

MUSTANG MATTERS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 63RD OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

Volume VIII, Number 2

Fall 2013



COMMANDER'S CORNER — A little belated, but welcome back to "Mustang Matters, the Official Newsletter of the 63rd Officer Candidate Wing Association."

Be sure to read the article about the San Antonio Reunion by Don Wilkinson (60B). A great summary of the reunion. I think a lot of us realized what a great opportunity the reunion was to refresh our memories and the shared experience of what was, for many of us, a life changing, and for all of us, a career changing experience. There is nothing like remembering a 50 year old conversation or event exactly as it happened (do fire drills, flood drills, or "Victory" at Sea mean anything to you?).

At the end of the reunion, we elected the Wing Association Officers. Jim Clutter is the new Vice Wing Commander and Jerry Nolan is the new Wing Commander. The only other change is that Fred Holmes has taken over for Bob Stephenson as the Wing Chaplain. (See Wing Roster, included in this Newsletter for a list of all staff personnel.

Tom Hansen, our Reunion Chair, and his committee are tentatively recommending Montgomery AL as the location for our next reunion in October of 2015. More details about Montgomery and the opportunity to make suggestions for other location will be going out through your Class Communicators.

Just a note: If any of you have questions, comments, or proposals, please feel free to express them to the appropriate member of the Wing Staff, or to the functional area officers. (A Wing Roster is included in this Newsletter.)

Also, for those of you who were not able to attend the reunion, be sure to read the poem that John Piowaty (63A) read at the closing banquet.

– JERRY NOLAN, 63A

FINANCIAL REPORT — As of 31 October 2013, the Association has a total of \$2,191.63 in our accounts, of which \$1,100.00 is dedicated to the Reunion Fund/Expenses, \$500.00 in the Memorial Fund, and \$591.63 in the General Fund.

– JOE SCARLETT, 63B

SAN ANTONIO REUNION — Well, we planned for about 150, and with some last minute banquet attendees, we wound up with 180 attending the overall event. With the theme being the 50th anniversary of the closing of the AF OCS program, we had a very good first day to attend the BMT Graduation Parade, visit the Lackland Heritage Museum with its expansive OCS display, a tour thru the old OCS area, an excellent lunch at the base club and ending with a tour through the somewhat renovated Billy Mitchell Village housing area. That evening the Welcome Reception went very well with the hotel providing excellent food. Many attendees took advantage of having their caricatures done by a retired AF artist. The second day we had to make some adjustments due to the additional attendees, but most of the group had an impressive tour of Fredericksburg's Admiral Nimitz WW II Museum, to include lunch. The third bus visited the LBJ Ranch and a local winery. We barely escaped the San Antonio area that morning as a monsoon type rain dropped nearly 6 inches that day. We had a large turnout for the business meeting, which included several other classes interested in joining our Association. The hotel hosted a super reception prior to the banquet, and again provided excellent meals and service during the meal itself. Music was provided by a local band at a reduced price in honor of our military service. The

reunion's final event involved attending a well-organized Memorial Day Ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston Cemetery. The speaker was Mr. Tom Ruck who produced an excellent book called "Sacred Ground – A Tribute to America's Veterans", with all royalties going to the Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund, for the children of fallen soldiers. The ever increasing number of attendees caused some scurrying around to make last minute adjustments and control costs, but my committee members Joe Scarlett, Carl & Linda Conger, Tom Edge and Bob Karre, were equal to the task.

– TOM HANSEN, REUNION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

PHOTOS AVAILABLE – Anyone interested in purchasing reunion photos, please contact Fred Holmes. We can make a photo CD available for \$5 plus postage.



OCS CHALLENGE COIN PROJECT — This project is designed to raise funds for our Association's future OCS Memorial projects and/or reunions. It is available to any Army Air Corps/Army AF/USAF OCS graduate or family member. The cost is \$15, which includes engraving your class number on the coin and postage, or \$10 without the engraving.

Also, we have White OCS ball caps for \$18, OCS Patches for \$10 and Lapel pins for \$5.

You can send your orders, with your Class Number, and a check or money order made out to "Tom Hansen" to the following addresses: 97D Chinook Lane, Steilacoom WA 98388.
– TOM HANSEN, 63B



OCS MUSEUM DISPLAY UPDATE — Those attending the reunion enjoyed the opportunity to tour the outstanding OCS display at Lackland's USAF Airman Heritage Museum. The exhibit featured a display case with artifacts and photographs along with the OCS banner and label copy telling the story of the Officer Candidate School. There were many memories on display here.



