

MUSTANG MATTERS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 63RD OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

Volume IX, Number 1

Spring 2014



COMMANDER'S CORNER —The reunion is set for October 2015, in Montgomery. See Tom Hansen's article for details. Mark the dates and save your pennies. Those of you who attended the San Antonio Reunion know what a blast it was. Help spread the word and let's try to top the 180 who attended the San Antonio soiree. We will be sure to build in time for each class to meet prior to the Association Business Meeting.

Please start looking for artifacts that we could put on display in the hospitality suite. In the past Gary Kent and a few others have shared some of their treasures with all of the attendees. For those items that you aren't planning on leaving to your family, maybe we can arrange a group donation to the Enlisted Heritage Museum. Tom Hansen is currently engaged in discussions with the museum.

Congratulations to Class 62B, which has now officially joined the Association. Carl O'Berry is the Class Commander and Bob Dely is the Class Communicator. We now have eight classes that belong to the Association. These are 57A, 61C, 62B, 62D, 63A, 63B, 63C, 63D. We also have a new Director at Large, Carl O'Berry (Lt. Gen., USAF (Ret.)) from Class 62B.

To all Association members, now would be a good time to start thinking about any changes or suggestions that you may want to bring up at the reunion. Please send them to Tom Lubbers and me via your Class Commander or Class Communicator. This will make it easier for us to categorize any suggestions. Then we'll publish them, so that we have time to read and discuss them, before voting on them at the reunion.

Just a short note to thank Fred Holmes, our Association Chaplain, for the great job he has done since assuming the position at the last reunion. Fred is also the Association Historian, Webmaster, and along with his wife Pat, publishes our Newsletter. The entire Association appreciates their efforts. If you haven't visited the website recently, please do. We are lucky to have this kind of dedication.

— JERRY NOLAN, 63A

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IN MEMORIAM – LT. COL. ROBERT PULLIAM

We would like to dedicate this issue of "Mustang Matters" to LtCol Robert Pulliam (USAF Ret.), who passed away on Thursday, April 10, 2014. "Captain" Pulliam was a Tactical Officer for eight OCS classes. (62A, B, C, D and 63A, B, C, D). He was dedicated to the development of "real world officers" and as Michael Annast (63A OCS 2nd Squadron Commander) said, "Capt. Pulliam never let up. There was an intense drive on his part to force us to achieve our best." (I believe that, that was the essence of OCS – not making us do something, but forcing us to achieve.)

Many of you may remember that Tom Hansen (Also a past OCS 2nd Squadron Commander, 63B) invited and hosted Lt. Col. Pulliam and his wife Jean at our Washington D.C. Reunion, where he had a very enjoyable time engaging and visiting with many attendees. There may even have been an OCS War Story, or two, exchanged.

Many of us were touched and influenced by "Capt. Pulliam" and the other TOs throughout the life changing experience we undertook at OCS. We are thankful for his direction and contributions to our OCS experience. We will continue to remember and honor his service and memory.

FINANCIAL REPORT — As of 28 February 2014, the Association has a total of \$2,165.35 in our accounts, of which \$1,100.00 is dedicated to the Reunion Fund/Expenses, \$300.00 in the Memorial Fund, and \$697.89 in the General Fund, with \$67.46 held in the Checking Account.

– **JOE SCARLETT, 63B**

2015 REUNION MONTGOMERY/MAXWELL-GUNTER JOINT BASE AL – Mark your calendars for these dates. More detail and registration information will be available in the next newsletter.

- Thu/8 Oct - Arrive Embassy Suites in Montgomery, Evening Hospitality Room
- Fri/9 Oct - All Day Brief and tour of Officer Training School, with lunch at Maxwell Club, and Welcome Reception in evening
- Sat/10 Oct - Visit Enlisted Research Center Museum at Gunter, followed by a river cruise lunch or Oriental Buffet
- Sun/11 Oct - Business Meeting, Wine Fest on the River, Farewell Reception/Banquet
- Mon/12 Oct - Optional Hyundai Robotic Car Factory tour and/or Departures

Also, a couple of OC types are developing a possible follow-on tour covering the Florida panhandle and Mobile Alabama areas for those who might be interested.

The hotel two-room suite basic rate will be \$93 a night. This rate is available for two days prior and following the reunion dates. The hotel offers complimentary daily full, hot breakfasts and evening reception 5-7PM, including snacks and alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages. On-site fitness and heated pool, business center with updated technology, full service restaurant and complimentary airport shuttle.

– **TOM HANSEN, REUNION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

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**



FROM THE CHAPLAIN — Your sensitivity and help have already been proven during the April 2, 2014 committal service for Capt (Ret) Joan (Jodi) Lesnikowski (Class 63D) at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery. Maj (Ret) Tom Watkins of Concord, California and LtCol (Ret) Jack Steele attended this service as USAF OCS Alumni Association members. This dedicated attention to the needs of our graduates during sad or grieving times is the OCS standard and greatly appreciated by the Association and the survivors alike.

A memorial gift has been made to the Roscoe Pulliam Scholarship Fund at the Southern Illinois University Foundation. Lt Col Pulliam was the son of Roscoe Pulliam. A gift will be made to PAWS in memory of Joan Lesnikowski.

I will continue to depend on those 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.

Thanks and Blessings to all,

– **FRED HOLMES, 63-B/C**

MEMORIES ... REFLECTIONS ...

Mooney's Taps Indigo

June 1963 was a month of endings and beginnings. It was a month of about-to-be new Second Lieutenants and the ending, after more than 20 years, of USAF OCS. The avenue for non-college grads to gold bars was effectively ended as of January 1963 with beginning of Class 63D.

