

Class of 1957 Class Notes 7 Sept w photos 2015

As previously presented, first some Class business, then current news, and end with a review of Class losses since the last notes.

Class Business: As reported in the last notes, **Paul Schwehm**, working with Alexis Davis of the AOG signed a Thayer Hotel contract for the 60th. Paul sent a message to the Class with some details, and I have included part of that for those who may have missed it. It would be very useful to have an idea of how many will attend as soon as possible, **so I'm asking that if possible you send me (or Class Regional Rep) a note expressing your intent to attend.** From Paul's message: "**Please save the date for our 60th Reunion! Our Class reunion will take place at West Point on Thursday, April 27-Sunday, April 30, 2017. Please bookmark our reunion information website: <https://www.westpointaog.org/1957reunion>** Our headquarters hotel is the Thayer. The block of rooms will open for reservations on June 6, 2016. Hotel reservation information will be sent out before then, and will also be posted on the above-mentioned reunion information website. Also in June, a tentative reunion agenda will be posted to the website along with hotel reservation information. Registration and payment for meals, transportation, and other costs will be called for in January/February 2017. I'll send periodic email updates, but check the website often for additional reunion information. Mark April 27-30, 2017 on your calendar! Looking forward to seeing you in 2017!"

TAPS: The **2015 TAPS** has been published and mailed to those who purchased it. There are 14 Class of '57 obits included. They are: **Baughman, Bloomfield, Cortez, Dayton, Fitzpatrick, Halloway Jr, James, Jameson Jr, Lawton, Liakos, Miller, Roebuck, Schafer, and Vardamis.** Memorial articles are available on line at WestPointAOG.org and on the Class website.

Also, FYI, the **2015 Register of Graduates** can be ordered from the West Point AOG Gift Shop.

Class Fountain: For some who may not remember, the Class donated a Fountain for the entry to the WP Cemetery for our 10th Reunion. Earlier this year a classmate visiting WP noted that it was not working, and through some quick negotiation by Bill Ray with WP, it has been repaired. A photo of the fountain is below, and it still looks good.



Class Widow Advisor: It was with regret that **John Ramsden** forwarded the resignation of **Maxine Tieber** in May as the CWA. In her words, “I must apologize for this email. I no longer can do the Class '57 Widow Advisor. Since this last misfortune, broken hip, it has set me back somewhat. I am still grieving a lot for Jay and pray things get better for me. Thank you for your understanding. Maxine” We all wish Maxine the best and know that replacing her will be difficult.

Class Website: I am including excerpts from **Don Sadler's** note to the Class to make sure you see it. My apology for the duplication. “I have just published an update to the Class Website and would like to point out several items of interest: Class President Paul Schwehm's recent letter on our 60th reunion presents our latest plans. ...[See Reunion note above] Read Paul's letter on the website. There are pictures of Classmates cruising from Baltimore to the Bahamas this past May. Classmates are often called on to speak at ceremonies and events. Jack Solomon spoke on Veteran's Day. Ben Glyphis did the honors on Memorial Day. Check them out. As we head for the 60th, I want to be sure that our contact information is current so that everyone gets the word. So please check that your home address, phone number, and email address are up to date. To do so, go to the top of the webpage and click on the Class Rosters pull down menu. Then select Classmates, Widows, and ExCadets. It's a long list so you may have to scroll down a bit to get to your name. Keep me posted of any changes. To go to the website click here --> usma57.org (If for some reason you have trouble on the website just email me and we'll try to work it out.)

DC Contingent: I am including the schedule for the Class DC area events for the rest of the year, provided by **Nick Monaco**, for those who may be visiting the DC area. The summer is fleeting by and the 2nd half of our Class' DC Area social season is about to commence. The next edition of the Poop Sheet will be coming out by 01 Sept but here's some advance info to get on your social calendar:

Sept Luncheon: 1130 Thurs 10 Sept (note this is 2nd Thurs vice our usual 1st Thurs)

Oct Luncheon: 1130 Thurs 01 Oct - special presentation by Mike Meese, Chief Operating Officer and Secretary,
American Armed Forces Mutual Aid Association

Class Fall Party: 1700 Sat 17 Oct Hosts: Chip & Nan King in Bethesda

Nov Luncheon: 1130 Tue 03 Nov Annual Joint Luncheon/USNA '57 (note Tue vice Thurs)

Dec Luncheon: 1130 Thurs 03 Dec Annual Holiday Luncheon
Contact Nick for more details or to make reservations.

