

William Thomas Huckabee, III
Box 1636
Pinehurst, NC 28370

April 22, 2022

Class of 1957, 65th Reunion
Memorial Service

It is wonderful to be here with you again.

The list in this bulletin is a stark and graphic reminder of how far we have come, and where we are.
Our numbers are diminishing...as "the long line lengthens".
Such is the natural order of things.
They were accomplished leaders; they did their duty in all walks of life....drawing always on principles instilled in all of us here, many years ago.
We miss them all, and, as before, we pray that they may know that we honor them this day, and always.

We miss those unable to attend today....as aging takes its natural toll.
We know that, as Jimmy Armstrong and Burnie Loefke emphasized to me a few days ago, they are here with us in spirit.
May they know that we feel their presence.
We extend to them a warm greeting, with our sincere best wishes.

For all of us, it is, at best, twilight; but isn't that great?
While we are here, let's make the most of it.

We are truly honored that so many others are here: widows, family members, and friends.
It is warmly pleasing for us to have you join us in this tribute to your loved ones...yours and ours..
As always, you are an integral part... a member of this brotherhood.
The Class of '57 is strengthened by your closeness and your endless support.

Without altering the properly solemn tone of this service, I must make mention of the fact that this well-planned, well-organized Reunion did not just happen.
12 classmates and one supportive widow, under leadership of Jack Farris, did yeoman work.
There will be ample opportunity in a different setting later to express our appreciation to them.

Assembling here again is such a treat.....

This place - this beautifully situated...historical place - is so importantly meaningful to all of us.

West Point, now, is different from what we knew.

In many ways it is far better.....

It has been made better by its leadership and staff over these many years - leaders with nothing more important guiding them than their sincere desire to make West Point better.

From 1953 through 1957, and beyond, each of us helped to make West Point better. I know you are as proud of that as I am.

Our Alma Mater is still the premier institution of its kind in the entire world. And the entire world knows it.

Into the future, our graduates will continue, as always in the past, to provide leadership in an ever-broadening array of fields.

And that West Point brand of leadership will continue to be characterized by its unparalleled competence, and its impeccable honor and integrity.

Pop your chests up! We helped.

As I close, let me claim, once again, that sharing our lives with each other as we did, and have continued to do, made all of us better than we would have been otherwise. For that, we continue to be grateful.

“The Long Line stiffens and straightens....” as we continue to live our lives in such a way as to confirm that ancient rumor.....“that Man is just a little lower than the Angels.”

It is an honor to have this opportunity to say a few words.

I am very proud to be a part of this group. All of you...each of you...mean more to me than you could ever know.

Thank you, thank you, thank you again....for everything.

h