Send Class Notes to Class Scribe - Maxim L. Kovel at maximk@cox.net

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1957 CLASS NOTES

Class of 1957 Class Notes, 30 June 2014
7/2/2014
As promised I am providing Class Notes to the AOG and to you. Don Sadler will also be post them on the Class web site. The notes are essentially in chronological order, starting from the latest email messages received and working back to the last column published. However, it will take a long while to delve into the past, and I will omit info that may be OBE. To simplify the effort for me, in many cases the notes will essentially be direct quotes from the sender. As you may know there are many communications to the Class on the Forum, some of which I have extracted for these notes and others that I have omitted. I will not include any political commentary or non-personal information. Letters that I received will also be inserted in the future. Class losses will be summarized at the end since those reports were sent to the Class List as they occurred and detailed information can be found on the Class website, as well as at the AOG website.

Lou Circeo
7/2/2014
I thought that the class would be interested in learning that many of us are still actively making contributions to society.

Last year the Russian Government invited me to become a member of their 25-member "International Award Committee" to select the winner(s) of the Global Energy Prize. (See below link). This is an annual award, akin to a Nobel Prize for Energy, with several honors and a monetary award of about $1.25 Million.

I get 2 VIP trips to Russia every year (in March to Moscow to select the winner(s); in May to St. Petersburg to participate in the award ceremonies [the President of Russia presents the awards] and to attend the receptions and celebrations honoring the winner(s).
I have recently returned from my first award cycle, and must admit that our VIP treatment was wonderful.

http://globalenergyprize.org/en/about-the-prize/international-award-committee

Bob Merrick
7/2/2014
I told you last month that Beth and I were going to visit the Schwehms over our anniversary. Unfortunately I developed some temporary health problems and we had to cancel out plans. To put events in context, Beth and I went home to western Washington State in January 2012 but returned to Wilmington, NC, last fall to be near our youngest daughter, Catherine. We are renting an apartment while awaiting completion of a new Continuing Care Retirement Community being built here in Wilmington. June 23rd we’ll be celebrating the seventh anniversary of Beth’s surviving a "non-survivable cardiac event". This week our eldest grandson informed us that we will become great-grandparents next November. I guess that goes along with being octogenarians. My, how time flies when you are having fun!

Ken Holloway
7/2/2014
Regrettably, this is an unhappy report received from both Bill Webb and Joe House. Ken’s wife, Virginia, called classmates in Tampa the week of 8 June and said that Ken has had hospice care for a couple of weeks, after being diagnosed with brain cancer in the fall. She said he is expected to have about 4-5 more weeks. Joe spoke to Ken by phone on 18 June and believes he is now limited to his bed. I know he would enjoy hearing from others. He is not emailing now, but his address and phone number are as follows: 301 St Augustine Ave, Tampa, FL 33617, 813-980-0884. Both Joe and Bill sat with Ken at Founder’s Day in Tampa on 7 March, and Bill provided the attached photo.
Joe Tedeschi and Howie Haupt  
7/2/2014

This started as a report from Joe of a serendipitous meeting at WP graduation this year, and blossomed into more details from Howie. I’ll start with Joe’s note and follow it with Howie’s. From Joe with minor editing): “Our granddaughter, Katie Collins, graduated last week in the Class of 2014. ... (photo of the happy event attached - Granddad Joe, Katie, and Grandmother Sue). Katie branched Army Aviation.

The week was also marked by three serendipitous sightings of ’57 folks that might be of general interest to the class. The first took place at the hotel in Ft. Montgomery where the manager threw a light buffet dinner for the guests who paid the exorbitant rates surrounding the West Point graduation dates. I was wearing a ’57 pin-on crest that was recognized by this lovely lady who identified herself as Jody Scott, wife of classmate Jerry. She was there with her daughter and son-in-law to celebrate the graduation of Jody and Jerry’s grandson Lorne. Jody said Jerry is doing well and that he was able to follow the events on TV. I attach a picture that Jody sent me of the four of them at the Supe’s reception (Son-in-law, daughter, Lorne <Lawrence W. Hoffman>, and Jody Scott). Our congratulations go to Jerry and Jody, their daughter and son-in-law, and of course to Lorne and all the Class of 2014.

