

You have been intimately involved in the production of two distinguished graduate nominations.

By virtue of your position within the Association of Graduates' leadership group as a Society Advisor, you served our Board informally as advisor on matters associated with that body. Many times did I seek, and gain, the benefit of your insight as to its inner workings.

I would ask for your help one more time: That you give Dave all possible initial assistance as he takes on his forthcoming task as Class Advisor to the Association.

Please accept the utmost gratitude of the Board and the Class.”

Class Gift Fund: The Executive Board has discussed the disposition of the balance of our Class Gift Fund and voted to leave it intact until at least the next Class election and reunion. At this time it is not clear how it can best be used.

DC Contingent activities: Bill Seely has been coordinating the Class attendance at the Hexagon show on the afternoon SUN, 22 MAR for our winter party. I'm not sure if you can still get tickets, but I suggest you contact Bill if you will be in the DC area at the time. It will be at the Wilson High School in Washington, DC and there will be a dinner party after the show at a restaurant TBD.

The DC Class contingent has decided to go on a cruise for it's Spring party and has made arrangements for a cruise of the Caribbean on the Royal Caribbean (RCCI) 7-night cruise, departing the port of Baltimore on May 15, 2015, sailing for Port Canaveral, Nassau and Cococay on the Grandeur of the Seas. The information was in the January Class Poop Sheet produced by Nick Monaco, and distributed to the Class by me in January. If you are interested in participating you can contact Hank or Shelley Hatch, **phone 703-476-8895**, hankhatch@aol.com, the planners, or Don Sadler, who has been providing updates to the Class and has posted the information on the Class website, <http://usma57.org/>

Ray Karsian: Ray recently completed a trip to Antartica and sent a detailed "reflections". I have included part of it. Ray also included a plug for their September trip to Portugal. I suggest you contact Ray if you want more details.
" Gail and I with three other couples have just returned from a 10 day journey to Antarctica. We traveled with probably the most experienced and most expensive provider for this area, the Lindblad/National Geographic organization. Some of you have already asked and others I suspect will wonder what it was like and if we "liked" the journey. I will give a collective response. First perhaps I can "satisfy" the naysayers or no-goers with their objections. We heard in preparing for this trip: 1. Crossing the Drake passage where the Atlantic and Pacific come together is or can be "awful" 2. There is nothing but ICE down there, no historical buildings, churches, statues and the like. 3. It is cold so why go ? 4. There are far too many penguins down there who do nothing but breed, eat and poop. 5. It is or can be dangerous, so far from home and comfort. Many had more objections and too a large part many of the above "reasons" are true, but OH what a mistake those who don't go are missing."

I have omitted the details for the above reservations. Again, Contact Ray if you want them. Now for Ray's positive observations.

"Antarctica is wonder of beauty and history. We had 15 naturalists with years of experience on the geology, animals, exploration history and photography that would knock your eyes out and it did ours. Everyone was amazed with the extent of exploration history over the last 150 years that has gone down in Antarctica. Such wonderful and hardy souls. We marveled how comfortable and safe we were on our

ship while we heard tale after tale of the early explorers. Beauty, yes, nature as a sculptor beyond belief. You could view and take photo after photo of ice that was beyond belief. ... We have a DVD of our specific trip, our own photos and will have a file sent to us of the "best photos" taken by the rest of the passengers. Photography, we all did our "thing" but we also had the National Geography photog Michael Melford on board. ... All in all, it is hard to explain the experience, you should go there if you have an interest in geography at the bottom of the world and the environment, you like history and love photography. ... Now on to Portugal in September. The windows for travel for us are narrowing and the shadows are lengthening, but we HAVE NOW LANDED ON ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS and continue to be amazed what experiences travel can bring. Happy Trails to all."

Fred Koehler: Shortly after receiving the last notes Fred wrote, "Had the Haults and the Rowlands stay with us and 9 others from the class (plus drags) for brunch prior to convoying to Stanford for the Army game. Tailgating was great but the heat and the Army loss was not. Hopefully someone else will do a more detailed story and send some photos. If not let me know and I will try to put something together. Monday I have a hip replaced so I am hoping someone else does it." Unfortunately I never did get back to Fred with a request for photos, but it's never too late if someone wants to send some. Thanks Fred, and I hope the hip replacement went well.

