

MUSTANG MATTERS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 63RD OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

Volume XI, Number 2

October 2016



COMMANDER'S CORNER —

“See You in Seattle in Seventeen”

Hello to All Members and Friends of the Officer Candidate Wing Association

Tom Hansen has completed the basic outline for our next Reunion in Seattle. The dates are October 5, 2017 to October 9, 2017. In addition to a super rate at the SEATAC Marriott, he has laid out a really great schedule of events that also allows plenty of time to pick up that conversation you started with longtime friends in Montgomery in 2015. Be sure to read Tom's article, elsewhere in this issue.

The following is a repeat of comments from my last Commander's corner, but bears repeating:

I would like to ask all of you to encourage any other OCs, who are not members, to think about joining our organization. I know that there are some non-members who think that we have too much structure for their tastes, but as I have pointed out to several, it is this structure that has allowed us to enhance and further the heritage and memory of our OCS experience. I don't think there are many people who have gone through the OCS experience, either as a Candidate or a spouse, who don't view it as a positive, life-changing experience. With the structure that we have, we have been able to donate the benches to Lackland AFB in honor of OCS and to donate OCS memorabilia to the OTS Heritage Museum at Maxwell AFB. We have also provided support to organizations such as the Gold Star Mothers. The Wing Staff would like to hear from anyone who has ideas for OCS Memorial or charitable projects that would help to enshrine the OCS experience.

Elsewhere in this issue is an article by Bill Greene about a friend of his who graduated from OCS in Class 43C. Yes, I said **43C**. I really encourage you to read this article and follow the links in it. A very interesting story.

On another subject, Joe Scarlett (63B), our association Treasurer (since our formation) suggested, and I agreed, that now would be an appropriate time to have an "Independent Audit" of the Association's finances. I asked Chuck Ulmer (63D) to conduct this audit. The three of us agreed that an appropriate way to conduct this audit would be to compare the last twelve month's Credit Union statements with the comparable monthly statements. Chuck did a great job on this large task and affirmed that our books are in order and accurate. I would like to thank Chuck for his service to the organization. (You can see the Association's current financial statement in this newsletter.) I would also like to thank Joe Scarlett for his years of dedicated service to our organization. Without doubt, his position is the most difficult and time taking of any Association position. (Oops, when I said that, I wasn't thinking about Fred and Pat Holmes, who do our Web Site and Newsletter. Let's call it a tie between these three dedicated members.) (Oops again. I need to add our Reunion Planner, Tom Hansen to that list -- that makes four folks for you to thank at the Reunion.)

Now that you know the exact dates of the Reunion, save them, and plan to attend. You know, there are folks that you want to see. Take advantage of this great opportunity.

“See you in Seattle in Seventeen!!”

— JERRY NOLAN, 63A

63RD OC Wing Officers

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OCS ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 —

Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2016		
Savings Account		\$1,766.67
Checking Account		\$1,215.27
9 Month CD		\$3,008.32
Total		\$5,990.26

Statement of Income September 1 - 30, 2016							
	Balance Sept 1, 2016	Income			Expenses	Transfers	Balance Sept 30, 2016
		Interest	Deposits	Other			
Savings Account	\$1,766.52	\$0.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,766.67
Checking Account	\$1,215.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,215.27
6 Month CD	\$3,006.47	\$1.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,008.32
Total	\$5,988.26	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,990.26

Expenses September 1–30, 2016						
Date	Check #	To:	Amount	Purpose	Status	
<i>No Expenses during September</i>						
Total						

Allocation of Funds September 30, 2016				
	Reunion	Memorial Fund	General Fund	Total
Savings Account	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$1,468.52	\$1,768.52
Checking Account	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,215.27	\$1,215.27
9 Month CD	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$6.47	\$3,006.47
Total	\$3,000.00	\$300.00	\$2,690.26	\$5,990.26

– JOE SCARLETT, 63B

MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE—

With the recent expansion of the museum it is no longer necessary to drive to the other side of the base or catch the shuttle bus to see the displays of the presidential and experimental aircraft. They are now in the same complex.

The museum was deeply disappointed when they did not get one of the space shuttles to put on display. They have constructed a very realistic replica of the space shuttle. As the guides are anxious to point out, you can walk through the exhibit and see things up close. In the museums where the actual shuttles are on display for a price you can observe it only from a distance.

– TOM LUBBERS, 63C

How many times were you told, “You are no longer a name; you are number.”?

Well, those days are over; you are no longer a number; you are a bar code.



So This Is Who You Are

REUNION 2017 INITIAL INFO —

We now have a signed contract with the Marriott Hotel in SeaTac, WA for 5-9 October 2017. Why SeaTac and not Seattle itself? Rates are out of sight for our group in Seattle, many triple the \$99 per night rate I negotiated for in SeaTac, and it is only a two blocks from the Seattle Airport and their new Light Rail system that runs through downtown Seattle all the way to the University of Washington. The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the Airport and Light Rail Stations.

A “tentative” schedule proposal could be arrival, check-in and Hospitality Room on the 5th. Bus to McChord Field for a Wing Briefing and Museum/Air Park visit, followed by a visit to America’s (LeMay) Car Museum on the 6th. On the 7th, individuals can visit Seattle sights such as Pioneer Square, Pikes Street Market, Seattle Center and Space Needle at their leisure using the Light Rail system. The next day the 8th, the Ladies and others can visit the very large Westfield South Center Mall, while the aviation nuts go to the renowned Museum of Flight at Boeing Field. Later that night we’ll hold our Farewell Banquet at the hotel. Monday the 9th would be departure day for most, except for those who would like to go on a trip to Mt Rainier National Park.