The second sighting took place at the final concert of the Glee Club at Ike Hall. With failing eyesight and dim interior lighting, I only thought I saw the silhouette...
of our classmate **Bernie Loeffke** sitting down front with the Supe and the Com. I planned to check it out after the concert, but then all grads were invited onto the stage to sing the Alma Mater along with the glee club, and as I was making my way down the aisle toward the stage, this person was making his way hurriedly up the aisle toward the exit. As we got close enough to each other, recognition took place - and it WAS Bernie! After a quick greeting, Bernie explained he had need to get some immediate rest and relief which explained his going in opposite direction. Caught up with Bernie after the concert, and was able to introduce him to my family and explain to them Bernie's zeal for physical conditioning (he was at West Point to give one of his "Ironman" awards), and all the humanitarian deeds he has performed all over the world. We promised to meet again at next reunion. The third sighting took place in the stands awaiting Graduation Parade. Having got there 2 hours early to find seats in the lower stands (**Sue** and I like to have some support these days when climbing any stairs), we were passed by this distinguished looking gentleman on his way up to higher seats, and once again, the memory buttons all flashed, and I declared to myself: I know him! As soon as he turned around, I recognized **Howie Haupt** (and he recognized ME!). Wonderful serendipity that we should both end up in the same stands a few seats away from each other. Howie was there to "close the loop" on his West Point Admissions work with 5 cadets he mentored and was now seeing them graduate. A truly wonderful accomplishment and Howie is to be congratulated along with all the others who work this area. We could not resist the moment, and when, at the high point of the parade, the First Class were given the command, "Front and Center, March," I looked back at Howie and we shared a big smile as 57 years melted away. I could not resist commenting to Howie, "Not an ounce of resistance among them," as the 2014 Class did it all proper and trim. We arranged to meet afterwards in Ike Hall at the reception before the Graduation Banquet. More catching up and a couple of photos: one of Howie,**Phyllis**, me and Sue attached I love any chance moment, and so in addition to a joyous graduation week sharing granddaughter Katie Collins' graduation with family and friends, I had three, great serendipitous moments to share with '57 classmates and families. Subsequently, Howie responded, sent a photo and wrote the following note. “Can’t tell you how wonderful it was to stumble onto you and
Sue at graduation! Some kind of karma must have brought the four of us into that small corner of the stands just 3 rows apart. And you were blessed to have contact with 3 Black ’57 types! It was an emotional rush for me to see those 5 kids toss those hats and emerge a couple hours later in their Army uniforms, ready to take the oath. In one case, a 2 Lt grad from last year gave the commissioning oath to his brother, surrounded by family, HS friends and elementary school teachers now living in upstate NY. This kind of stuff only happens in fairy tales, right? Am impressed by your commitment to the diaconate. Good for you! We have three now with two more in training whom we really need for our very large parish. Keep up the good work. ... Here’s a photo of three of my five “children” from CL 2014 if you’d include them to Max for Class Notes. I think a pic of you/Sue with 2014 granddaughter grad is appropriate too. C’mon, it’s time to brag about these things! God will not consider it vanity, but justifiable pride in His creation. Christ’s blessings.”

