

Don Whalen's Closing Prayer

We, graduates of the Class of 19 hundred and 57, with our wives, families and loved ones, are gathered together once again - to celebrate a reunion. 60 years have passed since our departing from West Point. While we are here we will consider, reminisce, discuss and relate what has occurred during these six decades. And we will share our good fortune in being here once again with long-time comrades and friends.

We do take note of classmates around the country, and the world, who were unable to be with us, and send to each one of them our best wishes.

While enjoying every minute, with so many who are here, we will also remember and honor those classmates who have gone before.

We honor especially those who, while serving in the Army and the Air Force defending our country, gave their lives far too early. And we also remember and honor all those who have passed after serving the country well in these services, as well as those who in private life contributed so much to the country's well being and progress.

Today, we also take special note of, and offer our prayers for, the 65 classmates, who have passed in the last five years, joining their last Long Gray Line, since our 55th reunion.

We equally remember and honor the wives who are no longer with us; who joyously married, adopted the concepts and ideals of Duty, Honor, Country and brought into being beloved families whose children and grandchildren are today carrying on their hopes and dreams.

We will continue during the remaining days of our lives to hold close in our thoughts those of the class and their families, who have gone beyond, honoring them and their lives.

We close our prayer, God with the hope that you will see fit to have each - and all now passed - await us so that we and our families join with them as Our Courses on Earth are run.

And that you continue your blessing of our nation and of all those still selflessly defending it around the world.

Amen