Again this is a tentative schedule of events that will be firmed up by the end of the year. Right now I’m looking at a basic registration fee of \$110 per person, the tours being optional based on transportation and/or meal costs involved. So for now, save those dates, and we’ll provide more details around the end of the year.

– **TOM HANSEN, 63B**

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.

The following coins are available with the class already engraved: 53C, 57A, 59A, 60B, 61C, 62B, 63A, 63C & 63D.

Also, we have White OCS ball caps for \$20, 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 address:

97D Chinook Lane
Steilacoom WA 98388



MISSING SHAVETAITS — Your Historian/Webmaster would be very grateful if anyone could help locate and acquire the following Shavetails, which are missing from our website collection.

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 42A | 43A | 43E | 44 All Classes | 49A | 50A | 51A | 60D |
| 42B-Group B&C | 43B | 43F | 45 All Classes | 49C | 50B | 54C | 61A |
| 42C | 43C-Group A&B | | 46 All Classes | 49D | 50D | 57D | 60D |
| 42D | 43D | | 47 All Classes | | | | |
| | | | 48 All Classes | | | | |

Anyone having knowledge concerning the whereabouts of any of the above is asked to contact the Historian/Webmaster at f4holm-ocsweb@yahoo.com.

– **FRED HOLMES, 63B/C**

A REMARKABLE MAN ... AN EXTRAORDINARY CAREER —

For a number of years, we have been in touch with an OCS grad of class 43C(?). Col. Gus Gikus is 94 years old and lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During the early association reunion cycles, the distance was typically too far for Gus to travel; however, he did attend one of our class reunions in New Orleans as guest speaker. He has quite a history with the AAF/USAF, especially during WWII. Obviously, I think we would all enjoy having Gus attend one of the association reunions but that no longer appears to be an option. I'm afraid he has reached the end of his travels due to deteriorating back issues.

In absence of that, I've attached a paper (see Editor's Note below) he wrote a few years back (when he was about 89 as I recall). It highlights an incident in which he was involved, the genesis by which Francis and I came to know Gus. Francis lost a half-brother in that same incident, the sinking of the Rohna in November 1943. We had searched for years trying to determine how her much-older brother, Albert, had died, and we were finally able to take advantage of a class action Freedom of Information filing that revealed the heavy loss of life resulting from that sinking, claimed to be the largest loss of service life from a single sinking at sea. Details can be found at <http://rohna survivors.org/>; also, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJfStft0I-I>. you will find a video of and about survivors. Indeed, Francis is one of the ladies interviewed in the video. Sadly, many of those interviewed in the video have since passed. But Gus remains with us.

We met Gus at our first attendance of the Rohna Survivors Reunion, to which survivors' kin are also invited. We immediately took to Gus; initially because his recollection of detail about the incident was so vivid and, too, the integrity with which he held to "real" facts about the incident rather than some exaggerations that had surfaced over the years. Gus did not know Francis' brother (separate unit) but was able to fill in unknowns for us about what likely happened to Albert, who was a member of the 853rd bedded in the center of the ship (see Editor's Note below). We subsequently became aware that the Tunisian WWII Cemetery containing remains of those Americans who died in North Africa during WWII also contains a memorial monument to those who were lost on the Rohna. (<https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/africa/north-africa-american-cemetery>) The cemetery is located in Carthage, Tunisia. It was dedicated in 1960 and, ironically, had we known then what we know now, we could have attended the dedication since Francis and I were then stationed at Wheelus AB, Tripoli, Libya.

Over the last few years, Gus and I have exchanged some memorable events through our careers. I've also attached a message containing one of his stories that you might find of interest. I have encouraged him to document all that he can remember. He was also involved in the experimental H-bomb tests in the Pacific in later years of his career. Gus is a remarkable man with an extraordinary career whose friendship we have come to cherish over the years.

— **BILL GREENE, 63D**

Editor's Note: Two memories written by Colonel Gikus have been posted to our website under Class Pages/43-C Memories.



2015 Reunion Banquet

MISSING COMRADE TABLE — I think the missing comrade table is a great tradition. Of course, if you are not aware, there have been protests backed by court orders against it being publicly displayed due to the presence of the Bible on the table. I refuse the obvious capitulation of removing the Bible. Rather replace it with a tome without any markings on the cover. Now you may see this as any set of writings, Qu'ran, Bible, Shruti, a collection of Walt Whitman poems or anything else that is in the eye of the beholder; if that is offensive then it is only in the observer's mind.

— **TOM LUBBERS, 63C**

IN MEMORIAM

MAJ FREDERICK WILLIAM SABLAN, USAF (RET)
OCS CLASS 63-C
JUNE 25, 1940–DECEMBER 2, 2015

LT COL THOMAS W “BEAR” WILSON, JR, USAF (RET)
OCS CLASS 61-C
1940–AUGUST 31, 2014

LT COL EDWARD JORDAN GOTCHEF, USAF (RET)
OCS CLASS 61-C
SEPTEMBER 2, 1937–NOVEMBER 26, 2015

MAJ LAWRENCE COLEMAN “LARRY” DUVALL, USAF (RET)
OCS CLASS 62-B
JUNE 17, 1937 - APRIL 26, 2014

BOBBIE R LEATHERWOOD
OCS CLASS 62-B
JULY 7, 1938–JANUARY 2, 2013

HAROLD R FREEMAN
OCS CLASS 62-B
JUNE 24, 2012

2ND LT ARTHUR BANNOCK “PETE” LASYONE
OCS CLASS 62-B
APRIL 16, 1938–NOVEMBER 11, 2010

COL ROBERT J SCOTT, USAF (RET)
OCS CLASS 63-D
JANUARY 12, 2015

HOWARD A McLAUGHLIN
HAYYIM ALLEN GROSSMAN
OCS CLASS 61-C
JANUARY 1935–AUGUST 20, 2016



63RD OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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