Russ Ramsey
7/1/2014

Russ Ramsey seems to enjoy a very exciting life and recently visited Fiji. He wrote: “Dad used to say, after World War 2, that the only good thing about the war in the Pacific was Fiji. He was Asst G-3, 37th Infantry Division, when they trained in Fiji, 1942. He went on to command and senior staff jobs in New Georgia and Bouganville [Solomon Islands] and Luzon [Philippines] so he had a basis for comparison when he told me "someday visit Fiji." Well...71 years later, we did. Great food, warm sunshine, sweet natured people who work and admire the USA, great beaches, low prices, Long plane ride, but well worth the effort. Grip hands, Russ.” Sounds like the place to go. Back in April after a shorter trip Russ wrote: “I just returned from a wonderful visit to the US Merchant Marine Academy with my grandson. Aside from the New York traffic, which was worse than the war in Vietnam, and the fact that grandson and I both got the flu [rocket vomiting was a
feature] we had a very productive visit. The USMMA has some features that the other four academies don’t have. Should you have a gran or two who is possibly interested, let me know, and I’ll tell you the wonders of the USMMA program, which are really splendid. I’d be willing to talk directly to the youngster if you want me to. It’s getting sunny in Florida. Hasta luego, Thanks, Russ.

Walt Rabbe
7/1/2014

Walt took over as our Black/Blue golf coordinator and worked diligently to put together a group. Back in April he sent out a warning order, but we seem to be short of golfers these days. Any volunteers for next year? Anyway, the date was set for 4 June at the Naval academy golf course. That was the day before our scheduled 57th Class reunion luncheon at Ft. Meyer. Jerry Smith (USNA) said the Navy had 15 players signed up. After the match, Walt sent some photos that can be found on the Class website and wrote: " We played at the Naval Academy golf course, and, despite our original misgivings, it turned out to be a very pleasant experience. The Army fielded ten players: Perrine, McNeil, Pastore, Cygler, Schorr, Bud Obrien (non-grad Army friend of Dave’s), Marella, Houser, Ramsden, and myself. The format was four man team scramble, playing the best lie all the way to the hole. The pictures show the individual teams (in our case mixed, with two Army and two Navy players). The winning team was the one with Mike Houser and Joe Cygler as star players. Joe also got "closest to the pin" on one of the three par three holes, as did Bud Obrien. It appeared that everyone really enjoyed the outing.” I have included the photo of the winning team and one of everyone sitting around.
DC Contingent
7/1/2014
We had a 57th Reunion luncheon on 5 June and Don Whalen was our featured speaker. His presentation has been distributed to the Class list and is posted on our website. The cake was baked by the daughter of Hal and Elly Dyson, and I'm including a photo of the cutting so you can see the beautiful artwork. I've also included a photo of classmates who were present and celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary this year.

The Dyson's were married on 5 June and Bernice and Iweren’t married until 8 June, but we've now made it to 57. The luncheon was set up by Nick Monaco and Bruce McDonough. Thank you, gentlemen.

Bill Golden
7/1/2014
Bill sent a photo of him and his Suzie having dinner “in Fredericksburg with Navy ’57 Fred Howe (my Northwestern Preparatory School classmate and long-time friend to whom I have sent too much Army/Navy money over recent years, and whom you have met) and his Miz Dianne. This during Suzie’s
and my recent auto sojourn from Carlisle (grandson’s Dickinson College graduation and a visit to the War College to finally see the plaque with my name inscribed, and to find my then quarters gone in the wake of new construction of housing), thru Fredericksburg to Williamsburg (dinner out with Ted and Toddy Voorhees) and on thru Monticello to Charlotte and home.” Bill added a thought that I would like to second, and I quote: “Another thought: Some classmates are aware that Ted has been a rep to West Point for some time. I, a class area rep for a number of years, had no idea of the extent of Ted’s dealings in support of our alma mater, stuff that I learned in casual conversation over that dinner. I suggest that your column inform our classmates, using Ted’s input gleaned by you, of the significant extent in which Ted has supported the academy and to thank him for that effort.” To this I add that Ted has also been a major contributor to the health, welfare and operation of our Class in more ways than almost anyone else. Thanks, Ted!