Bob Tener: Bob did send me a photo taken at the Stanford game, with an ulterior motive. It shows Bob and Bill Golden with their personalized license plates. He wrote, "During the recent '57 micro-reunion for the Stanford football game, Bill Golden & I had the opportunity to compare our cars' license plates. We thought the photo, attached, might interest classmates."



Stuart Wright: Nancy and I (the class newlyweds) got impetuous this spring, pulled up stakes in Houston and moved all the way down to Galveston where we now enjoy a water-side venue. There is something so universal about the appeal of "big water"

isn't there. We recently returned from Seattle where we played our part in my youngest (age 23) daughter's wedding. A big passage for us all....and before you know it - in perhaps a year or so - I'll be old enough to have a grandchild! And the beat goes on." Thanks, Stuart, and good luck on the coast. Let us know when the happy event happens.

Ray Ketchum: Shortly after the Glee Club 2015 Reunion was announced Ray sent a note. "I would love to sing Baritone at the 2015 Glee Club Reunion. Incidentally, the University Glee Club of New York City will be singing The Corps (new words) at their 17 January 2015 concert. I may be conducting." Haven't heard whether Ray conducted on 17 Jan.

Bill Wright: Bill had an interesting and rather exciting trip, in my opinion, with lots of unintended political overtones in Turkey to think about. Something to consider if you're planning a trip to that part of the world. He also referred to a video on ISIS, but I'll leave that out. On all else I'll quote him directly. "Anne and I just returned from a vacation in Italy, Croatia and Turkey. An interesting encounter happened during our very recent visit in Istanbul, Turkey. Leaving our hotel around 7pm on September 30th, we walked by a stationary, large (+/- 250) police contingent outfitted in full riot gear - shields, helmets & face masks, complete body armor, batons, firearms, gas canisters - stationed in a way that they and two APCs blocked half of the expansive pedestrian mall walkway. Coming toward us was a loud chanting group (+/- 50) of mostly young people carrying flags and banners that found us immersed unknowingly into their protest. We quickly continued on our way and encountered 150 yards away another chanting group of +/-50 flag-waving protestors coming toward us. Just beyond them was another stationary (+/- 200) police contingent fully equipped in riot gear plus two, armored water cannon trucks, again blocking 1/2 the wide pedestrian mall. In addition to the protest groups and the police, the large mall area was packed with shoulder-to-shoulder folks "out for the evening" paying little, apparent attention to the police or the protestors. But, the police had cleverly "sandwiched" everyone into a single area which would be under their effective control. We stopped a young protest couple and asked if they spoke English which they did and told us that their protest was directly against the ISIS Terrorists across the Turkey border as well as against the Turkish government. The protestor couple believed that Turkey has been supplying weapons and logistic support that was of US origin for the past few years to the ISIS "rebels" in their attempt to overthrow Syria's Assad. They believed the government's purpose was to embolden and support ISIS - the strongest of the "rebel groups" - so that Turkey could eventually control both Syria and Iraq's Kurdistan to Turkey's benefit by collaborating with ISIS. They further contended that the Turkish government was not cooperating with the US in its campaign against ISIS nor did it intend to regardless of its NATO membership. Although this couple could not be deemed authoritative, they did conceivably "connect dots" when I realized that for Turkey to distribute US arms to ISIS, they had to have a non-US connected, 3d party as a weapons source (much like the Iran-Contra episode). Inasmuch as our Administration has never been fully forthcoming about the nature of our involvement in Libya, the situation suggests that perhaps Libya was the initial conduit for passing US supplied weapons for the Syrian "rebels" of which apparently

there were/are several groups, with ISIS being one of those supported by a powerful, adjoining neighbor, Turkey. It would be interesting to have Soyster of Vuono or any other classmate who understands this situation comment on the above scenario.”

Jack Vickers: Jack received a couple of responses to his Swim-the-Bay activity and, as a good classmate and a true hive Jack wanted to respond. “My purpose in sending you this E-mail is to **thank you very much for sending me your cheerful and encouraging E-mails** in reply to my Swim-the-Bay letter. You really helped my morale, and made me realize how fortunate I am to be a member of our Class of '57. I should have mentioned that I gave myself a 1.7 grade for that swim! However, if you consider the eight 1.9-mile preparatory swims that I did successfully complete (plus the countless 1-1/2 and 1-1/4 mile swims); and if you therefore decided to raise the grade to 2.0: I would be grateful. I sure look forward to seeing EACH of you at our 60th Reunion in the Hotel Thayer. Until then, we hope that you and your loved ones will enjoy the best of health, happiness and success!”

