

MUSTANG MATTERS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 63RD OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

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COMMANDER'S CORNER — Well, this issue is a little later than usual, but I wanted to have all the loose ends from our September reunion in Dayton, Ohio all wrapped up. Additionally, I was involved in three other trips between then and now. The only sad thing about the reunion was the relatively low turn-out for what was a very enjoyable event for the 60 who were able to attend (we had three cancellations due to medical issues). The Hope Hotel was an excellent venue, and overall the service and support was outstanding. The weather was great, and our Dedication Ceremony at the AF Museum Memorial Park couldn't have been better. Special thanks to my Reunion Committee members Tom Lubbers, 63C, my wife Peggy and Joe Scarlett, 63B, as well as, Jack Steele, 63D, Chuck Ulmer, 63D, Bob Stephenson, 63D, and Ed MacNeil, 63B, for their assistance during the event. Also, special thanks to Jack Ashcraft, 63B, for again providing several original OCS cartoons that were auctioned off to help re-build our Memorial Funds. Changing the subject, we have had a change in the leadership for the 63C Group; their class representative on the Board of Directors is now Bob Ackerman and their Class Communicator is now Robert (Jamie) Jamison at rmj3236@aol.com. Sadly, we have received notice of the passing of three of our classmates: Douglas L. Williams, 63A; Louis E. Goodall, 63B; and Leonard Christianson, 63D. On a more positive bent, looking forward to seeing you all in San Antonio in May of 2013.

– TOM HANSEN, 63B

ELECTION RESULTS — During the Reunion business meeting, the same old guys, listed above, were unanimously re-elected until the next reunion. I want to thank Gary Kent, 63A, for handling the election nomination process again this time. For myself, I will not be running for re-election in 2013, but will stay involved as the Past President on the board and as Reunion Chairman, if the new President so desires.

FINANCIAL REPORT — Even with the lower reunion attendance this year, we were able to refresh our Reunion and Memorial Funds. We currently have \$2,778.34 available with no known expenses until the next reunion event in 2013. The return of potential refunds and cartoon auction accounted for an add of \$500.

50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION — ATTN: ALL AF OCS CLASSES AND INDIVIDUALS – We are tentatively planning a reunion for 23–27 May of 2013 to remember the closing of AF OCS in June of 1963. We are in the final process of signing a contract with the Holiday Inn, which is situated on the San Antonio River Walk. They have matched and guaranteed the lowest rate of the other hotels in that area, and have shown the most flexibility in meeting our specific reunion needs. Chuck Lamb, 62D, visited the hotel in October and was very pleased with the facility and services provided. We looked at some lower priced hotels out by the airport, but they would require some personal transport to do anything around town during any periods of free time. There is a hotel shuttle that runs between the airport and downtown hotels. At the reunion business meeting, approval was given to move forward with this arrangement. We are hoping to possibly attend a Lackland graduation parade, followed by a base tour to include the Museum with our OCS Display, which is being updated. Also we are looking at attending the San Antonio Memorial Day Ceremony on that Monday morning. As usual, our event will be open to any Army AF or USAF OC, **but we would like to invite those classes who are still holding their own reunions to consider joining us in the planning, funding and execution of this special OCS reunion event.** For classes interested in joining this project, please contact Tom Hansen at 253-380-5261 or c130hans@msn.com.

OCS CHALLENGE COIN PROJECT — This project is designed to raise funds for our Association's future OCS Memorial projects. 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. You can send your orders, with your Class Number, and a check or money order made out to "Tom Hansen" to

63RD OC Wing Officers

CC – Tom Hansen253-380-5261
CV – Mike Annast706-896-6461
DO – Jack Steele916-773-7880
DComm – Tom Lubbers.....937-325-4013
Compt – Joe Scarlett719-593-9468

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the following addresses: 97D Chinook Lane, Steilacoom WA 98388. NOTE: Due to the significant engraving price increase in the Tucson area, any requested for engraved coins will have to wait to late Spring, when I return to Washington State where I can get them done at a reasonable cost.

SEPTEMBER 2011 REUNION – An outstanding reunion of the five classes of the 63rd Officer Candidate Wing Association was held in Dayton, Ohio September 12–15, 2011. In addition to the five classes, we had representatives from OCS Class 53B, 56D, and 60C sign-up to attend this year. Although we had a few cancellations at the last moment due to illness, we still had a great attendance considering the current negative economy.

Our Hospitality Room was superb and the programs that were scheduled were outstanding. On Monday, the Golfers had perfect weather for their outing. On Tuesday, we took a tour of the Carillon Historical Park, again in great weather, and had a great buffet dinner. On Wednesday, we attended a reading of the names of the fallen comrades of the five classes and the dedication ceremony of the OCS plaque dedicated to their memory at the Air Force Museum Memorial Park, followed by tours of the ever-expanding National Museum of the US Air Force. For the spouses and those who did not want to attend the AF Museum activities, a special luncheon and matinee show at the La Comedia Theater was provided. The food and show were enjoyed by all attendees.