Jim Woolnough/D-1
7/1/2014

D-1 had a company reunion in May and Jim was kind enough to send some details and pictures. In his words: In early May, ’57 D-1 gathered in San Antonio for another of our off-year reunions and to celebrate our 57th graduation anniversary. We graduated 27 strong, and there are 20 of us still around. 11 of us, along with 9 wives, attended the event. (Since I was company clerk during Plebe year, I just had to do one more Morning Report). Organized events consisted of a bus trip for the men to nearby Fredericksburg to visit the Adm. Nimitz War in the Pacific museum, a bussed shopping trip around San Antonio for the ladies, and two evening dinners. Unorganized activities included exploring many San Antonio attractions, reviewing old times, telling stories and consuming the always available libations. In the words of many who have preceded me, it is believed “A good time was had by all”. The first picture was taken at our final evening dinner party. Across the front row (left to right) are Peg Glen, Judy Parker, Phyllis Lustig, Jan Rabe, Kay Liakos, Ann Mead,

Bob Westerfeldt
7/1/2014

Bob wrote from "the wastelands of Huntsville, AL, which has many graduates from 1950 to potential cadets, but none (other than me) from 1957." with a family update. He also said: “I have never understood why more classmates aren’t here, considering the advantages. Huntsville is on the best 10 lists for just about everything positive. Note that the AUSA moved their annual meeting from Florida to here, and quadrupled their attendance, and will be here next year. We have a vibrant town, not too big and not too small (just right, as some young lady once said) unless more companies keep moving here.” So much for the Huntsville plug.

Now for the family. “Claudia and I have been attending the 5-year reunions at the Point, and will for as long as physically possible. We are looking forward to the next one, with the class at the Thayer. At the reunions we have always visited the Thayer as well as the WP sites. Way back, I stayed with my folks at the Thayer, walked down the road, and entered the Sally port – my life really changed at that point! (sort of a pun).” Thanks, Bob.

Bruce McDonough
7/1/2014

On the subject of places to live, Bruce sent a note following a year of life in a CCRC in Maryland extolling the virtues of such facilities. I quote: “After one year in our CCRC, Aurora and I are loving it. Advantages to us: reduced shopping for food, meal planning, and house cleaning. We are still doing out thing outside the CCRC and participate in several activities “in house”. Advice to classmates - downsizing is mandatory, make the move while you are still independent, not dependent.”

Paul Schwehm
7/1/2014

Our AF classmates undertook a project to honor those classmates who were killed during training accidents by purchasing bricks at Herbert Hall. Paul provided the following details: "Forty-seven Air Force classmates have donated a total of $4750
to the AOG for the purchase of nine bricks emplaced in the 1957 section outside of Herbert Hall. They are in remembrance of our eight classmates who were killed in aircraft accidents while performing aircrew duties. The eight are Jim Mooring, Mark Heath, Jack Wiegner, Bob Wessel, Bill Gude, Joe Mack, Chris Poulos and Bob Freeman. All were USAF, excepting Mark, who was a T-38 instructor and test engineer for NASA. Each is honored on an individual brick, with a ninth as an explanatory header. It was thought that the shortened first names (Bob, Bill, Chris, etc.), made the presentation more personal, and that noting their cadet companies would be of special interest to graduate viewers who may thusly identify with them. The work was completed in May.” A photo of the bricks is below (right).

**Mike Stein**
7/1/2014
Subsequent to my request for input Mike wrote to share some beneficial work he has been doing for the mentally ill. In his words: “In the wake of our oldest son’s suicide five years ago, as a result of bipolar disorder, I have been active with the Colorado chapter of NAMI the National Alliance on Mental Illness. I have been helping them to strengthen their Helpline, a telephone service where people looking for help with mental illness issues can call for help. I am also on their Public Policy Committee where we lobby our state legislature in the hope of improving the legal environment for people living with mental illness. Your may have read about Colorado’s new law restricting the use of solitary confinement for people living with significant mental illness. I would strongly encourage classmates who are concerned about mental illness to look into their local chapters of NAMI.” Thanks, Mike.