It is highly recommended that you take any opportunity to view this exhibit at Lackland before that date. No definite plan exists for a future OCS exhibit at this time.

Senior leadership of Air Education and Training Command (AETC), has directed that the future focus of the Museum is the USAF Enlisted Corps. Therefore, this OCS Exhibit will permanently close on 31 December 2013.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN —

Let me start by expressing my appreciation to Bob Stephenson for the excellent job he did as the former Chaplain for the OCS Alumni. I'm sure many families were comforted in sickness and upon the passing of loved ones by Bob's response with condolences, cards and flowers. I pray that I can continue in this position with that degree of success.

I will depend on anyone in or associated with our group to notify me of the passing of any OCS graduate or spouse so that I may offer what assistance they might need. Please bear with me as I learn the details of this position and we all will benefit from our combined efforts.

Thanks and Blessings,

– FRED HOLMES, 63-B/C

A REPORT FROM DON WILKINSON, CLASS 60B —**63rd OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION
Reunion-San Antonio**

The first class of Officer Candidate School back in 42' was so big that it required two groups and some 24 squadrons; it was war time and they were training Aviation Cadets. After the Air Force became a separate branch in 1947, they started their own OCS; the first graduates were in 1948. The Air Force received some of its officers from the Military and Naval academies but the bulk came from the OCS and Aviation Cadet schools. Most did not have a college degree, nor was it required. With ROTC, the first graduating class of the Air Force Academy in late 1959 and the first graduating class of Officer Training School in early 1960, bestowing a commission on an officer without a college degree was no longer required. OCS and Aviation Cadets were in trouble. We in 60B were fortunate because shortly when the last airman of 63D, Fernando Zepeda, received his commission, THE DOOR CLOSED. Except for the trickle from Airman Education & Commission Program (AECP), the days of the Air Force Mustang were laid to rest. But wait, there's more.



The last five classes of AF OCS-62D through 63D (they had changed from a calendar to a fiscal year accounting) organized themselves into an OCS wing to keep the spirit of OCS alive. It is best said in The final page of 63D's Shavetail:

DOES IT HAVE TO END?

With the closing pages of this book, we bring to an end an Air Force organization which has been the backbone of the officer corp for the past 21 years. No one wants to see it go, but no one has been successful in keeping it alive. Now it is up to us, the graduates of the final class, to see that its memory lives on, through our careers in the Air Force. OCS will not be gone forever until the last graduate retires from active duty. Between now and then we must strive to bring it back to life.

The best way to accomplish this will be to let our careers set an example and act as a reminder for the powers that be, that OCS produces only the best. We must take every opportunity to broadcast and publicize OCS. We must start from the ground up and organize all those who share our views. Through sheer number and an excellent example, we can accomplish our mission and once again be able to hear the familiar OCS words coming from the lips of brand new Second Lieutenants.

The 63rd OCS Wing has done a superb job of organization and keeping the spirit of AF OCS alive. They have a reunion every three years for all of their five classes; this Memorial Day weekend, this reunion was in San Antonio; the 63rd invited members from all other classes of OCS to attend.

Three of us from 60B attended: Richard King and his wife Chris, Norm Wightman, and myself and Peggy. There was nobody from class 60A; however, we were most happy to have Ron Leonhard from Third Squadron of our second class, 60C, joined us. Richard and Norm were also from Third Squadron along with me. They had been in Sixth Squadron in second class but it was decommissioned. Not everyone from the 63rd classes was on-board; many couldn't make it, and for many it was impracticable; moreover, as with any reunion, there were those who couldn't give a rodent's posterior about supporting their classmates. However, there were 180 in attendance and included many classes with a member from 49B. The farthest one traveled from Ecuador. Clark

Gable went through OCS down in Florida in class 42E (17 Aug 1942); he was 41 years old. And no, he was not at this reunion.

Tom Hansen, the leader of the 63rd, did a beautiful job of organizing the reunion. They spent a day at Lackland with the graduation parade, the old OCS area, the OCS display in the Airman's Museum, and Mitchell Village. They toured in the Hill Country, and had many meetings and receptions at the hotel; this was topped off with a really nice banquet. Of course we had the second heaviest day of rain in SA history here with ten inches; that slowed them down a little, but not much. We had a superb memorial service at the Fort Sam National Cemetery—makes you proud to have served; and even more proud of those young men and women who are serving today. God Bless 'em!!

Fred Holmes who does the web page for the 63rd OCS Wing has done a real wonder. You must absolutely go there. He has captured the Shavetail from 21 classes and will soon add 18 more. You can turn the pages and see all of the classes and the history—this is a treasure of OCS history—don't ignore it. www.usafocsalumni.org.