Hank & Shelley Hatch on Class Cruise: Hank Hatch sent a note about the cruise with a link to many, many photos. I have included one. "Hello everyone! We had a great experience spending time with all of you. It was a truly memorable week. Thank you for making it so special. Here is the Picasa link to the pictures I took. Open it, click on a picture, click on "full screen", maximize all windows and enjoy!

<https://picasaweb.google.com/hankhatch1/2015051522?authkey=Gv1sRgCOGtvZUprDxag>

Matt Klinger, Anne Meade's son, took our group picture at Merritt Island and I have added it at the end of the pictures on the site"



Black and Blue Golf Tournament: Walt Rabe sent the photos and I used one. "Attached are two team pictures from the Black and Blue Scramble. The second guy from the left is Jack Kersh, who headed up the Navy execution for this event - good guy. Missing from the picture are Dick Pastore and Bud Obrien. Not sure why (probably

because I did not set it up well).



Jack Ellington: This email from Jack was sent to the Class on 3 June, but I am including it here even though it's very difficult to read this type of message. I think what Jack said at the end is worth hearing again and again. Regretfully, he is not the first classmate to suffer the loss of a child, nor will he be the last. He wrote, "I'm sad to say this is one of the hardest messages I've ever had to send. My only son, J.D., had a massive heart attack Monday evening and never regained consciousness. He is the second of my children to beat me to the grave as his sister, Kim, died from cancer about two years ago. It's so hard to understand why them instead of me. I would appreciate your prayers for our family, and I implore you all to tell your children you love them often. God bless and keep you and yours."

Gerry Galloway on Jim Cortez funeral: Gerry included some details about the new inurnment facility at WP and I've included it for your information. "On Friday [12 June], along with **Dave and Patti Schorr** and **Bob Hunziker, Diane** and I attended the burial services for Jim Cortez. It was a beautiful day, the cemetery was well manicured, and those connected with the burial did a good job. Jim, who was a company mate, was a very special person, arriving at West Point a little older than the rest of us and always ready to lend a helping hand to those of us who were in our military infancy. The sad part was being there to bury a classmate. **Marie** and the family were strong and led the mourners in the appropriate remembrances. **Bob Comeau's** eulogy was read by one of Jim's sons (as Bob was on the west coast). My reason for writing is to share with you my surprise at seeing the new above-

ground structures that are being used for inurnment. As you recall, Max sent us a copy of the Supe's letter (attached) concerning who could be buried in in-ground and who above ground in the newly built above ground inurnment structures (I am not sure if they are called columbariums?). ... The new inurnment structure was built in a path that runs around the center of the cemetery. Although I did not check it out, I would guess the structure runs in a complete circle around the middle of the cemetery with breaks spaced to allow for walkways. The niches are marked with bronze plaques with wording similar to what is on a gravestone. There's room inside a niche for two remains (husband and wife). The pictures tell a better story. I was a little concerned about use of these new facilities until I saw how they had been built and how they are being used. I feel much better now, It might be useful to share the information with the class. When you are hundreds or thousands of miles away from West Point, it's difficult to visualize what is going to happen or where the remains might go. It was a sad event-we will miss Jim, but it was well done and he rests in peace with the long grey line."



Jerry & Jody Scott: Jody sent an interesting note on 20 June, complete with photo. "Judy and Mike Keating drove over from Montgomery today and we had a great visit here at our Columbus home (wonderful Retirement community we've lived in for almost 10 yrs). Jerry got a photo made of the 4 of us. I am not able to send it on to you but he can send it directly to you. There is a story that goes with the photo. His Green Beret, out of his possession for 43 years came back to him TODAY by way of Keatings. It would make a good story for the column." And so it is, thanks.



Joe & Sue House: Joe sent some good news about their niece, and a photo taken at the event in July. “We recently attended our niece, Capt. Emma House, graduation from the Air Force Weapons School. She fly's the KC-135 tankers and is stationed at McConnell AFB. She has had 6 tours to Afghanistan. Our son, Mike was in Las Vegas at a FOX conference, and he and his wife joined us for the graduation.” Congratulations to Emma, and on her safe return from all the Afghan tours.