Marv Nilsen: Marv was a company mate who died in the '70's, and so I was quite surprised to receive the following messages last October. I'm including it here to ask for any information any of you may have about any of the people mentioned. I still have not received the boxes. The box was from Balfour. The first message was: “Dr Kovel, Recently I stepped down as an Admissions Liaison Officer for USAFA. Coincidentally, while helping sort through my wife's grandmother's house in Bellingham, WA I ran across a little paper box addressed to:

Cadet Marvin H Nilsen
Company B-2 USCC
West Point New York

It was postmarked Aug, 16, 1956 - the beginning of your firstie year. The box was a COD shipment from Balfour Co., I presume the maker of your class rings. Inside the box are four little felt-lined blue boxes which I'm guessing contained either matching female engagement rings or, wedding bands built to mate with USMA class rings. ... Since Marvin is dead, I thought that perhaps as your class scribe you might be interested in publishing the story of this box and its picture in your class notes, possibly resulting in a connection with another of your classmates who might have an interest in this little box.” The second message provided the photo. “Attached below is a photo of the small box and its contents. It contained nothing other than the 4 small boxes you see displayed in front. My grandmother-in-law was Dorothy E. Wachter, nee Wellman. Her first married name was St. James and her second husband was a Wachter. Kindly send me your mailing address and I will send the box to you. As I said, it is a trivial item but it probably has at least a slightly interesting story.”



Clark (Buck) & Beverly Rogers: Beverly sent the following message and photos in response to the request for personalized license plates . Thanks, Beverly.
“Regarding the request for stories and photos ... ~ we are sending photos In addition to the West Point Society casual lunches which take place here in Tampa once a month for all classes and their spouses or guests, every few weeks, Connie and Dave Ray, Linda and Jim Swenson and Clark and I meet for lunch and conversation....at The Colonnade on the Bayshore, For the six of us it is a pleasant time to learn from each other about all of the years in our past lives. Connie and Dave were our neighbors in Oklahoma before we had children and we had never seen each other again until here. Linda and Jim Swenson we met here in Tampa for the first time. We have a lot of talking to do!!” The first photo is of Connie & Dave Ray and their license plate. The second photo includes Jim Swenson, Dave Ray, and Buck Rogers.



Ted Voorhees: One of Ted’s recent duties for AUSA was to escort the Duke BB coach, Michael W. Krzyzewski, who was the 2014 Marshall awardee, and he sent a great photo.



Jim Newsom: Jim and I were exchanging information about Alzheimer's disease (his wife has advanced Alzheimer's and is in a care facility) and he provided a family update. From Jim: "On my side of the ledger I have also been a volunteer contracting officer and property manager developing a local \$2 million Childrens' Center (co-located Head Start and local childrens' development facility) in Richland. Our four daughters are really scattered; two in western Washington (one school teacher, one graphic artist/tattoo shop owner, a pharmacist in Utah and a dental hygienist in Virginia. I try to visit or travel together with each every year. We have 10 grandchildren, 5 boys and 5 girls. My 4 year younger brother lives in Olympia, WA and I visit there too."

Bill Webb: Bill attended and made a presentation at the Havana Veteran's Day Memorial Service, and provided the following comments. The photos were taken by Montse as the Memorial celebration was in progress. Bill wrote: "I love to attend this event at the Memorial just east of the Havana Library. The attendees are us...and our families. There is a good feeling in this. Prior to the event I circulated in the crowd of Veterans and heard stories of their commitment. There were about 30 folding chairs to the front of the speaker podium, however most simply stood for the short program which was organized by Jim Brennan, Commander American Legion Post 84, Havana. ... Among other speakers with very brief remarks was Havana Police Chief Tracy Smith who to my surprise emphasized "Duty, Honor, Country" as values underlying the service of our fallen. I spoke with him after the ceremony with thanks noting the connection to West Point's Triad of Values. ... after the program I met and spoke with many veterans. It was moving for me that they spent time with me and spoke of my remarks. In past years I have presented at Veteran's day at our State Capitol steps and later in Havana in 2007. My address today is attached. These are my words, our words for us and those we serve. It was an honor to be among Veterans and share this occasion." Bill's presentation has been forwarded to Don Sadler for posting on our Class website. The photo of Bill speaking and one of He and Montse at the purple Heart Monument are below. Thank you, Bill.



