

Class of 1957  
60<sup>th</sup> Reunion Follow-up

By all accounts Our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion was a resounding success. By and large, the Reunion went off as planned. Thanks to those who made it to West Point. Those who didn't make it were missed. A special thanks is due to Alice and Paul Schwehm. Paul for the countless hours spent on organizing and checking each detail and Alice for putting up with him as he spent most of the last year working on the reunion.

We were blessed by good weather as the rains held off for all 4 days of the reunion. Also, by having the reunion on "Retiree" weekend celebrated throughout the Army, we were able to witness a Cadet Parade and perhaps more importantly, have most of the Class stay at the Thayer Hotel or the West Point BOQ. While this caused some problems because of oversubscribed meals, most thought it was a good thing and we spent a minimal amount of time on busses moving to different events.

We received great support from the AOG and West Point Staffs as well as the hotel staff, the bus drivers were ever helpful. Vince McDermott from the Superintendent's Office and Alexis Davis of the AOG were especially helpful.

The "Class Aides" assigned to help us through the events were also especially helpful. They were;

- Major Donald Koban
- Captain Tim Ashcroft
- Captain Matt Beigh

The reunion was marked by the opportunities to meet informally to renew friendships and catch up with Classmates and their families. Tables and seating were available for people to sit down during receptions and informal meals. The Hudson Valley in Springtime is

beautiful and the Parade went off as scheduled. Use of the Hotel Thayer was great. Overall, the Thayer did a good job. Check in and Check out was done in a professional manner and food was plentiful at all the meals.

The Memorial Service planned by Max Kovel got the Reunion off to a wonderful start. Bill Huckabee gave a moving tribute to fallen Classmates that was talked about throughout the reunion.

Having lunch and the Academy Update at the Kimsey Center was Dave Schorr's idea and it came off very well. Again, the food was good and the seemingly long lines went down remarkably fast. As we ate, Burn Loeffke talked about the work he has done in sponsoring a program to send cadets to China which was well received. The Superintendent, with the Dean, the Commandant, the Associate Director of Athletics, and the President of the AOG briefed us on the military and academic programs. Along with the Q & A session it took more time than we had scheduled.

The Class Business meeting was conducted after the Academy Update and therefore was pushed for time. The results of the election that was conducted electronically in January were announced. The following individuals were elected and will serve from 30 May 2017 until 30 days after the 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 2022 (scary, isn't it!)

- \* President: Bill Ray
- \* First Vice President: Jack Farris
- \* Second Vice President: Jack Block
- \* Secretary: Dick Mollicone
- \* Treasurer: Fred Koehler
- \* Scribe: Max Kovel
- \* Information Systems Officer: Don Sadler

Regional Representatives on the Board will continue to serve. They are:

- North East: Dave Schorr
- Mid Atlantic: John Ramsden
- South East: Fred Smith (Also serves as the Class Memorial Article Officer)
- Mid-America: Bob Gadd
- Far West: Bill Golden

Pat Buck will continue to serve as the Widow's Liaison to the Board.

The Cocktail hour and dinner Friday night got off to a BANG, quite literally, with the appearance of a group of "Hellcats" they played several marches and bugle calls and were well received.

The informal dinner was also successful as there was no assigned seating and people visited with old friends.

There was quite a bit of open time Saturday morning to continue to relax with Classmates. The busses to the Plain worked very well. We were dropped off near the reviewing stands. There was not too much difficulty in getting into the stands initially. Vince McDermott From the Supe's Office did a good job of telling us what to expect. He was clearly worried about the amount of time that we would be standing during the review and cautioned us to "take a knee" if we began to feel dizzy. A couple of Classmates had to be helped back into the stands. After the review, getting back into the stands for the group photo was somewhat of a drill. It would have been better to have taken the photo before the review.

John Hocker had arranged for the Cadet Parachute Club to parachute onto the Plain with a Class of '57 Flag. The jump was aborted because of high winds Saturday morning.

After the Group photo, we walked across the Plain to Washington Hall for lunch. This was quite a long walk for some. The Plain is not too level and a few Classmates with walkers tried to make it and had a hard time.

Perhaps dinner Saturday night was most affected by the large number of attendees. Everyone expected to be seated with their Cadet Company, but it turned out that several companies were split among three tables and the Class was seated in three different dining rooms. This caused more bad feelings than any other event of the Reunion. The disappointment was over shadowed by the reduced time spent on busses to and from West Point.

Thanks to Bill Webb, Hank Hatch and Gerry Galloway and former members of the Glee Club for the after Dinner Program Saturday night as well as great contributions to the Memorial Service.

Thanks to the Class Board who as a group served as the reunion organizing committee. Don Sadler got the word out and kept track of attendance. Bill Golden was responsible for the choosing of the cap and scarf, the guide and the items that were ordered separately. Bob Stevens and Dave Schorr planned the tours; John Ramsden planned and oversaw the Saturday night dinner, the Show after dinner and the Disc Jockey and was the liaison with the five Star Inn. Walt Rabe planned the meals at the Hotel and watched over the budget.

Paul Schwehm

Bill Ray