Jack Meehan: Jack sent a message in August titled, “Three Generations”, and it’s great. “As the subject states, three generations West Point. In the center is Patrick Meehan, our grandson, CI’ 2019; on the left our son John, CI’ 81 and Yours Truly on the right, CI’ 57. The picture was taken at Camp Buckner on August 9, 2015. The new plebes had just completed Beast Barracks and on the following day we participated in the March Back. God is good!!” Jack is the first March Back participant in quite a few years. Congratulations to all.



Lou Barisano: Lou responded to Jack’s message with some good news of his own. “Thanks Jack--- My grandson is in the class also. His name is Zachary Hoiles. What is your grandson's last name if not Meehan. Maybe we have two future company commanders for G-1 and H-1.” Congratulations to all, and good luck on the future command.

Jack Vickers: Jack sent an interesting report of an event near his home. It’s nice to be honored, even 40+ years later. “Our Town of Portsmouth (population: 17,100) recently held a Welcome Home Ceremony for Vietnam War Veterans (about 200 of us). Each of us was called to the stage to receive (from the Town Council President) a Certificate of Appreciation, a cap embroidered with Vietnam Veteran - Welcome Home, and a paracord bracelet (green & white; orange & yellow). The bracelets were made by a HS Club whose members are sons or daughters of active-duty military. The HS chorus and band performed appropriate musical numbers; Taps concluded the ceremony. The ceremony made us Veterans and our wives feel appreciated. Perhaps your Town could have a similar event?” Thanks for sharing, Jack.

Sam Morthland: Sam experienced heart problems and reached out to the Class for some advice/information. On 9 Aug he wrote; “In response [to his request], I received

recommendations from 20 classmates and a couple of widows. Fortunately, I did not have to call on any of them since the three surgeons here fixed the problems. Two operation in 21 days is just about the limit! My thanks to them and to all of you who put me in your prayers !! It is comforting to know that "GRIP HANDS" IS ALIVE, AND THAT IT WORKS" Great!

Burn Loeffke: Burn's response to Sam included some personal information that I'm including here. "Just returned from 2 months of rehab or I would have sent you the name of our cardiac surgeon. Broke my leg in 3 places. Still on a wheel chair but should be walking in two more months." I hope Burn is up and around now.

Barry & Donna Fox: Donna wrote with a request similar to Sam's , but with respect to getting help from the VA for Barry. Again, the Class responded but unfortunately the result will not change Barry's physical condition. I did forward her message to the Class and am including a couple of excerpts here. On 29 Aug, Donna wrote; "First, I am completely overwhelmed by the response from the class on seeking military VA benefits for Barry and me. I must tell all that I have done much of what was submitted and am grateful for the knowledge that I have gone the right directions, now knowing I did cover what was to be done. I sincerely wish I could write to each of you and give you my heartfelt thanks, so this is where I must lean on Max to help with this request. Many sent me their phones numbers and points and names of contact. Each of these great guys went the extra mile to make sure I had the right information and I did deal with the names given. ... After reading all emails from the Class, and knowing how difficult this procedure is - and how many did not receive benefits for service time in Vietnam/agent orange it is heartbreaking. ... I am numb /angry for putting good men in harms way, benefiting many and leaving many behind. ... Again, so many thanks to all you great guys of the class of '57... yes, do 'grip hands' over and over."

Bob Lamb: This is related to **Jay Tieber**. "I just returned from a trip to Dayton OH for my Brother's Memorial Service. Just before I left home, I received the latest copy of TAPS with Jay Tieber's Memorial article. In the article it mentioned that Jay had started a Irish Pub in Dayton. As I had a little spare time, my son and I decided to visit the Dublin Pub. We met Steve Tieber, Jay's son who now runs the Pub. It is a tribute to one of our Classmates and I recommend a visit to anyone who is in Dayton and has the time to stop in. One cannot help but be impressed and if Steve is there I'm sure he would be happy to give you a tour.

Class Losses Since the Last Column: (Note: Obits that are available can also be accessed on the Class Web Site)

Austin (Bud) Miller died on 19 May in Virginia. Obit unknown.

James (Jim) Van Pelt Taylor died 15 June 2015 at his home in Florida. An obit written by his sister was distributed to the Class and has been provided to the AOG.

William (Bill) Franklin Campbell, Jr. died 16 June 2015 at his home in Yakima, WA. Obit in the 28 June Yakima Herald.

http://www.yakimaherald.com/obituaries/william-franklin-campbell-jr/article_8e405b12-1c66-11e5-b816-2bbf2808e426.html