The next morning during the business meeting the Officer elections were confirmed, a review of finances was covered and we discussed some of the 2013 reunion options and the recommended hotel selection. The meeting closed with a discussion of future reunion locations/venues beyond the 2013 event. That night, we had an outstanding farewell banquet with excellent food and service. During the cocktail hour we did class and individual photos, and the evening's dinner music and entertainment were provided by a super 10-piece swing band.

For those that were not able to attend this reunion, you missed a well-planned and enjoyable reunion. Our next reunion will be held May 2013 in San Antonio to mark the 50th anniversary of the closing of OCS – make your plans early.

—CHUCK ULMER, 63D



Thanks to Jim Test, 63A, for the following poem that relates very well to our recent early Fall reunion:

The Reunion

by Rachel Firth

Autumn leaves, rustling to the appointed place, the old warriors come.
Pilgrims, drifting across the land they fought to preserve.
Where they meet is not so important any more...
They meet and that's enough for now.

Greetings echo across the lobby.
Hands reach out and arms draw buddies close.
Embraces, that as young men they were uncomfortable to give,
too shy to accept so lovingly.

But, deep within these Indian summer days
they have reached a greater understanding of life and love;
the shells holding their souls are weaker now,
but hearts and minds grow vigorous remembering.

On a table someone spreads old photographs; a test of recollection.
And friendly laughter echoes at shocks of hair
gone gray or white, or merely gone.
The slender body lost forever.
Yet they no longer need to prove their strength.

Some are now sustained by one of "medicine's miracles".
and even in this fact they manage to find humor.
The women, all those who waited, all those who love them,
have watched the changes take place.
Now they observe and listen, and smile at each other,
as glad to be together as the men.

Talks turn to war and planes and foreign lands.
Stories are told and told again,
reweaving the threadbare fabric of the past.
Mending one more time the banner of their youth.

They hear the vibrations, feel the shudder of metal
as propellers whine and swirl, and planes come to life.
These birds with fractured wings can see beyond the mist of clouds,
and they are in the air again, chasing the wind,
feeling the exhilaration of flight, close to the heavens,
the wild and blue yonder of their anthem.

Dead comrades hearing their names spoken,
wanting to share in this time, if only in spirit,
move silently among them.
Their presence is felt and smiles appear beneath misty eyes.
Each, in his own way, may wonder who will be absent another year.

The room grows quiet for a time.
Suddenly an ember flames to life.
Another memory burns.
The talk may turn to wars and other men.
and of futility. SO, this is how it goes.

The past is ever present.
In their ceremonies, the allegiances, the speeches,
and the prayers, one cannot but hear the deep
eternal love of country they will forever share.

Finally it is time to leave.
Much too soon to set aside this little piece of yesterday,
but the past cannot be held too long for it is fragile.

They say "Farewell... See you next year, God Willing,"
breathing prayers for one another.
Each keeping a little of the other with him forever.

PLAQUE DEDICATION — On September 14, 2011, the plaque commemorating the US Army Air Forces and US Air Forces OCS program was dedicated in the Memorial Park of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The dedication ceremony of the plaque was attended by about 50 persons consisting of OCS graduates and their spouses. Tom Hanson was Master of Ceremonies; a dedication speech was presented by the museum director LT/Gen John L Hudson USAF Ret. Jane Leach, Director of Special Events at the museum, orchestrated the smoothly run event.



The plaque designed by members of the 63rd Wing was produced by Dodds Monument and purchased with funds from the Wing’s Memorial Fund. The plaque joins four other displays which commemorate individual classes (54B, 56B, 58A and 63C), three plaques and one bench. The plaque is located on Memorial Wall Two in the Memorial Park.

First, this meets the first objective of the 63rd Officer Candidate Wing Association, “To memorialize the USAF Officer Candidate School.”



Second, it finalizes a goal that I set, to see that OCS was recognized in the Memorial Park at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, and that it be done before something from OTS materialized!!

Since my retirement in 1975, I have made many trips to the museum with family and other groups. At times I wondered why there was nothing commemorating Air Force OCS. It finally became obvious, because no one had put forth the effort. With that thought in mind, I launched my campaign to see that OCS was recognized somewhere in the memorial park. That was accomplished in 2006 when a plaque commemorating Class 63C was mounted on Memorial Wall Two. After doing the leg work for the class plaque the plaque recognizing the entire program was a much simpler task.

I would have preferred a bench but when I started in earnest on the 63C plaque, the museum was not accepting bench memorials. By the time work was started on the overall program memorial, they were again accepting bench displays; however, it was determined that all the good locations had been taken.

If you haven’t seen the plaque before, see it below and its setting in Memorial Park and at the following URL:

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/shared/media/photodb/photos/100915-F-1234S-003.jpg>

—TOM LUBBERS, 63C





63RD OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

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