

Norman I. (Skip) Lee 63119 E. Cat Claw Lane Tucson, AZ 85739-2058 Home: (520)825-7980 Cell: (520)241-3498 E-mail: <u>54wrs63@gmail.com</u> Class Web Site: www.usafa63.org/

Class News: 1963:

The mini-reunion was a great success if you discount the final score of the football game. The Falcons played fearlessly but Navy ended up victorious in overtime. Good Navy weather too; with a game time temperature of 31°F and fog! Did feel some raucous vibes from USNA 40 (my Dad's Class). Because of the early morning kick-off the usual pre-game get-together was held on Friday at the Eisenhower Golf Course club house. An appetizing Italian buffet was served and the event was well attended. After the game on Saturday we gathered in Arnold Hall in front of the Class Cups for the traditional cup turning ceremony. This year cups were turned for four of our Classmates: Lynn **Gulick**, Lloyd (Milt) **McKnight**, Bill **Simpson** and Jim **McKean**. The cup turning was truly poignant. Afterwards we enjoyed good friends, good food and fellowship. Tons of thanks and our utmost appreciation go out to Bob and Charlie Anne **Hayes** for their superb efforts to pull this event together.



LR, Bottom Row: Steinbrink, Yee, Verdier, Hayes, Merkle, Bredvik, Davis, Odefy, Donovan. Second Row: Ball, Winzell, Vaughn, McLaughlin, Borling, Fullerton, Harley, Denend, Fryer, Ott. Stairwell: Helinski, Nuss, Lee, DeBerry, Butler, Reisdorf, Fain, Hall, Reynolds, Browning, Fox, Horner, Matjasko, Gibbons, Juister

Thanks to Carole **Davis** (Pres) for taking the photograph using her I-Phone.

Just before press time I received an e-mail from Jack **Kochanski**. Jack e-mailed the photo of he and Bill **Wilson** taken in Bill and Mary's back yard not all that far from Burlington, VT. Bill is still guiding young college students at St. Michael's College in Burlington and he says he loves every

minute of it. Jack and Carleen were visiting Vermont on a 'leaf peeping' vacation in parts of New England. Besides the beautiful scenery, they also had an extended visit with Bill and Mary in the Mountains of Vermont.



Gorgeous colors!

There are many new uploads in the USAFA Class Histories (UCH). Go to the Class Web Page at <u>www.usafa63.org/</u> and click on USAFA Class Histories to check them out. The stories are honestly interesting. Neil **Sorenson**, local video producer for the Great Northwest, wrote he had about ten of our classmates to his place on Whidbey Island for conversations, food and videos. Most of the folks made it there by auto and a ferry ride from Mukilteo, WA, but Geoff **McCarthy** flew his plane up from Portland and Bob **Parlette** flew his plane from Wenatchee. Lucky guys. Neil has been watching the email traffic on thoughts about doing the videos and said "I agree--it has been fun listening to stories from our classmates about life after the Academy." It is a great opportunity. Lou **Matjasko**, Class Historian, asks that classmates participate and give the courtesy of a quick response to their volunteer local classmate video producer when contacted about doing videos. To keep you informed, updates for video kit movements will continue via Sq Reps.

Bill **Ball** provided an update for the 50th Reunion planning. First, this will be an event you don't want to miss (**23-27 Oct 2013**). We're still looking for pictures and stories for our Thursday and Friday evening events. Please send them sooner than later. Saturday will be football against Notre Dame. To take the weather factor out of the picture a bit we're planning the tailgate at Doolittle Hall. We're going one step further by having a television screen set up for the game in case you'd like to stay for the duration. For those who attend the game we plan to bus everyone to the stadium,. After victory over the Fighting Irish everyone will be on their own for the rest of the evening. Squadron dinners/socials will be scheduled throughout the town for those that haven't happened earlier. Obviously, virtually everything is in the works at this stage. Expect more information about the 50th in the mail in the near future.

To kick off our 50th celebrations and in keeping with the AOG Class Legacy program, our class will present 2LT bars to the class of 2013 during Graduation Week (May 27-29, 2013). If you would like to be involved, now is the time to let Bob **Hayes** (<u>bcahayes@comcast.net</u>) know. Prior to leaving on a long European vacation Diff sent the following report: A huge thank you to our classmates who served on the Class 50th Reunion Gift Committee. The committee has completed its

mission. We are now in the implementation phase—fund raising for our class endowment and completing the UCH project. The UCH Team (John **Borling**, Lou **Matjasko**, & Gil **Merkle**) carry the bulk of UCH project execution. I have created an Oversight Committee (Marv **Odefey**, Jim **Gaston**, & Bob **Hayes**) to review UCH expenses and to monitor the project for the class. To help me with the overall execution of our reunion and gift, I have also named an Implementation Team (Mick **Roth**, Bill **Ball**, & Les **Denend**).

More News: Pat **Caruana** wrote: they are relocating from Redondo Beach, CA to San Antonio, TX. Ed **Reisdorf** reported on Bob **Mazet** and there is not much change in his condition although he was to be moved to a rehab/nursing facility. Ed also says he is headed for South America this Spring for a hunting adventure in Argentina with a good friend and USAFA Graduate Tim Furst. We were recently advised that Gordon **Bredvik** underwent a heart by-pass operation due to severe blockage in his arteries. The last report has Gordon doing well and on the road to recovery. One other report received about a Classmate undergoing severe medical conditions involved Chuck **Bush**. Chuck is in good spirits spending a lot of time surrounded by family. In every case our thoughts go out to these guys and their families and wish them all the best.

Next is a continuation of our feature on those eighteen fallen. Many thanks to Jimmie Butler for the picture.



First Lieutenant Lee A. Adams was killed in North Vietnam on the 19 April 1966 as an F-105 pilot when his aircraft crashed while strafing a truck 40 miles north of the DMZ. He was a member of the 33 TFS, 355 TFW, Takhli, AB Thailand.

Captain Robert F. **Rex** was killed in on 9 March 1969 when the O-2A he was piloting crashed while supporting a MACVSOG Team on the ground. The aircraft was shot down about 10 miles west of the DMZ. Bob was a NAIL FAC from the 23 TASS at NKP AB, Thailand

1st Lieutenant Patrick E. **Wynne** was reported missing on 8 August 1966 while on an armed reconnaissance mission in an F-4C over North Vietnam. He was posthumously promoted to Major effective 1 April 1974. His status was upgraded to KIA on 28 May 1974.

That's it for this time. Linda and I would like to wish everyone a joyful and safe holiday season. Many thanks to all of you who have supported this column.