Jon Dunning: **Beebe McDonough** sent a Jon Dunning Update on 23 Dec. I have not received any subsequent information. Beebe wrote: “ Received a Christmas card from Jon & Judy Dunning with a new address: 120 Lilly Bell Rd., Lexington, VA 24450-3780. Judy reports that Jon is in hospice; she is caring for him at home with VA assistance. At the 50th he was coping with Parkinson's disease and passed on the 55th.”

Bill Golden: Bill sent a photo sent to him by Don Rowland of the two of them watching the A/N game with Navy '57. The details were provided by Ray Fazzio, Navy '57, and were: “ A crowd of about 34 fans watched the Army Navy game at Brad and Ginny Parkinson's villa in Edna, CA. Bob Christenson said he would furnish you the details. Attached is a photo of the 1957 Army and Navy grads at the great party in their Pub. 57 Grads, Left to Right. Bill Golden and Don Rowland, West Point 57, Bob Christenson. Ray Fazzio, John Holt, Joe Boyajian, Ted Almstedt and Brad Parkinson.” I guess they had us beat at the party too, but I'm attaching the photo.



Joe House: Joe sent a holiday card with a photo of a large part of his family that was taken at his grandson Patrick's wedding 28 Feb 2014. Great Photo.



Bill & Cory Bailey: Bill sent an e-card for the holidays, complete with a tree drawn by one of his grandchildren, 7-year old Lily. He included some info that I am quoting from here. "Our new home since September, 2013, in Westwood, Massachusetts, is a pleasure: a small house with a lovely garden and room for guests. Last summer was spent at Woods Hole on (mostly) weekdays, helping with our grandchildren. Cory: ... Skiing, briefly with Bill, for the first time in many years; ice skating for the first time in 35 years.

Bill: may sell his patents next year. Starting last winter, he returned to squash, gaining skill on his new knees and moderating his aging body. ..." Sounds like they are having fun.

Pete & Gerry Chittick: At the Dec luncheon of the DC contingent Gerry made a presentation about the book she wrote about her great-great-grandfather, Dr. Melvin J. Hyde, who was a surgeon for the 2nd Vermont Volunteers in the Civil war. Pete sent an email before the luncheon with some details that I have extracted. "The book was researched and written by Gerry, compiled from a cache of correspondence and records from Dr. Hyde, which she discovered while clearing out the home of a beloved Aunt and Uncle. ... This prompted Gerry to undertake additional genealogical and historical research to fill in the story of Dr. Hyde. The book provides an intimate behind the scenes story of a man caught up in the melee of the Civil War. As Gerry expresses it, In The Field is a fascinating chronicle of one surgeon's life during the Civil War. ... From Dr Hyde's letters we get an excellent picture of the reality of a Civil War soldier's life." We all enjoyed the presentation.

Russ Ramsey: Russ is a frequent contributor to the Class Forum and posted a "Happy New Year" message from which I have extracted the following info for those not on the Forum. "Happy New Year, everyone. I am recovering from my auto crash of last September now, and actually can do most of the things that old men do. God has stayed with me, and I am so grateful for the support from Classmates, church, and family. I hobble a bit with a cane, and sometimes can walk unaided. Lots of pills and therapy stuff. I'm starting back to choir practice Thursday, with my throat hooked internally to some kind of gadget to makes me breath right. It doesn't show, but I have several charming new scars all over the landscape. The time period from September 20 -December 9, 2014 is mostly a time warp for me while I was twitching but unconscious in 4 different hospital. ... Blessed New Year to all. Grip hands forever" Russ included a great story from 1961, and I suggest you contact him to get it. Thanks, Russ, and I hope your recovery is continuing.

Class losses since the last Class Notes:

Pamela Virginia Szvetcz, wife of Ed Szvetcz, passed away on 5 November 2014. An obit was previously distributed.

Kenneth E. Halloway, Jr. C-2, passed away on 21 November 2014. Obit is at <file:///As%20of%201%20Oct%202014/Col.%20Kenneth%20E.%20Halloway%20Jr.%20-%20Veterans%20Funeral%20Care.webarchive>

John E. Bloomfield, K-1, passed away on 4 December 2014. Obit is at [http://www.ruggierofh.com/tribute/details/549/John E Bloomfield/obituary.html](http://www.ruggierofh.com/tribute/details/549/John_E_Bloomfield/obituary.html)

Donald K. Fitzpatrick, F-2, passed away on 7 December 2014. No obit found.