A big issue for the final class was that there would be no 64A. They would not be able to reciprocate, some would say retaliate, as the majority of 63D would not experience "First Class" status, there being no newly entering 64A Second Class. Alas, all others since 1942 had been permitted a ninety-day period of exercising one's leadership, or some would say, indulging one's proclivities for harsh, but socially redeeming and character building hazing and in your face, ahem, counseling.

However, some comfort could be found in being a special not-first-class person. Some of these included members of the flag detail who quietly dwelt on the uniqueness they would enjoy when, for the last time, Old Glory would be lowered at the close of 63D. Being a member of such a team, or of the ersatz First Class was very special, but if truth be told, it was not really unique.

Unique was being the Class Bugler who opened and closed each day. OC Mooney sorta volunteered, admitting he once had played trumpet in school ... maybe elementary school. Once on the job (about 5 minutes later), this early riser's call to consciousness jarred any rooster and especially grated the sensibilities of such as OC Zenter, a close relative of the great band leader.

Mooney the brazen, the unique. His first few reveilles? Some kindly thought they were jazz arrangements. His calls early on were comedic and real stress relievers, while his later reveilles, now crisply military, contrasted as sources of pride to his classmates. He developed and honed his skill over the few short months of Class 63D.

Mooney closed the book on OCS. As Class 63D's bugler, you can see him on the inside back cover of the last Shavetail. His and his bugle's silhouette, in dark blue against a cooling cloud streaked sky, appears as the closing punctuation for hundreds and hundreds of lives strengthened and changed. You could hear Taps, taps indigo.

– FERNANDO ZEPEDA, 63D

FROM THE WEBMASTER/NEWSLETTER EDITOR – "Thank you" to Fernando Zepeda (Class 63D) (aka "The Last OC") for the speedy response to my request for Newsletter input.

"Thanks" also to Jonelle Nabergall (Class 60B) and to Sheila Dewey whose father was in Class 53D. See their pictures below.

[Special note to Mr. Zepeda – You might compare your date of rank with Kathy (Morrison) Bush who was three days short of her 21st birthday on graduation day. Did she actually graduate "last"?]

By clicking on **Links** on the menu bar of the **Welcome** page you will travel to a page containing links to other OCS Class sites. Each is highly individual and deserving of a look.

Class 62A's site has an article from the June 1963 issue of The Airman. Here's a brief excerpt:

In the 21 years since it was founded approximately 45,000 officers earned their commissions through OCS. Among their ranks were such luminaries as Jimmy Stewart, Ben Hogan, Hank Greenberg, Clark Gable, Cary Grant, Russell Brown, George Kendrick, Robert Botts, and Joseph Manske.

To theatergoers and sports fans the names Stewart through Grant are familiar. Who were Brown, Kendrick, Botts and Manske?

Russ Brown (43-D) received the DFC for manning four different gun positions on his crippled B-17 after his comrades had been put out of action.

George Kendrick (44-G) and his crew earned two Medals of Honor and seven distinguished service citations during World War II.

Robert Botts (43-H) disposed of three Japanese Zeroes within two minutes.

Joe Manske (42-F) was one of the men who accompanied Jimmy Doolittle on his epic Tokyo raid.

In these men are written the training, spirit and pride associated with the Air Force's six-month program for transforming career-motivated airmen into commissioned officers.

We welcome Class 61C to our Association and highly recommend a “click” over to their website. Great look! Check out their link to airforce.togetherweserved.com – very interesting and inspiring content.

I am pleased to announce the addition of Shavetails for classes 53D, 61B, 61C and 62A. I’m always on the lookout for Shavetails that have not yet appeared on our website. Please let me know if you can make one available for scanning.

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

America for Me

by

Henry Van Dyke (1852–1933)

'Tis fine to see the Old World, and travel up and down
Among the famous palaces and cities of renown
To admire the crumbly castles and the statues of the kings,
But now I think I've had enough of antiquated things.

So it's home again, and home again, America for me!
My heart is turning home again, and there I long to be
In the land of youth and freedom beyond the ocean bars
Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars.

Oh London is a man's town, there's power in the air
And Paris is a woman's town, with flowers in her hair;
And it's sweet to dream in Venice, and it's great to study Rome;
But when it comes to living there is no place like home.

I like the German fir-woods, in green battalions drilled
I like the gardens of Versailles with flashing fountains filled;
But, oh, to take your hand, my dear, and ramble for a day
In the friendly western woodland where Nature has her way!

I know that Europe's wonderful, yet something seems to lack:
The Past is too much with her, and the people looking back.
But the glory of the Present is to make the Future free,
We love our land for what she is and what she is to be.

Oh, it's home again, and home again, America for me!
I want a ship that's westward bound to plough the rolling sea,
To the blessed Land of Room Enough beyond the ocean bars,
Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars.



OC Capt Jonelle Nabergall (Class 60B)

Jonelle wrote: It's only fair to send another photo, showing the ravages of time, since I sent you one from 53 years ago. This one is about 3 years old, from the day our church choir performed a patriotic concert on July 4. Since then, I've worn the uniform in several patriotic parades in Sarasota (Memorial Day, July 4, Veterans Day). How about you?



These pictures are donated by a Sheila Dewey whose father was in Class 53D.



Does anyone feel up to trying to ID any of these guys from the 53D Shavetail posted on our website?



63RD OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Be sure to visit the web site at www.usafocsalumni.org