**Bill Webb:**
7/1/2014
“This April Montse and I cruised out of Miami to Bermuda, then on to Norfolk and back to Florida. The mission in Norfolk was to get together with Bob Arnold and wife Margaret. Bob was K-1 as was I. It was a fine reunion. During our time with them they took us to see the MacArthur memorial that we highly recommend to anyone visiting.

While there we met civilian survivors of the Japanese occupation. General MacArthur and wife Jean are entombed in this memorial. Later we had a good lunch together,”, and sent a photo to memorialize the visit. I should note that Bob sent the same info and photo.

JD Smith 7/1/2014
JD sent a brief note about their relocation after many years in VA. JD and Esther are relocating to St Simons Island, Ga the first week of June. Our Address will be 193 Merion St, SSI, GA, 31522. The big railroad museum in ChattANOoga will take most of ” the Rathole”, which is highly gratifying. Hope to see many from ’57 there.” I hope they are now enjoying GA. For those who have never seen JD’s train collection and setup, you really missed a spectacular display. It took up the entire basement of a very big house.

Ray Karsian 7/1/2014
Before reporting Ray’s input, I extend our appreciation to Ray for his service to the Class as a coordinator and the Class Secretary. On behalf of the entire Class, Ray, thank you! Ray, who has always provided lots of input for the column, especially about his tours around the world (very impressive), and was kind enough to step up again and provide the following. “We have 13 classmates and 7 widows in the Colorado area. ... Recently Pat Murphy moved to Denver from Florida a year after Jack’s death. She has two daughters in the area. We see her at infrequent class functions. I missed the last Founders Day meeting for the Denver chapter, but Tom
Hicklin did tell me that Stan Cass gave the oldest grad speech. Glad I wasn’t there, it could have been me. I don’t have much new news on our classmates. ... John and Mary Beth Stokes have joined our travel group that is going to Portugal in September of 2015 sailing along the Douro River. We have 14 couples in our group and if any classmate would like to inquire about joining we would welcome their interest. Our other travels will include a family Disney trip this July in the Caribbean and next January, we have a group of four couples going to Antarctica. The Disney trip will include both my children’s families, 10 in all. We will be celebrating our 50th anniversary this June and my 80th birthday last December on the trip. As for Antarctica, we are eagerly looking forward to the trip. We will be going with the very exciting provider, Lindblad Expeditions in conjunction with the National Geographic. Expensive, but very worth it people tell us. That trip will fill out our travel to all 7 continents and 69 countries since our travels began. We are as healthy as our age permits. I had a hip transplant last October that went very well. The knees are a bit arthritic, but most of us this age have the problem. Cataract replacement is on the horizon this fall for me also. As for other classmates, Mort Roth continues to decline. He is in a full service facility close to his home I believe. He had been in Conn. and a NY hospital for a while taking care of some issues surrounding his Parkinson’s. Right now his morale is very low and he is very depressed. I call him about every two weeks. As you remember, we were the last two classmates to go Engineers, hence we have stayed close. I stay in contact with my first class roommate, Earl Pettibone. He and Myra live in Houston, but plan to visit the west sometime this summer. They visited us here in Denver several years ago.” Thanks, Ray, and travel safely on all your trips.

Burn Loeffke
7/1/2014
In April Bill Huckabee wrote that “Bernie gave a wonderful presentation to second and third year law students at the Elon University Law School in Greensboro, NC. It was part of a leadership/life experience series. Based primarily on his continuing work in PRC and Africa, it was classic/vintage Loeffke: interesting, colorful, and genuine. Bernie’s son Mark, a recent Robertson Scholarship graduate of Duke, is
now working with his dad. He assisted yesterday. You can imagine how enthralled was their audience. At the conclusion, Walt Ulmer ('52) gave Bernie a hug, "Bernie, you are a national treasure." Agreed,......in spades!” John Hocker responded to Huck’s note with a vignette of his own about Burn. "Late last year, after attending a luncheon at which Bern spoke, I introduced Bern to a long time friend, Joe Brown, from Thomasville, GA. Dave Schorr, Joe and I taught math together at WP and Bern was there, in the Russian department at the same time. Joe is now heavily involved in Thomasville University and has instituted an exchange program with universities in China. They immediately found a lot of common ground and Bern has been to TU to speak. Plus, you might check out the following web site to see what TU thinks of Bern. "

http://www.timesenterprise.com/mobile/x1535560583/TU-announces-commencement-speaker

Lots of ways to spell his name.