FROM THE WEBMASTER –

This is a blanket request to ALL associated with the OCS program to send me any pictures that you have taken during the regularly scheduled reunions or during any other large or small gatherings of the OCS 'family'. I am particularly interested in pictures from recent reunions. A photo DVD would be the best format.

I desire to make the website a place where anyone can explore the wonders of the earlier history and of current happenings involving OCS. Anything you would like to see on the website should be mailed to me at an address I will provide upon contact from you. Personal items, including photographs, Shavetail albums or OCS-related artifacts will be treated with the utmost care while in my possession. I will either return the item to you or will coordinate with Bob Karre, the Museum & Memorial Chair to have the item donated to a permanent historical collection/exhibit; place to be determined.

With your assistance, we can make the OCS experience and website a legacy to pass on for many more years.

Thanks for your assistance.

– FRED HOLMES, 63B/C

ASSOCIATION ELECTION —.**63rd OC WING OFFICERS ROSTER**

11 September 2013

WING COMMANDER

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APPOINTED POSITIONS**MUSEUM & MEMORIAL CHAIR**

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JAG/LEGAL ADVISOR

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63D Charles (Chuck) Ulmer
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This, from former Air Force Captain Patricia Salwei, was the inspiration for my poem.

“I approached the entrance to Ft. Belvoir’s medical facility last year as an old veteran pattered toward me. Easily over 80 years old, stooped and slow. I hardly gave him a second glance because on his heels was a full bull colonel.

“As they approached, I rendered a sharp salute and barked, ‘Good morning, Sir!’ Because they were heel to toe, I began my salute as the old veteran was about two paces from me. He immediately came to life! Transformed by my greeting, he rose to full height, returned my salute with pride, and exclaimed, ‘Good morning, Captain!’ I was startled, but the full bird behind him was flabbergasted. The colonel stopped in mid-salute, smiled at me, and quietly moved on.”

THE SALUTE

I raised my hand to recognize the colonel passing by.
The shuffling gray-hair in between, he never caught my eye.
But he saw me and my salute and snapped his hand up to his brow
And straightened up, a sudden, different man.

The colonel smiled, and as did I, he saw the old man’s mistake.
Well, if he thought I’d saluted him, it might just serve to make
His day a bit more proud as he recalls another day
When he served on land, at sea, or in war far away.

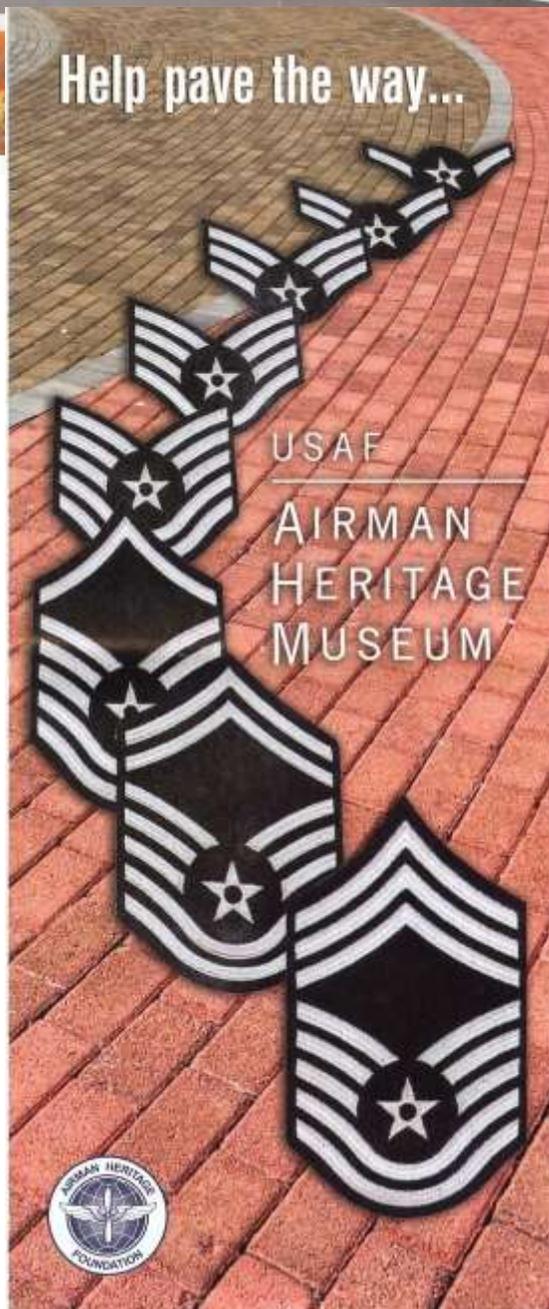
Was it Ardennes or on the beach he watched his buddies die?
And penned a note to their mom or sis and paused to wonder why
They got the golden BB while he came through unscathed.
A victory parade in forty-five—crowds cheered and flags they waved.