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Bill Seely.

7/1/2014

Also in

March Bill and Patt arranged for a block of tickets to the Hexagon show, a musical spoof on current events that the DC contingent has been attending every year, especially when Bill was a player, and we had about 20 classmates/wives and widows attend. Nick Monaco arranged for a dinner party at a nearby restaurant after the show, and most of the attendees joined him there. Regrettably, I was not one of them. Nick took lots of photos and I've included a couple. The rest can be
seen on the Class website. The second photo (right) has Pat Buck and Ed Soyster standing, and Joyce Soyster, Chickie Fadel and Pat Pataro, sitting. Your challenge is to name the people in the first photo (left).

John Stokes
7/1/2014
Back in March John wrote: "Mary Beth and I have bought into the Army Residence Community in San Antonio. We plan to alternate between there and Colorado as long as we can still be active participants in outdoor activities in the mountains. We will spend summers and winters up here and the shoulder seasons in S.A. Also at ARC are Pat and (company mate) Nick Robinson and many other WP grads."

WPSDC Founder’s Day
7/1/2014
We had a relatively “normal” turnout (five couples) for Founder’s Day here, and I’ve attached a photo of the participants. Larry McNeil, Bernice & Max Kovel. Joyce & Ed Soyster, Elaine McNeil, Brenda Monaco, Hank & Shelley Hatch, Nick Monaco. When I circulated the photo I got a note from Stan Cass, and I quote with redaction, “A good looking bunch of old …..! And speaking of old ….., I had to give the ”Oldest Grad” talk at the Denver Society Founders Day last week. We apparently are getting old!” Sorry about that, Stan.

Jack Vickers
7/1/2014
Jack sent a Christmas letter with a great photo of his family, and I’m going to use it to close the news and photos in this edition, and summarize our Class losses over the last two+ years. I’ll go back further in a future column.

Class Losses
7/1/2014
Class Losses since 15 Dec 2011, to include date and obit references that I have. A complete list of deceased classmates is on the Class website.


Nicholas B. Wilson, passed away on Dec 10, 2011. Obituary in The Columbus Dispatch on February 12, 2012

William and Lois Hamm, passed away on Feb 29, 2012 and Mar 2, 2012, respectively, within 48 hours of each other.


Dianne Stephenson (wife of Dick) passed away on April 6, 2012.

Joan Tullington (wife of Bernie) passed away on May 21, 2012. Obit is at http://everlyfairfax.tributes.com/our_obituaries/Joan-Patricia-Tullington-93851111

Margaret Thomas Campbell (wife of Bill) passed away on May 19th 2012

Lassie L. Seitz (wife of Don) passed away June 3, 2012.

Lawrence Henry (Larry) Mulligan passed away on July 7, 2012.

John L. Hill Jr., passed away on July 5, 2012

George D. Iverson, passed away on July 26, 2012.

Roger Melvin Currier IV, passed away on Sept. 22nd, 2012.

Sam Focer passed away on Oct 1, 2012.

Bill Smith passed away on Nov 10, 2012.

Johnny C. Ledbetter, passed away on Nov 10, 2012.


Jay Tieber passed away on Dec 1, 2012.


John E. Murphy, passed away on February 23, 2013. Obit published in FLORIDA
TODAY on February 26, 2013.

Edie Luther (wife of Ralph) passed away on April 1, 2013.


Don Cline passed away on July 2, 2013.

Phil Ritchey passed away on August 29, 2013. Obit Published in Daytona Beach News-Journal on September 1, 2013.

Dan McCrary passed away on Oct 20, 2013.