But then he was forgotten through Korea, Vietnam—
Nothing left heroic in a shuffling, gray-haired man
Waiting now alone to die; though part of him did die
In mud or sand or snow or in cold German skies.

And who cares for one now old and gray, with clothes ill-fit and in the way
Of younger troops with things to do and new wars far away?
But I care now as I saw change in the old man’s eye and stride,
As he marched head high to pass me by, his head held high with pride.

Perhaps, when I am old and gray, some young pup third my age
Will raise his hand, salute to me, and never stop to gauge
The time and years apart are we, but know I never swerved
From duty as I saw it and like the old man, too, I served.

John F. Piowaty, LtCol USAF (Ret)
Cano Limon, Colombia 2005



Heroes come in all forms.

Every one of them deserves a permanent place of recognition at the very place where their USAF active duty service began—Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. As part of the fund-raising effort to build the USAF Airman Heritage Museum, you are encouraged to recognize your Airmen's achievements by purchasing a paver in their honor. Engraved pavers will be placed along the Parade Grounds' walkways and courtyards, where so many have proudly marched for their Basic Military Training graduation.

Pavers can express congratulations upon a promotion or a significant achievement in a career. School graduations, birthdays and other special occasions are excellent times to recognize that special person with an engraved paver. They are also excellent gifts recognizing retirement from service—pavers have also been purchased in appreciation of those who fought in our wars.

Families have purchased a whole block of pavers, with an engraved paver for every family member, past and present, who have served their country proudly. Military and civilian members of all branches of the Armed Forces have been memorialized with pavers purchased in their honor.

Honor your special hero today! Your payment of \$55 per paver (\$50 each if more than one is purchased) will support our efforts to honor the service contributions and many sacrifices of our enlisted Airmen. Each stone can hold up to three lines, with a maximum of 14 letters, characters and spaces per line. Below are sample pavers.

JAMES JONES COL USAF 1970-1998	BENITO GOMEZ 40th TAC GROUP AVIANO AB
ROGER A. SMITH TSGT USAF 343 TRS 99-03	DIANE JACKSON AMN USAF GO SISI



Airman Heritage Foundation

A 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Sponsor of the United States Air Force Airman Heritage Museum PERSONALIZED PAVER ORDER FORM

Instructions for custom paver orders: (Pavers may also be ordered online at www.myairmanmuseum.org.)

1. Please fill in the boxes below exactly as you want the characters to appear on the paver. Please **PRINT** and use **CAPITAL** letters only. (Suggestions: Use proper name, rank, service, Class #, Flight #, squadron number, career start date, ETS date, etc.)
2. You may also use standard character symbols, such as "&,-" – No logo's please!
3. Indicate spaces between words by leaving a blank box. Each character and space will be counted in the total number of characters per line.
4. Each paver can hold up to three lines with a maximum of 14 characters/blank spaces per line.
5. **Text on pavers will be automatically centered**, so please start on the left and move to the right. See samples below:

JAMES JONES
COL USAF
1970-1998

ROGER A SMITH
TSGT USAF
343 TRS 99-03

DIANE JACKSON
AMN USAF
GO SIS GO

BENITO GOMEZ
40th TAC GROUP
AVIANO AB

FIRST PAVER ORDER

SECOND PAVER ORDER

THIRD PAVER ORDER

FOURTH PAVER ORDER

Are you honoring an MTI with this order? No **Yes. Paver number:** 1 2 3 4

PAYMENT: Number of Pavers Ordered _____ X \$55.00 each (2 or more @ \$50 each) = \$ _____ **DONATION TOTAL**

Please make checks or money orders payable to: Airman Heritage Foundation. (You may donate more than the cost of paver(s) if desired.)

Credit card payment; choose card type: Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVC/CCV _____

Name as it appears on the card: _____

Please enter the following information to track your order:

NAME		RANK	
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
EMAIL ADDRESS	HOME PHONE	MOBILE/OTHER	

Mail Completed Order Form and Payment to:

**AIRMAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 761422
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78245-6422**

All pavers become the property of the Airman Heritage Foundation. The Foundation reserves the right to reject inappropriately worded or offensive pavers. The foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization and is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components. The Foundation thanks you for your tax deductible support of the USAF Airman Heritage Museum.